



‘Wizard of Hockey’ Major Dhyan Chand

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Abstract:

Major Dhyan Chand is simply the greatest Indian field hockey player of all time. he was the poster boy of Indian hockey for decades. Major Dhyan Chand's birthday is celebrated as National Sports Day in India. He was so accurate and perfect in hockey that he could even sense if there were any flaws in the measurement of the field. Major Dhyan Chand's speed and accuracy made him earn the title of "The Wizard" of hockey. He achieved fame all over the world due to his outstanding feats. His field hockey contributions to nation and world of games is enormous.

Keywords: *Wizard of hockey, Major Dhyan Chand, Achievements,*

Introduction:

Major Dhyan Chand was an Indian field hockey player, widely regarded as one of the greatest field hockey players in history. Dhyan Chand was born on 29th August 1905, in the city of "Sangam"- Allahabad to a British Indian Army employee Sameshwar Dutt Singh and Sharadha Singh. Due to his father's frequent official transfers, he was not able to keep pace with the academics and had to drop down studies after schooling for just six years. The boy was initially interested in wrestling, but after joining the Indian Army at the age of 16 got more inclined towards field hockey.

He started playing hockey under the supervision of Subedar Major Tiwari. He used to undergo Army training during the daytime and practised hockey in the moonlight. Major Dhyan Chand original name was Dhyan Singh. He was given the nickname 'Chand' by his fellow players because he used to practice hockey at night under the moonlight.

Aim of the Study:

The aim of study is present Major Dhyan Chand's inspirational journey for nation. one of the legends in the game of field hockey.

Research Methodology:

I have referred to articles and books written on him. Also referred international journals and newspapers. Internet references.



Contributions and Achievements of field hockey for Nation:

Major Dhyan Chand, the Indian Hockey legend is well-known for the goal-scoring ability that made him earn three gold medals at three consecutive Olympic events, creating history. The iconic personality has served both in Army as well as at the hockey field throughout his life. Widely considered as the magician of hockey, the man had scored around 1000 goals in his active career which is a record feat.

Soon his perseverance paid him a favourable outcome as he was selected in the Indian Army hockey team for New Zealand tour in 1926. Dhyan Chand left everyone spell-bound with his eye-catching performance, dominating 18 matches out of 21 with his team. In 1928, Dhyan Chand was the leading goal-scorer at the Amsterdam Olympics with 14 goals. he earned gold for the nation at the Olympic event, held in Amsterdam.

Major Dhyan Chand captained the Indian team at the 1936 Games in Berlin, scoring three goals in the 8–1 defeat of Germany in the final match. During India's victorious world tour of 1932, he scored 133 goals. Known as "the Wizard" for his superb ball control, Chand played his final international match in 1948, having scored more than 400 goals during his international career. Dhyan Chand's speed and accuracy made him earn the title of "The Wizard" of hockey.

He was so accurate and perfect in hockey that he could even sense if there were any flaws in the measurement of the field. With his team, Dhyan Chand repeated the victory again at the 1932 Olympics Games, defeating the USA by 24-1 and Japan by 11-1 and thus clinching a gold medal at the event. Undoubtedly, he had an unparalleled capability to blow the competition away. Dhyan Chand's contribution is commendable in bringing India to the top-notch position at the international hockey events. In 1935, Australian batsman Sir Donald Bradman remarked him, "He scores goals like runs in cricket".

There was even an airing that Adolf Hitler was so amazed by his skills that he offered him the post of Colonel in the German Army after watching his tremendous performance at the 1936 Berlin Olympics. But Dhyan Chand smiled and rejected Hitler offer. Dhyan Chand is one of the most successful captains of the Indian Hockey team. After his third consecutive win at the Olympics, Dhyan Chand played a vital role in the incredible victory of team India during an International tour, conquering 34 matches out of 37 with a contribution of 133 goals out of 338, scored by the team. Once in the Netherlands, the authorities broke Dhyan Chand's hockey stick due to the possibility of having a magnet inside it.

Even after bidding farewell from the field, Dhyan Chand served at his best to hockey by playing and guiding the budding stars under his tutelage. He took retirement from the Indian



Army as a “Major” in the year 1956 and was also honoured with the third Indian civilian award “Padma Bhushan” by the Government of India for his sincere efforts in uplifting the sport of field hockey in India. Indeed, Dhyan Chand is regarded as the shining star of the hockey world that has been followed by many of the legendary people and also by the burgeoning stars. He will always lead the heart of hockey lovers as he used to lead the field in his times with his magical stick.

Postal Stamp to honour the legacy Major Dhyan Chand’s. government issued a commemorative postal stamp in his memory on December 3, 1980. He remains the only Indian hockey player to have a stamp in his honour. An Astroturf hockey pitch, at the Indian Gymkhana Club in London, has been named after Indian hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand.

Major Dhyan Chand’s one of the greatest sporting heroes of India. Arguably one of the greatest contributors to the sport of field hockey, Major Dhyan Chand carved a niche for himself unmatched by any who came after him. With phenomenal skill and keen passion, he put India on the map of world hockey, forever changing the way the country would look at the sport. In his prime he took India to the zenith of its sporting potential and won innumerable accolades while garnering global attention.

For this consistency in excellence and the inspiration he left for millions of fans, Major Dhyan Chand will be forever remembered as a national hero. Appreciation of his life and legacy not only throws light on a glorious bygone age, but stirs hopeful expectations for the country’s future in the sport.

The National Sports Day in India is celebrated on August 29, the birth anniversary of hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand. The day was designated as India's National Sports Day in 2012. The president gives away sport-related awards such as the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna, Arjuna Award and Dronacharya Award on this day. The primary motto of National Sports Day is to promote awareness about the significance of sports and being physically active in the day-to-day life. The Government of India also organises various programs, events, seminars etc to raise awareness about the significance of National Sports Day.

The 20th National Award, 2012, the Gem of India, awarded by the Union Minister of India, was given to Dhyan Chand. The award was received by Dhyan Chand's son, Ashok Dhyan Chand (a hockey Olympian in his own right), on behalf of his deceased father. The award was given by Journalist Association of India under the flagship of Journalists Federation of India, Sirifort Auditorium, New Delhi, India, on 22 September 2012.

India's highest award for lifetime achievement in sports is the Dhyan Chand Award which has been awarded annually since 2002 to sporting figures who not only contribute



through their performance but also contribute to the sport after their retirement. The National Stadium, Delhi was renamed Dhyan Chand National Stadium in 2002 in his honour.

During an era where India dominated field hockey. His influence extended beyond these victories, as India won the field hockey event in seven out of eight Olympics from 1928 to 1964. In 1956 he retired from the army with the rank of major. His son, Ashok Kumar Singh, was a member of India's Olympic field hockey teams in the 1970s and scored the winning goal in the 1975 World Cup championship.

Awards and Achievements:

Major Dhyan Chand's one of the greatest field hockey player, he got awards and achievements are

- 1928- Gold medal at the Olympics, held in Amsterdam,
- 1932- Gold medal at the Olympics, held in Los Angeles,
- 1936- Gold medal at the Olympics, held in Berlin.
- 1956 Bestowed with India's third-highest civilian award "Padma Bhushan" by the Government of India.
- The National Stadium, Delhi was renamed Dhyan Chand National Stadium in 2002 in his honour.
- The 20th National Award, 2012, the Gem of India, awarded by the Union Minister of India, was given to Dhyan Chand.
- An Astroturf hockey pitch, at the Indian Gymkhana Club in London, has been named after Indian hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand.
- Postal Stamp to honour the legacy Major Dhyan Chand's. government issued a commemorative postal stamp in his memory on December 3, 1980.
- Indian field hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand's honoured with the 'Bharat Gaurav' lifetime achievement award. By NRI organization Sanskrit Yuva Sanstha at the house of Commons inside the British Parliament on July 25.

Conclusion:

Major Dhyan Chand's was an Indian field hockey player who was widely regarded as one of the greatest player of all time. he is best remembered for his goal scoring feats and his three Olympic Gold Medals in field hockey. (1928, 1932 and 1936). He is known as "The Wizard" for his superb ball control. The birth anniversary of Indian hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand's is celebrated as 'National Sports Day' in india. He was considered one of the greatest sportsmen of all time.



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