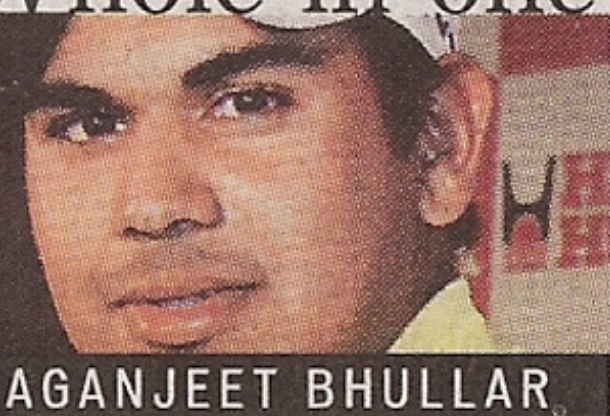


Early global exposure is the way forward

Whole-in-one



AGANJEET BHULLAR

silver at the Asian Games is a great achievement for Indian sport, especially with golf being a part of the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics. The way the team played, with Rashid Khan leading the likes of Abhijit Chadha, Rahul Bajaj and Chinav Lohan, speaks volumes about the talent available at the junior circuit.

The most important aspect is to provide strong infrastructure and international exposure from a very early age. I would have loved more opportunities to compete against international players of my age.

This makes me look forward to the 2nd Hex City Albatross International Junior Golf Championship, which will be played at the Classic Golf Course, Gurgaon, this week.

It would be an amazing experience for the 150 kids when

they tee-off in the annual event, organised by the Albatross Junior Tour.

An organisation led by parents, Albatross is just the platform a young golfer can aspire for. The Tour understands the needs of a young golfer, as can be seen from the way the tournaments are organised.

The international refereeing inculcates the right values in the children from an early age. Albatross has a holistic approach towards developing and nurturing adolescents so that they mature into fine golfers and good human beings.

Having held 26 tournaments within three years, it is an excellent opportunity for youngsters to learn about the importance of consistency in a sport like golf.

Albatross have also leveraged their website, www.albatross.co.in, well to enable acceptance of online entries, draw, results, merit lists, etc.

For children from countries like South Africa, Canada, USA, UAE, Thailand and Korea, it will be a learning experience, but it would be the Indian kids who'll benefit the most.

Ankur Chadha's defence of the title he won last year will be one of the talking points this week. Tarundeep Chadha will be a force to reckon with and Gauri Monga has been in a devastating form, having won the Delhi Golf Club Ladies Open.

The achievements of Piyush Sangwan, Feroz Garewal, Ridhima Dilawari and Digraj Gill will also be of interest.

While the golfing fraternity is excited about the event, I want to wish all the rising stars good luck and hope they come up with a good show over the next three days.

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