

New Kid On The Block

He did not make it to the IPL last year. But this year, he got a call for the Champions Trophy and is knocking on the IPL door. Bhuvaneshwar Kumar Singh speaks to Dhairya Ingle



courtesy: www.cricinfo.com

Bhuvaneshwar held a bat at the age of 13; he got through the Bangalore Royal Challenger team this year during the IPL but unfortunately could not play a single match. However his luck shined when he got selected amongst the 30 member squad for the upcoming Champions Trophy. The world is soon to witness the skills of an all rounder cricketer Bhuvaneshwar Kumar Singh. "I was very disappointed when I didn't get in the IPL last year but this year tables turned as I got selected for the Royal Challenger Bangalore IPL team and also the Champions trophy. My hard work paid off," Bhuvaneshwar exults. Bhuvaneshwar got trained under Vipin Vats who used to mentor Praveen Kumar and Sanjay Rastogi.

It was his elder sister Rekha, who convinced Bhuvaneshwar's father that getting trained under Vipin Vats was a kick start for this Meerut lad's career. "My parents supported me to the fullest and I'll remain eternally grateful to them for it," says Singh.

But on the topic of his selection Bhuvaneshwar

admits "I was very happy as I got selected, as, last year I wasn't even in the 30 member squad of the IPL. That time it was a bit disappointing for me to not play even a single match in the IPL but Anilbhai, the skipper of Bangalore Royal Challengers supported me a lot. He just asked me to have patience and give my best whenever I got a chance."

Bhuvaneshwar is currently in Australia for the India A camp and misses his home and family, though he says, "now I am used to it". Bhuvaneshwar hails from a simple family and loves home cooked food, especially *kadhi* made by his mother. Apart from cricket, he loves playing table tennis and football. Apart from cricket this UP lad loves listening to music, hanging out with friends and playing with his pet dog Chinky. He seldom watches films but admires the Action King Akshay Kumar. Bhuvaneshwar is currently also pursuing his first year of BA.

An admirer of Sachin Tendulkar and Glen McGrath, Bhuvaneshwar's best moment in cricket was in Hyderabad during the Mumbai Uttar

Pradesh match during Ranji trophy when he handed Sachin Tendulkar his first duck in domestic cricket! "It was like a dream come true," recalls, Bhuvaneshwar eyes twinkling at the memory. However he refused to comment on the new format of the test cricket saying, "I would not comment on the new format. I would like to only answer questions related to me."

As a child Bhuvaneshwar always dreamt of joining the army but it was his passion for cricket which brought him to the game. According to him, IPL has been a big morale booster for him. "IPL has changed the lives of struggling players like me by giving us name and money," says he. On signing note when asked about key areas of improvement in his game Bhuvaneshwar shoots back saying, "Practice is the key to success and I feel that one should be a constant learner throughout."

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Mumbai Ultimate Going International

Frisbee is fast capturing the popular imagination in India, where cricket has been the only universal 'religion' so far.

Frisbee may be an alien sport in India but for Sanal Nair, the captain of the Mumbai Ultimate Club, the game is more of a passion. "I worked for a sports management company and kept on searching for new sports on the net; which is how I came to know about Frisbee." Sanal gathered some of his friends and they started practicing the game and formed a club called the Mumbai Ultimate Club, last year. They have participated in a couple of tournaments since then.

Talking about the game Sanal said, "The best part about Frisbee is that it has no age bar; any one and every one can pick up a Frisbee disc and start playing it. You do not have to be in shape to play it nor is it restricted to a particular gender".

Hence, they have a lot of girls in the team and they are the ones who actually keep them going. "The girls get very irritated when we skip a practice session," he admits.



The club has 40-50 members across the city and also has its community on most of the social networking websites to keep in touch with all the Ultimate groups across the globe. They also have a website called www.mumbaiultimate.com to help promote the game. They are now in the process of promoting the game in various schools. "As of now we are just asking people to pick up the disc and start playing it rather than promoting it on a larger scale," Sanal remarks. The players come together thrice a week in Andheri to practice on a hard surface.

Talking about sponsorship Sanal said, "Each member in our club is employed and we manage our own funds. We have applied for sponsors but the best part is that Frisbee is a very cheap sport which costs you barely around Rs.200-300. So I guess we won't be at a point of concern with regards to sponsors"

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