

FLASHBACK

Kho Kho live

Vikram Singh Chadha

KHO-KHO ranks as one of the most popular traditional sports in India. The origin of Kho-Kho is difficult to trace, but many historians believe, that it is a modified form of 'Run Chase', which in its simplest form involves chasing and touching a person.

This game, has seen gain lot of popularity in the city, Thanks to the consistent efforts of Arjuna Awardee & Shiv Chhatrapati Puruskar Winner,

Mr. Shrirang Inamdar, that the game has been still alive and kicking. Inamdar has been considered as India's best Kho-Kho coach in the making and renowned as a top-notch -player in his hey days. Currently turned coach, he also is the Secretary of the Nav Maharashtra Kho-Kho Sangh, situated at the SP College grounds, the Sangh grooms aspiring Kho Kho players and give advance training to the senior players in preparing them for club, district, state and international Kho-Kho tournaments.

He takes a nostalgic trip as he recalls his introduction to the game at the ripe young age of 11, and his glorious achievements, which eventually culminated with the bagging of prestigious awards

the Shiv Chhatrapati Award and Arjuna Award, both at the age of 18. Says Inamdar, "I had the distinction of leading Maharashtra state in many Gold Medal winning national Kho-Kho tournaments. I



have been the member of the Gold Medal winning Team representing Maharashtra, in consecutive, 9 Kho-Kho Nationals, between 1972 and 1982.

Credited with an amazing record of scoring 240-points in the 9 National Kho-Kho outings, all between 1972 and 1982. His record still stands good till date. Soft-spoken and equally approachable, Shrirang Inamdar, recalls, his most memorable game till date as he rates them, year wise and performance wise.

"I vividly recall the 1974

tournament, were I captained the Maharashtra side and we were pitted in the semifinal match against the seemingly tough Karnataka side. I had an excellent performance in the game, as I remained not out and scored creditable overall 6 points in the game to take us in the final against Gujarat. In the finals again, I scored 6 points to get victory for

Maharashtra." so said, Inamdar, on his memorable game.

Continuing further, Inamdar, added, " Also in 1979, in the Hyderabad National, I scored 10 points in the finals against, Karnataka, stretched myself for a time of 3min-45sec to remain not-out, when 5 of our players had already been declared out. The total innings lasted for 7 minutes and thereafter scored 6 points and remained not out for (3min-15 second) in the next innings and recording a memorable victory for my team."