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Role of eminent Wrestler Kartar Singh in Punjab state sports

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Abstract

The purpose of the case study was to assess the influence of Shree Kartar Singh a great wrestler in Indian wrestling for the development of Punjab state sports. His vision and philosophy for sports had been reviewed for the future road map of Punjab state sports. To collect the data four times personal interview was carried and personal records were checked and verified from various government offices especially in Punjab. Opinion rating questionnaire was administered on (n= 105) wrestlers and close friends that consisted 56 statements related to him. 'Adjustment Inventory' by Sinha and Singh (1980) and 'Sports Orientation Questionnaire' by Gill & Dzewaltowski (1988) were also used to assess his personality traits. He has won thirty five National medals and twenty eight International medals including Asian and Commonwealth Games and earned six wrestling titles and five award that includes Arjuna award in 1982 and Padma Shree in 1987. He had also earned "Fair Play" award in 2003. He had served the Indian wrestling federation as a general secretary and Director of Punjab state sports department. He believes that Indian sports can improve if it is free from drug and political interference, and taken care of at grass root level.

Keywords: Wrestling, awards, fair play

Introduction

If we want to know players, history help us to know them. Indian history is a benchmark for coming generations. We should know our sports persons that knowledge to transfer to next generation. Every country feels pride about their sports stars. Many sports stars (Indian Heroes) dies unknown including sports stars those served for the country, who sacrifices for the nation. Later on government has started to recognise their extraordinary citizen who brought the name and fame to the country and an act has been passed by parliament to give due recognition to these great heroes as military has started many awards to war heroes/warriors (i.e. Gallantry etc. different awards). Whereas, civil society started civil awards like-Padma Shree, Padma Bhushan, Padma Vibhushan. Similarly, sports fraternity started recognising their sports heroes by giving them sports pension, develop documentary films, case study, awards and honours.

In this direction one of the great players in Indian history is Padma Shree Kartar Singh, a great wrestler, who had made a great mark of his presence for the long time in Indian sports since 1969. He owns the fame of winning two gold medals at Asian Games in the years 1976, held in Bangkok and 1986, held in Seoul and a silver medal in 1982, New Delhi. Despite many tournaments and championships, he won a bronze medal and a silver medal in commonwealth games, held at Edmonton in 1978 and Brisbane in 1982 respectively. He also represented India in 3 summer Olympic Games in the years 1980, 1984, 1988 consecutively. He earned six wrestling titles and five awards that include Maharaja Ranjit Singh Award in 1978, Arjuna Award in 1982, Padma Shree in 1987, President Police Medal in 2002, and Fair Play Award in 2003. He was also adjudged as The Punjabi of the Millennium at the world Punjabi conference at Panjab University by Punjab Arts Council in 2001 for bringing fame to Punjab and Punjabi Culture through sports.

The present study focus on contribution and achievement of Shree Kartar Singh as a sports administrator (Bhukar, J.P., 2012) [11] and sports promoter in the state of Punjab. He had served the Indian Wrestling Federation as a General Secretary, Punjab Wrestling Federation as

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President, South Asian Wrestling Federation as General Secretary, Punjab Police as an IPS officer and Director of Sports, Punjab State Sports Department.

Method

To make biography of legendary wrestler Kartar Singh data were collected from primary and secondary sources. Four times the personal interview was carried by scholar himself at different places i.e. his home and office. A check list was prepared in advance for every interview. He had agreed to share his photographs and newspaper/ magazine cuttings with the scholar and shown his all medals and awards he had earned in his long sports career. Achievements were noted down under different categories i.e. national level, common wealth, Invitational tournaments, Asian Championships, Olympic games. Documents pertaining to his administrator and sports promoter at different capacity were provided to the scholar. His early life details were obtained from his family and neighbours at his village. His psychological traits were assessed by "Adjustment Inventory by consist 102 items that measures an individual's adjustment ability at home, health, social, emotional status and 'Sports Orientation Questionnaire' by having 25 questions on five point Likert scale.

Opinion rating questionnaire was prepared by scholar himself for Kartar Sing with the help from subject experts. Purposive sampling technique was used to collect responses from those (n=105) subjects who were known to Kartar Singh very well. There were total 56 statements regarding to him in the questionnaire. Descriptive statistical technique had applied to get mean score and SD of the obtained data.

Results and Discussion

Results of psychological tests of 'Adjustment Inventory' showed that Mr Kartar has excellent home, health, emotional and social adjustment and good educational adjustment. He has high competitiveness, win orientation and goal orientation according to the results of 'Sports Orientation Questionnaire'. According to 'Opinion Rating Survey' he proved to be an excellent administrator. Punctuality and discipline is the part of his life. He maintained records up to date and was very prompt in replying to letters. He has never let himself down at the time of failure. His administration approach was democratic. He keeps transparency in his working culture. He gives due recognition and status to the sports persons and coaches/workers who performs well. He always respect innovative ideas and suggestions and takes active part in sports seminars. He often visits schools, colleges and various tournaments to motivate the players and give tips to upcoming sports persons.

As an Administrator and as Sports Promoter

As administrator, he worked as Director of Sports Punjab from 2002 to 2005. In these three years he took many steps for the promotion of sports like establishing new sports academies; for Hockey at Jalandhar, for Basketball at Ludhiana, raising funds with the help of NRI's, reviving Punjab State Games after a gap of ten years and Maharaja Ranjit Singh award after eight years, up gradation of sports college, Jalandhar, long term plans with abroad training, off season and high altitude coaching camps, pension policy for international players. He was also an architect in promoting sports in the women sections at par with the men. He also introduced many innovative idea's during his services at various positions like: General Secretary South Asian

Wrestling Federation, General Secretary Wrestling Federation of India, President Wrestling Federation of Punjab, Director Sports Punjab and as manager with wrestling team of India in various international tournaments.

In his personal views he is a worried man like other sports stars by the use of banned drugs by not only newcomers but by reputed international players. It enter as an experiments and destroys the image of player and country which is very painful to see player like him who fought for the tricolour image and India proud many a time at different corners of the world. Hailing from border village he has been witnessed of two India-Pakistan wars in 1965 & 1971. He strongly believed that sportsperson can act as agent of peace and harmony. Governments and all those engaged in sports should work for goodwill of the people of their country and established international brotherhood; sports can play a key role in it.

In his suggestions to improve the standards of sports in India that non sportspersons should not be included at key positions in sports associations/federations largely headed by politicians and bureaucrats now a days. Favouritism and corruption should not have any role in the selection criteria. It is the need of hour to open more sports academies/nurseries in all over the country with special attention in schools, colleges particularly in rural areas to capture and nurture the sports talent at early stage. Respect and recognition should be given to all outstanding players, irrespective of their games. Media can play a constructive role so that Indian society can provide its due place to sports. It is essential to provide good infrastructure, quality coaching of international standards, continuous research programme in sports field, medical facilities, job security and pension to achievers, sports officials and coaches should be made more responsible and accountable towards their duties.

Conclusion

Kartar Singh has been considered as a role model for future wrestlers as he had been dedicated to sports throughout his life. He believed that there is no short cut in sports to get success only by punctuality, hard work and passion for training makes you a successful sportsman. He had improved Punjab state sports by his new sports policies for kids at grass root level. His proposal for offering jobs in different organisations of Punjab government attracted many parents to take sports as carrier eventually Punjab state dominated in National games for many years in the 1994-2004. His visionary sports policies for Punjab police are still appreciated by the police personnel. His prompt decision making ability, transparency in work, and keeping no pending work was the source of inspiration for his subordinates. His style of distributing work according to expertise of employee with full authority made a congenial environment in sports department and with this harmony he could successfully launched new sports schemes and sports infrastructure development in entire state.

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