



A case study of life, professional career and contributions of Dr. A.K. Bansal: An eminent sportsman and a coach

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Abstract

Hockey has been played in India from ancient times and is the National Game of India. There was a golden era of Indian hockey when India ruled the game. On the international scenario, there were no competitors to contest the miraculous hands of Indian hockey players. These qualities of Indian hockey made India synonymous with the game. The contribution of Dr. A.K. BANSAL in terms of his elevated performance and achievements as a coach at National/International level plays a very significant role in the promotion of the hockey game in India. He is also a recipient of the Dronacharya Award in the year 2010 for his consistent contributions in the field of hockey.

The purpose of this research study was to highlight the contributions and achievements of Dr. A.K. Bansal.

Keywords: Indian hockey, professional aspects, sports personality, case study

Introduction

Sport is an activity that is governed by a set of rules or customs and often engaged in competitively. Sports are used as entertainment for the player and the viewer. It has also been proven by experiments that daily exercise increases mental strength and power to study. Hockey is a technical sport in which performance is evaluated on the basis of technique of different complicated elements on various apparatuses and performance of such technical elements depend to a large extent on the level of physical and psychological abilities. The art of Hockey calls for exceptional skills, extraordinary stamina and presence of mind, lot of courage and above all total equilibrium of the mind and body, bringing about a synthesis and harmony of mental and physical aspect.

Statement of problem

The investigator has conducted a study on the renowned personality Dr. A.K. Bansal and the contribution he made to the field of hockey. Hence to achieve this purpose the problem selected by the present Investigator was cited as below. A case study of life, professional career and contributions of DR. A.K. BANSAL - An eminent sportsman and a coach.

Objectives of the study

The objective of the study was to have in-depth study of Life, Professional Career and Contributions of Dr. A.K. Bansal.

Definition and explanations of the terms

Case study

Case study is a comprehensive study of a social unit, a person, a group, a social institution of a district or a community.

Sportsman

A person who engages in sports and who shows sportsmanship.

Coach

A Coach is the person who imparts his / her knowledge to those who wish to learn and benefit from his / her expertise. "Coach enables the athlete / trainee to achieve higher levels of performance to a degree that may not have been possible if left to his / her own endeavors.

Delimitations of the study

The study was delimited to the distinguished features of Dr. A.K. Bansal's life. The study was delimited to the contributions and achievements of Dr. A.K. Bansal Dronacharya Awardee in the field of sports.

Significance of the study

This study presumes immense significance given to its comprehensive study to delineate the contributions of Dr. A.K. Bansal towards the promotion and development of hockey game. It has investigated the life history and sporting career of Dr. A.K. Bansal

The Design of the study: A case study was designed to investigate the contributions and achievements of Dronacharya awardee Dr. A.K. Bansal towards the promotion of hockey in the country, his quality as a player, his contribution for the game and national and international level. The collected data has been analyzed based on the information furnished. The study was purely descriptive cum analytical in nature which was based on the survey method. The interview techniques

was adapted by the investigator to gather the necessary information. Data/ Information for this investigation were derived from the primary and secondary sources. Personnel records of Dronachary awardee Dr. A.K. Bansal were investigated such as degrees, honours, articles and books and desired information/facts were derived for analysis purpose. Various Pictorial records of Dr. A.K. Bansal were investigated. Some of the photographs relevant to different occasions were chosen as documents for this study. Published materials about Dronachary awardee Dr. A.K. Bansal, such as books, newspapers, and articles were studied and information was retained as documents for the investigation. The investigator personally contacted Dronachary awardee Dr. A.K. Bansal for the interview and conducted the interview with well-prepared questionnaire. The focus of the interview was mainly around family history, environmental influence, childhood, education and his professional aspects.

His childhood

He was born on 24th February, 1959 at Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh, Dr. A.K. Bansal had his primary education in Bareilly itself. During his school days he was active in many sports like Football, cricket etc. His career as a sports person started in the year 1972 when he was in class eighth but by the time he reached class tenth, he entered in the field of hockey. There was a strong support from his family when he wanted to enter in the field of sports. His parents never questioned his ability. He was supported by his parents and his maternal uncle. He gave equal importance to studies and games.

Educational background

He passed matriculation examination in the year 1974 from Rook-s Higher Secondary School, Bareilly and graduated from S.D. College at Ambala Cantt in the year 1981. He did D.P.Ed. from Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra in the year 1983 and M.Sc. (Sports Coaching) from Punjabi University, Patiala in the year 1994. Therefore, he completed his P. G. Diploma in sports Management in the year 1996 from Algappa University, Karaikudi. In the year 2006, he did his M. Phil (Sports Sciences) from Annamalai University and obtained his doctorate degree from Jamia Millia University, Delhi in the year 2011 under the guidance of Dr. (Prof.) Popinder Singh Khullar, Department of Education, Jamia Millia Islamia University, New Delhi. He became the first hockey coach to achieve a 'Double' of Dronacharya Award and first Ph.D. holder among the employees of Sports Authority of India.

Professional aspects

1. Performed as a chief Co-ordinator in the FIH- High performance Coaching Course organized by FIH World Cup New Delhi in the year 2010.
2. Dr. Bansal was selected as one of the members of four teams to study the strategies and techniques of the best hockey teams of the world after the completion of Beijing Olympics in the year 2008.
3. He was selected as one of the members of four teams to study the strategies and techniques of best hockey teams of the world after the completion of Beijing Olympics in the year 2008.

4. Visited the Olympic Games- Beijing, China- 2008 as an observer for Hockey.
5. Worked as Director, Coaching cum Chief Coach for SAI-AIR INDIA National Hockey Academy at New Delhi-1995-2008.
6. Completed FIH World Hockey High Performance coaching course from Netherlands in the year 2005.
7. Completed FIH Asia region high performance coaching course from New Delhi in the year 2004.
8. Obtained I.O.C. International Coaching Diploma (General Conditioning) granted by Sports University, Hungary in the year 2002.
9. Promoted and recommended for IHF's Development Coaching Course. It is a top level course, passing out of which makes eligibility to the nomination of IHF Coach. He attended the International Hockey Federation (IHF), Special Coaching Course at Malaysia in May 2000 and received International Hockey Federation's coaching certificate.
10. Recipient of Australian Coaching Certificate (Level-2) awarded by Australian Coaching Association in the year 1999.
11. Attended F.I.H Solidarity coaching course organised by International Hockey Federation in the year 1997.
12. Attended I.O.C Solidarity coaching course organized by International Olympic Committee in the year 1996.

Dr. Bansal produced about 80 International Players who represented Indian Teams in Olympics, World Cup, Asian Games Commonwealth Games and in other various International Tournaments viz- Dilip Tirkey, Gagan Ajit Singh, Devesh Chauhan, Prabhjot Singh, Adrian D'souza, William Xalxo, Tushar Khandker, Roshan Minz, Diwakar Ram, Innocent Kullu, Anurag Raghuvanshi, Danish Mujtaba, Ajitesh Roy, Manjit Kullu and so on. He made valuable contributions in producing the following extraordinary players who were selected through National Sports Talent Competitions (NSTC):

1. Gagan Ajit Singh, who won many prizes and led the Indian Team as Captain in Junior World Cup, 2001
2. Prabhjot Singh – Awardee of Arjuna Award
3. Rajesh Chauhan – winner of many awards for the country.
4. Mr. Dinesh Chauhan, Goal-keeper of Indian Hockey Team and recipient of Arjuna Award.
5. Viren Rasquinha, Arjuna Awardee who is presently running an NGO – Gold Quest. Dr. Bansal's counterparts like Prakash Padukon are the co-assistants in the functioning of NGO that supports talented players by providing all amenities required for them. Viren Rasquinha led the Indian Hockey Team as Captain and become a famous Mid Fielder.

Domestic coaching assignments

1. Chief Coach of various States and Organisations since 1987 at Senior and Junior National Hockey Tournaments. He gave coaching to the teams of Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Air India, Orissa, Indian oils etc.
2. Orissa junior hockey team won Nehru Cup in the year 1990 under his guidance.
3. Orissa Steelers won Premier Hockey League in the year

2007.

4. Chief Coach of Development Team, which participated in Bombay Gold Cup Tournament in the year 2002.

As A coach

1. Initially he remained as a coach in the Department of Sports in Haryana State from 1983 to 1987. He got his first posting at Ambala, his home town during his posting at Ambala, he enjoyed his work and had good time and experiences with his friends and seniors. He contributed a lot to hockey team of Haryana during this period and also organized women festivals and state level tournaments.
2. During his posting at Yamuna Nagar Sub-division, he made valuable contributions in training of players of Kurukshetra University, who participated in the Inter-University Competitions. He also organized various district level camps even though there were several constraints and shortage of infrastructure at that time.
3. He was selected by Sports Authority of India in the year 1987 as a coach and posted at Cuttack, Orissa from 1987 to 1992 with assignments to train talented players under NSTC (National Sports Talent Competition) Scheme. He extended every possible help to the players even at his own expenses when he brought them to Delhi and Lucknow for practice on Astro turf ground which enhanced the confidence level of players and the hockey team of Orissa remained Champion for many years.
4. He was the Chief Coach of Under-16 Indian boys team which won the Asia Cup and of the Indian Women Team in the pre-qualifying Olympic Tournament in 2000.

He coached under-eighteen team of India in the year 1999 and Women Indian Hockey Team from 2001 to 2003. The team won Sub-junior Asia Cup Gold Medal in 2002. He worked as Assistant Coach of Indian Men Team in 2000 and the team won Bronze Medal in Sultan Azlan Shah Cup Tournament. He trained teams of different states like Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and many others.

As assistant coach

He has performed the duty as Assistant Coach for the Indian Men Hockey team for the invitational Sultan Azlan Shah Hockey Tournament, Malaysia and the team won Bronze Medal in February 2000. Sultan Azlan Shah Hockey Tournament is held annually in Malaysia.

As chief Indian coach

He has performed the duty as chief coach of following teams in various tournaments:

1. Under-16 Hockey Team which won Gold Medal winning team in Sub-Junior Asia Cup held at Singapore in June 2000.
2. Chief Coach for Senior Women Hockey Team, which participated in 10th World Cup Qualifying Tournament held in France in the year 2001.
3. Indian Women Hockey Team from December 2000 to September 2002 for following tournaments and series-Test Series against New Zealand in New Zealand and Test Series against Australia in Australia.
4. World Cup Qualifying Tournament in France Junior

National Hockey Team for series in Argentina.

5. Under-18 Indian Hockey team which participated in various National Tournaments during 2000-2003.
6. U-21 national team for 8 nations DKV trophy held in Germany (July-Aug 2007) that got 4th position.
7. U-21 National team for 8 nation invitational tournament at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia that won Silver Medal in the January 2008.
8. Indian national Senior Team for 17th Azlan Shah Invitational tournament held at Epoh, Malaysia in May 2008 that won Silver Medal. Dr. Bansal attributed the success to team work, but picked drag-flicker Sandeep Singh for special praise who did a wonderful job.
9. U-21 national team, for 5th Jr. Asia cup held at Hyderabad India in July 2008 and the team won Gold Medal.
10. U-21 national team for Argentina tour that remained winner in December 2008.
11. U-21 national team for Australian Youth Olympics festival in January 2009 organised at Sydney which won silver medal.
12. U-21 national team for 4 Nations tournament held at Johor Bahru, Malaysia and team won silver medal in March 2009.
13. Team won a Silver Medal under 21-hockey test match under his guidance as chief coach at Australian Youth Olympics at Sydney in 2009.
14. U-21 National team for Junior World Cup organised by the International Hockey Federation (FIH) in Singapore & Malaysia in June 2010.

Conclusion

The investigation revealed that Dr. A.K. BANSAL have started to play hockey at class tenth

The above mentioned achievements clearly shown that Dr. A.K. BANSAL have contributed a lot at National and International level. Dr. A.K. BANSAL has made invaluable contribution to Indian Hockey Team, Finally, it is concluded that he has made a significant and pivotal contribution to Indian Hockey at National and International level. He has been conferred with many awards and honours.

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