



‘NMS’

The Pinnacle of Kho-Kho

C. V. Kavthekar, C.A.



Nav Maharashtra Sangh and Kho-Kho are synonymous with each other. The association of Kho-Kho and Nav Maharashtra Sangh goes back to more than five decades. Nav Maharashtra Sangh was formed with the sole aim of promoting and propagating Kho-Kho to the international arena. Nav Maharashtra Sangh is known to organize All India level Kho-Kho Championships every 4-5 years. Keeping with the tradition this Championship is organized from 17 November 2015 to 22 November 2015. This year's championship has been named as “Sharad Pawar Platinum Jubilee All India Kho-Kho Tournaments” to recognize Shri. Sharad Pawar, immense contribution to the game and Nav Maharashtra Sangh. A small peek into the history of Nav Maharashtra Sangh for all the players who are looking forward to be associated with it.

Nutan Marathi Vidyalaya (NMV) was a highly acclaimed school in the Mumbai Region before Maharashtra was declared an Independent State. Late Shankarrao Patankar Sir, a geography teacher from NMV, handpicked a few students (10/12) and imbibed into them the love and intricacies of Kho-Kho. His love and dedication for the game made him a face to reckon with in the Kho-Kho arena. He took immense efforts in building his team. Shri Suresh Dinkar soon emerged as his favourite student. Late Shri. Shankarrao Patankar teams for Kho-Kho & Atyapatya were largely responsible to NMV becoming General Champions in inter school events and

tournaments. Nav Maharashtra Sangh was created when it dawned that once these students passed their SSC they would go their separate ways and it was necessary that they stay together to propagate the game further. NMS was inaugurated on 26th January 1960 on the S. P. College grounds. Though the club was started with the aim to increase the popularity of Kho-Kho it also brought with it a lot of legal formalities and paperwork which was well done in due course of time. Accordingly the club was registered under the Society Registration Act, 1860 on 10th June 1968 and on 9th July, 1968 under the Bombay Public Trust Act, 1950. The Registration was later obtained as per Income Tax Act, 1961 in time of future financial transactions. The club also obtained the 80 G exemption certificate for donation.

Late Shri. Shankarrao Patankar used to be regularly present supervising everything from watering the ground, marking the ground, exercises and diet of the players for their development. These same qualities are imbibed and can be found in Shri. Suresh Dinkar Sir. Late Shri. Patankar Sir carried out his duties effectively and efficiently for a decade and then handed over the reins to a ever smiling and great personality Late Shri. Modak Sir. Subsequently the reins were passed to Shri. Suresh Dinkar after a decade. Shri. Suresh Dinkar then handed over the responsibilities to Shri. Arvind Patwardhan fondly called as the Rahul David of kho-kho in 2003.

In the last 50 years the team has won several

major tournaments at the State and National Level- NMS has won the prestigious Bhai Nerurkar Cup eight times which includes two hat tricks a great achievement in itself. NMS has to its credit 4 Abhimanyu, 11 Eklavya, 17 Shree Shiv Chhatrapati, 2 Dadoji Konddev, 1 Shri Chhatrapati Utkrushtra Krida Margadarshak and 1 Arjun Award. The team has also given the Maharashtra State Team 13 captains. These figures are enough to prove the superiority of NMS in the game of Kho-Kho.

NMS, not only sets an example on the field but also in its working. NMS is proud to abide by all legal rules and formalities, a high level of social responsibility and transparency in all legal and financial transactions. The former players are themselves the office bearers who have dedicated their times to the game. Shri. Arvind Patwardhan, Shri. Shrirang Inamdar, Shri. Sachin Godbole, Shri. Arun Bodas are stalwarts who take immense efforts to audit and present the financials of the club which goes into works within days of the tournament. Due to the financial discipline and transparency NMS has generated tremendous goodwill and trust worthiness in the minds of the donors as well.

The office bearers and players of NMS are always striving to propagate and promote the game of Kho-Kho. As of today there have been more than 150 tournaments organized by NMS at the Interschool, Inter Colleague, District, State and National levels. Organization of any tournament involves planning on various levels like ground maintenance, awards, arrangements for participants, guests, VIP's, podiums and several minor and major activities. NMS is well equipped and capable to handle these responsibilities with a lot of flair and panache.

NMS takes immense pride in organizing tournaments which one eve involving and

always have something innovative and new to offer spectators and players as well. This year the batch which played from 1990-2002 collected a whopping sum of Rs. 8 lacs under the name of NMX. This was distributed among each winning team's each player and man of the match in cash, is an example in itself. Another feather in its cap is the live telecast of its games on Doordarshan for 3 days. Cash prizes worth Rs. 35 lacs were awarded in total for the teams and players which is another great achievement.

A thought which comes in any Kho-Kho loving player/person is that if all the clubs organize such tournaments and strive together to propagate Kho-Kho it will surely reach new heights. Kho-Kho is played mainly in the Asian subcontinent. Efforts made in this regard will surely take Kho-Kho to the International arena and will be included in the Olympics as well.

Hence every Kho-Kho player feels that NMS is the pinnacle of Kho-Kho and wants to be associated with NMS.

Another thought which comes to mind is that a research committee is formed which includes former players, experts, office bearers, guides. This committee should present before the government a game plan which will take the game to its desired height.

I conclude this article, to make this event successful credit has to be given to office bearers, immense efforts taken by the NMS players, advertisers, donors, social and print media, S. P. Mandali, S. P. College and well-wishers and the common thread who keeps all these together. Arjun Awardee Shri. Shrirang Inamdar deserves a special mention.

In the near future, seeing NMS scale new heights by giving Kho-Kho an International recognition would indeed be a dream come true.

