

Volleyball icon Mannat accorded warm welcome on arrival at Jammu



VAJK office bearers and sportspersons according warm reception to International Volleyball player, Mannat Choudhary on arrival at Jammu.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: International Volleyball player, Mannat Choudhary of R S Pura Tehsil of district Jammu, who represented Indian Volleyball team in AVC Cup Volleyball Championship at Thailand, accorded a warm reception on his arrival at Jammu Airport on Friday.

The office bearers of Volleyball Association of Jammu & Kashmir namely Kuldip Magotra Chief

Mannat expressed his grati-

Executive Officer, Ramesh Sharma Treasurer, Vijay Magotra General Secretary besides Manmeet Singh President and H.S. Gill Secretary of Jammu District Volleyball Association, Rajeev Dogra SAI Volleyball coach, Naresh Sharma Volleyball coach & a large number of sportspersons, volleyball lovers, well-wishers & relatives greeted Mannat on his arrival at Jammu.

Mannat expressed his grati-

tude to all his well-wishers especially to Prof. Achyuta Samanta President, Ramavtar Singh Jakhar and Anil Choudhary Secretary General Volleyball Federation of India and Raj Daluja Patron-in-Chief, Sidharth Daluja President Volleyball Association of J&K for promoting and selecting him in Indian under-20 volleyball team in Asia Men's Volleyball Championship at Thailand.

Expressing his views, Mannat disclosed that hard work, dedication and devotion has revolutionized his sports career towards volleyball.

His superb performance in Junior National Volleyball Championship at Burdwan, West Bengal as a captain of J&K UT Volleyball team, has paved the way for his shortlisting after two months rigorous coaching camp with Indian volleyball probables at

Bhubaneswar, Orissa.

Hailing from a Gharana village on the international border of R S Pura block of Jammu district, Mannat has left no stone unturned to achieve this distinction of becoming a maiden International volleyball player of Jammu district.

With International exposure of volleyball, Mannat has assured that he would help budding volleyball players of J&K UT for preparing

them to represent at national as well as International levels with the guidance of his mentors in future. It is worth mentioning here that Kuldip Magotra CEO, Associate Secretary of Volleyball Federation of India was nominated as Manager of India from J&K UT accompanied this team as Manager.

Mannat was taken to his home town in procession by his nears and dears.

Durand Cup: FC Goa bounce back with 1-0 win over Indian Air Force; Sudeva FC, Kerala Blasters draw

AGENCY

KOLKATA: Defending Champions FC Goa bounced back from their opening day loss as they eked out a 1-0 win over Indian Air Force at the Durand Cup here on Friday.

Muhammed Nemil was the lone goal scorer at a rainy, blustery Kishore Bharati Krirangan here.

In the other match of the day, Sudeva FC and Kerala Blasters played out a 1-1 draw at the Indira Gandhi Athletic stadium in Guwahati.

With the win, Goa join Mohammedan Sporting and Bengaluru FC with three points in Group A, even though the latter have a game in hand.

Jamshedpur FC is the other team in the group. The top two teams from each Group qualify for the quarter-finals.

The Gours got their goal early through Nemil, who struck his second in two games in the tournament.

The move came from the right when Mevan Dias broke through and delivered a minus inside the box finding his classy centre-forward in space. Nemil turned, transferred the ball to his favoured left-foot and found the bottom corner with preci-

sion.

He could have made it three for the tournament 15 minutes later, but this time his curler from just outside the box, missed narrowly.

In the second-half, the Airmen did try and apply some pressure but the organised and well-schooled Gaurs defence held firm.

The Air Force upped the ante in search for an equaliser and in the final 10 minutes got several chances to draw level. Mohd. Aqib first hit the cross-bar and then substituted Prabhjot Singh unleashed a wonderful free-kick, drawing a fantastic save from Goa keeper Hrithik Tiwari.

The Air Force got as many as three corners as well in the last few minutes but couldn't cash in.

Sudeva FC and Kerala Blasters were forced to split points after Md. Ajmal's 42nd minute strike was cancelled out by Mangku Kuki, who scored just three minutes later.

Sudeva coach Chenchu Dorji made his attacking intentions clear from get go, opting for a four-man midfield and a three-man forward line while the Blasters' gaffer had no

such illusions going in with a regulation 4-4-2.

Sudeva dominated possession in the first half and had the larger share of attacks but could not press home the advantage.

It was then that the Blasters struck against the run of play with barely three minutes to go for the first half to end.

Ajmal received the ball in front of the box and drove in, shooting from near the penalty spot area to beat keeper Kabir Kohli and put Sudeva ahead.

The response was immediate. Kuki received the ball on the right from a quickly taken throw-in to the attacking third to gracefully curl it into the top corner to draw parity.

Sudeva continued to dominate possession in the second-half and created more chances but there was a period when both teams sat back and wanted to control possession which might have affected the end result.

The Delhi NCR side threw everyone forward in the final minutes of the game but beyond some set-pieces, nothing fruitful materialized and the stalemate remained for the first draw of the tournament after six games.

Sumit, picked up from here left off in Tokyo, and created a new world record

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Veteran pace spearhead Jhulan Goswami made a comeback in the Indian women's ODI squad for the tour of England which also saw hard-hitting Women's T20 Challenge sensation Kiran Navgire receiving a maiden call-up in the shortest format.

India will be in England on a two-week white-ball tour that comprises six white-ball games-three WT20Is and three WODIs.

The T20I matches will be held in Hove (September 18), Canterbury (September 21) and the Lord's (September 24).

Goswami, who will be 40 in three months time, had last played for India at the ODI World Cup in New Zealand in March against Bangladesh.

While her contemporary Mithali Raj had retired, the veteran seamer was nursing an injury and wasn't picked for the Sri Lanka tour.

While there were speculations that she could retire but the 201-match seasoned campaigner is ready to add to his tally of 252 wickets, which is highest in the world in 50-over format.

The T20I squad saw the return of Richa Ghosh in the main squad after being questionably left out of the CWG team at the expense of Taniyaa Bhatia, who has once again regained her place in both squads.

While Richa is in T20I squad, Yastika Bhatia has managed to retain her place in the ODI team.

But the biggest pick was the burly Kiran Navgire, a Maharashtra native, who plays domestic cricket for Nagaland.

Her 34-ball-69 which had five towering sixes for Velocity during a Women's T20 Challenge game against Trailblazers gave a glimpse

of his power-hitting and alongside Shafali and Richa would add impact to the team.

Among those who once again missed out are veteran seamer Shikha Pandey, who has been repeatedly ignored and leg-spinner Poonam Verma, who perhaps needs to reinvent her bowling to make a comeback.

India's ODI squad: Harmanpreet Kaur (Captain), Smriti Mandhana (Vice-Captain), Shafali Verma, Sabbineni Meghana, Deepa Sharma, Taniyaa Bhatia (WK), Yastika Bhatia (WK), Pooja Vastrakar, Sneha Rana, Renuka Thakur, Meghna Singh, Radha Yadav, Sabbineni Meghana, Jemimah Rodrigues.

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