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Message from Dr. Narinder Batra Secretary General -Hockey India & Chairman -**Hero Hockey India League**



Newsletter



This is a moment of triumph and celebration for hockey lovers. Delhi Waveriders deserve all the accolades for winning the second edition of Hero Hockey India League, Jaypee Punjab Warriors gave a tough fight at the final during the shoot out at Ranchi and enthralled the spectators who witnessed remarkable hockey moments during the semis and finals. The third/fourth placeplayoff between Ranchi Rhinos and Uttar Pradesh Wizards also captivated the packed stadium crowd.

Our individual heroes deserve all compliments for their outstanding performance during the League. Their efforts were indeed commendable. I congratulate, Hero Most Valuable Player of the Tournament Jaap Stockmann (Jaypee Punjab Warriors) for his consistent laudable performance during the entire League. Akashdeep Singh (Delhi Waveriders) who was received the 'Ponty Chadha Trophy' for Upcoming Player of the Tournament and Sandeep Singh (Jaypee Punjab Warriors) who received the YES Bank Garv Award for scoring maximum 11 goals in the second edition of the league deserve all kudos and special mention for their individual contribution to the sport. Am sure they will take the sport to a completely new level in the

Hero Hockey India League 2014 with a display of professionalism and competitive hockey has not only been appreciated within India but the entire Hockey World is overwhelmed with the efforts put in by Hockey India. President FIH Mr. Leandro Negre in his press conference at Ranchi during the finals weekend made a special mention that HHIL has been appreciated globally and being seen as a model for building the sport across the world. There can be no better appreciation of our efforts than these.

A big thanks and gratitude to all our Franchisees, sponsors and other stakeholders for the successful conduct of HHIL 2014. Without your contribution, such a feat would not have been

global arena.



DELHI WAVERIDERS, CHAMPIONS HERO HOCKEY INDIA LEAGUE - 2014

HOCKEY INDIA PARTNERS























https://www.facebook.com/pages/Hockey-India/257841377661769 1 http://www.facebook.com/TheHockeyIndiaLeague

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Opening Ceremony Hero HIL - 2014























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Hero HIL-2014 Hero HIL-2014



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Thirty days, 34 matches and 156 goals. The second edition of the Hero Hockey India League was a runaway hit, combine with the right mix of quality hockey and glamour.



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To add to the on-field action, Bollywood stars John Abraham, Nargis Fakri, Vivek Oberoi, Sherlyn Chopra, Shilpa Shukla (of Chak De India fame), pop singer Daler Mehandi, Punjabi singer Alfaaz, former cricketer Ravi Shastri, Yuvraj Singh and many more added the glamour quotient to the league.



The matches of the second edition of the Hero Hockey India League were witnessed by huge crowd at all venues and it was a big hit on social media as well, with the official Facebook page crossing 1 million 'likes'. With a mega opening ceremony at the International Hockey Stadium in Mohali, the six city-based franchisees - Dabur Mumbai Magicians, Delhi Waveriders, Jaypee Punjab Warriors, Kalinga Lancers, Ranchi Rhinos and Uttar Pradesh Wizards - played 34 matches on a home and away basis at six venues.





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The opening ceremony of the second edition of Hero Hockey India League saw a performance by Nargis Fakri, who set the stage on fire with performances on famous numbers like Balam Pichkari and Radha. Her performance was preceded by in astounding laser show that covered the Mohali sky.

The laser show depicted a short montage on 2013 Hero Hockey India League and the six franchisees of Season 2014. It showed the first edition of Hockey India League with its results, goals scored by various players, the crowds that viewed the match live at the five stadiums and the first champions lifting the trophy of HHIL—Ranchi Rhinos.

The excitement for the evening continued with artists from US performing Human Slinky which was a colorful as well as a comical and high-energy act which left the crowd and viewers mesmerized. This was the first time such an art was performed in India.

Gaurav, the mascot for HHIL also made its first presence in the crowd during the opening ceremony. He represents the pride that is associated with Hockey in the country.

Kalinga Lancers, the tournament debuatants, added more colour to the league. The Bubaneshwar-based team attracted packed houses and the team, coached by Terry Walsh, put up an impressive fight in their first season appearance.









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HHIL Final Presentation Ceremony



Mr. Leandro Negre, President FIH handsover the cheque of Rupees Two Crore Fifty Lacs to Mr. Manpreet Singh Chadha, Owner Delhi Waveriders, Mr. John Abraham, Co-owner Delhi Waveriders and Captain J S Randhawa for winning HHIL 2014.



Mr. Rajiv Shukla, Member-HHIL Advisory Board and Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs handsover the cheque of Rupees One Crore Twenty Five Lacs to Mr. Askari Zaidi, CEO Jaypee Punjab Warriors for runners-up of HHIL 2014.



Mr. Kelly Fairweather, CEO FIH handsover the cheque of Rupees Seventy Five Lacs to Mr. Saurav Duggar and Diya Chauhan owners, Ranchi Rhinos for finishing at third pice in HHIL 2014.



Mr. Rajeev Mehta, Associate Vice-President Hockey & Secretary General Indian Olympic Association India handsover the cheque of Rupees Twenty Five Lacs to Goalkeeper Jaap Stockmann (Jaypee Punjab Warriors) for winning Hero Most Valuable Player of the Season Award.



Mr. Anand Khurana, Chief Executive Officer, Bihar & Jharkhand Circle, Bharti Airtel Ltd handsover the cheque of Rupees Ten Lacs to Captain Jamie Dwyer (Jaypee Punjab Warriors) for winning the Airtel Maximum Goal Award.



Mr. Pralay Mondal, Senior Group President, Retail & Business Banking, YES Bank handsover the trophy to Dragflicker Sandeep Singh (Jaypee Punjab Warriors) for winning the YES Bank Garv Award.

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HHIL Final Presentation Ceremony



Mr. Manpreet Singh Chadha (Monty) handsover the cheque of Rupees Twenty Lacs to Akashdeep Singh (Delhi Waveriders) for winning the Ponty Chadha Award for Most Promising Player of the Tournament.



Mr. Anupam Goswami, Sr. Vice-President Programming Star Sports handsover the Fair Play Award trophy to Mr. Suresh Chauhan, owner Ranchi Rhinos.



Mr. Rajeev Mehta, Mr. Sudesh Kumar Mahato , Mr. Rajiv Shukla , Mr. Arun Jaitley, Mr. Leandro Negre, Mr. Kelly Fairweather present during HHIL final presentation ceremony.



Dragflicker Rupinder Pal Singh, Mr. John Abraham, co-owner Delhi Waveriders, Mr. Manpreet Singh Chadha (Monty) owner Delhi Waveriders and Dr. Narinder Batra, Chairman HHIL with the winners trophy.

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Winners: Delhi Waveriders - Prize Money Rs 2,50,00,000/-

Runners-up: Jaypee Punjab Warriors - Prize Money: Rs 1,25,00,000/-

Third Place: Ranchi Rhinos - Prize Money: Rs 75,00,000/-

Fair-Play Award: Ranchi Rhinos

Hero Most Valuable Player of the Tournament: Jaap Stockmann - Rs 25,00,000/-

'Ponty Chadha Trophy' for Upcoming Player of the Tournament:

Akashdeep Singh - Rs 20,00,000/-

'Airtel Award' for Most Goals in the Tournament: Jaypee Punjab Warriors - Rs 10,00,000/-

YES Bank Garv Award: Sandeep Singh - Rs 10,00,000/-

HOCKEY INDIA LEAGUE

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HHIL Final Presentation Ceremony



Dr. Narinder Batra, Chairman HHIL presenting a memento to Mr. Arun Jaitley, Member- HHIL Advisory Board & Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha.



Dr. Narinder Batra, Chairman HHIL presenting a memento to Mr. Rajiv Shukla Member- HHIL Advisory Board & Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs.



Dr. Narinder Batra, Chairman HHIL presenting a memento to Mr. Leandro Negre, President FIH.



Dr. Narinder Batra, Chairman HHIL presenting a memento to Mr. Sudesh Kumar Mahato, President Hockey Jharkhand & Former Deputy Chief Minister, Jharkhand.

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Mr. Arun Jaitley, Member· HHIL Advisory Board & Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha, Mr. Rajiv Shukla Member· HHIL Advisory Board & Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, Mr. Sudesh Kumar Mahato, President Hockey Jharkhand & Former Deputy Chief Minister, Jharkhand and Mr. Rajeev Mehta, Associate Vice-President HI & Secretary General IOA watching final of HHIL 2014.



Mr. Pralay Mondal, Senior Group President, Retail & Business Banking, YES Bank and Dr. Sunil Bharati, Head Corporate Affairs & Communications, Cairn India Ltd watching final of HHIL 2014 .



Dr. Narinder Batra, Chairman HHIL, Mr .Leandro Negre, President FIH and Mr. Arun Jaitley, Member- HHIL Advisory Board & Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha in discussion with eachother.



Mr. Ken Read, Chairman FIH Competitions Committee and Mr. Kelly Fairweather, CEO International Hockey Federation watching HHIL finals at Ranchi.

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Mr. Firoz Ansari Executive Board Member Hockey India, Mr. Rajinder Singh Kuku, Mr. Terry Walsh, Chief Coach Senior Men Hockey Team and Mr. Manoj Bhore, Associate Joint Secretary Hockey India during final of HHIL 2014.



Mr. Kelly Fairweather, Mr. Manpreet Singh Chadha (Monty), Mr. Arun Jaitley, Mr. Rajiv Shukla, Mr. Sudesh Kumar Mahato, Mr. Rajeev Mehta, Mr. Pralay Mondal and Mr. Leandro Negre watching final of HHIL 2014.















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Ms. Marijke Fleuren, President European Hockey Federation and Antonio Von Ondarza, Vice-President International Hockey Federation watching HHIL finals at Ranchi.



Mr. Rajiv Shukla Member· HHIL Advisory Board & Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, Mr. Arun Jaitley, Member· HHIL Advisory Board & Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha and Mr. Leandro Negre, President FIH during finals of HHIL 2014.



Mr. Sudesh Kumar Mahato, President Hockey Jharkhand & Former Deputy Chief Minister,
Jharkhand and Olympian
Mr. Dilip Tirkey, Chief Mentor Kalinga Lancers & Member Rajya Sabha
watching finals of HHIL 2014.



Uttar Pradesh Wizards team management cheering their players during third/fourth place play-off.

Hero || Hero || Hero || Hero || Hero || Hero



Commentators of HHIL 2014



Dr. Narinder Batra, Chairman HHIL and Mr. Lokesh Sharma, Managing Director TCM India with the staff of HHIL after finals at Ranchi.















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Dr. Narinder Batra, Chairman HHIL presenting a memento to Mr. Naveen Patnaik, Chief Minsiter of Odisha.



Mrs. Swapna Roy, owner Uttar Pradesh Wizards with Mr. Akhilesh Yadav, Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh during HHIL match at Lucknow.



Mr. Hemant Soren, Chief Minister of Jharkhand and Mr. Sudesh Kumar Mahato, President Hockey Jharkhand & Former Deputy Chief Minister, Jharkhand watching HHIL match at Ranchi.



Dr. Narinder Batra, Chairman HHIL presenting a memento to Mr. Injeti Srinivas, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary Housing and Urban Development Department, Govt of Odisha.

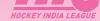


Bollywood Star Mr. John Abraham Co-owner Delhi Waveriders Mr. Manpreet Singh Chadha (Monty) owner Delhi Waveriders, Mr. Jitendra Singh, Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports and Mr. Martin Gotheridge, Representative FIH.



Mr. Rajeev Mehta, Associate Vice-President Hockey India & Secretary General IOA and Dr. Narinder Batra, Chairman HHIL watching semi-finals of HHIL 2014.















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Ms Elena Norman, CEO HHIL, Mr. John Abraham Co-owner Delhi Waveriders, Mr. Jitendra Singh Minister of State for Youth Affairs & Sports Mr. Manpreet Singh Chadha (Monty) owner Delhi Waveriders and Dr. Narinder Batra, Chairman HHIL during match at Delhi.



Mr. Manpreet Singh Chadha (Monty) owner Delhi Waveriders presenting a memento to Mr. Jitendra Singh Minister of State for Youth Affairs & Sports during match at Delhi.

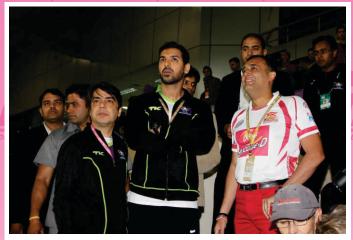


Mr. Martin Gotheridge, Representative FIH in discussion with Mr. Anandeshwar Pandey, Executive Board Member Hockey India during HHIL match at Lucknow.



Olympian Mr. Balbir Singh Senior with Mr. Askari Zaidi, CEO Jaypee Punjab Warriors during HHIL match at Mohali.

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Mr. John Abrahm Co-owner Delhi Waveriders and Mr. Amit Burman, owner Dabur Mumbai Magicians watching HHIL match at Delhi.



Mr. Vishal Kumar Dev, CMD IDCO and Olympian Mr. Dilip Tirkey, Chief Mentor Kalinga Lancers and Member Rajya Sabha.















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1; Hero 1; Hero 1; Hero 1; Hero 1; Hero 1; Hero 1; Hero





during match at Bhubaneswar.



Mr. Martin Gotheridge Representative FIH with Mr. Suresh Chauhan owner Ranchi Rhinos watching match at Ranchi.



Ms. Elena Norman CEO HHIL presenting a momento to Bollywood Star Mr. John Abraham, Co-owner Delhi Waveriders.



Ms. Elena Norman CEO HHIL and Ms. Elisabeth Fuerst, Event Manager FIH watching HHIL match at Mohali.



Mr. Pratap Satpathy, Vice-President Hockey India and Olympian Cyclist Ms. Minati Mohapatra watching HHIL match at Bhubaneswar.















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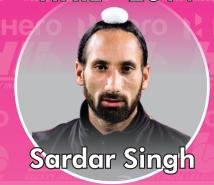
Results of HHIL - 2014

Match			First	Second	Final	
Number	Date	Pitch	Team	Team	Result	
01	25 Jan 14	JPW	Jaypee Punjab Warriors	Delhi Waveriders	1 - 3	
100K 02 DIA I	26 Jan 14	RAN	Ranchi Rhinos WE HOCKEY IN	Uttar Pradesh Wizards	0012 MI-1 LE 3VE	
03	26 Jan 14	JPW	Jaypee Punjab Warriors	Dabur Mumbai Magicians	5 - 3	
04	27 Jan 14	RAN	Ranchi Rhinos	Delhi Waveriders	1 - 0	
05	28 Jan 14	BHU	Kalinga Lancers	Jaypee Punjab Warriors	3 - 7	
06	29 Jan 14	MUM	Dabur Mumbai Magicians	Uttar Pradesh Wizards	3 - 5	
07	30 Jan 14	DEL	Delhi Waveriders	Kalinga Lancers	5 - 0	
08	31 Jan 14	DEL	Delhi Waveriders	Jaypee Punjab Warriors	1 - 3	
09	01 Feb 14	LUC	Uttar Pradesh Wizards	Ranchi Rhinos	1 - 2	
10	01 Feb 14	BHU	Kalinga Lancers	Dabur Mumbai Magicians	2 - 1	
11	02 Feb 14	LUC	Uttar Pradesh Wizards	Jaypee Punjab Warriors	2 2	
12	02 Feb 14	BHU	Kalinga Lancers	Delhi Waveriders	3 - 4	
13	04 Feb 14	RAN	Ranchi Rhinos	Dabur Mumbai Magicians	1 - 1	
14	05 Feb 14	DEL	Delhi Waveriders	Uttar Pradesh Wizards	1 - 1	
15	06 Feb 14	DEL	Delhi Waveriders	Dabur Mumbai Magicians	2 - 1	
16	07 Feb 14	RAN	Ranchi Rhinos	Kalinga Lancers	3 - 2	
17	08 Feb 14	LUC	Uttar Pradesh Wizards	Delhi Waveriders	3 - 4	
18	08 Feb 14	MUM	Dabur Mumbai Magicians	Jaypee Punjab Warriors	1 - 4	
19	09 Feb 14	LUC	Uttar Pradesh Wizards	Kalinga Lancers	3 - 1	
20	09 Feb 14	MUM	Dabur Mumbai Magicians	Ranchi Rhinos	0 - 1	
21	11 Feb 14	JPW	Jaypee Punjab Warriors	Kalinga Lancers	3 - 3	
22	12 Feb 14	DEL	Delhi Waveriders	Ranchi Rhinos	1 - 0	
23	13 Feb 14	BHU	Kalinga Lancers	Uttar Pradesh Wizards	3 - 4	
24	14 Feb 14	BHU	Kalinga Lancers	Ranchi Rhinos	4 - 1	
25	15 Feb 14	JPW	Jaypee Punjab Warriors		2 - 1	
26	15 Feb 14	MUM	Dabur Mumbai Magicians		3 - 5	
27	16 Feb 14	MUM	Dabur Mumbai Magicians	3.	3 - 2	
28	16 Feb 14	JPW	Jaypee Punjab Warriors	Ranchi Rhinos	4 - 2	
29	18 Feb 14	LUC	Uttar Pradesh Wizards	Dabur Mumbai Magicians	2 - 3	
30	19 Feb 14	RAN	Ranchi Rhinos	Jaypee Punjab Warriors	2 - 3	

Match Number	Date	Pitch	First Team	Second Team	Final Result	Shoot-Out Competition
31	22 Feb 14	RAN	Delhi Waveriders	Uttar Pradesh Wizards	1 - 0	<u>-</u>
32	22 Feb 14	RAN	Jaypee Punjab Warriors	Ranchi Rhinos	3 - 2	_
33 ^{Mod}	23 Feb 14	RAN	Uttar Pradesh Wizards	Ranchi Rhinos	1 - 1	2 - 3
34	23 Feb 14	RAN	Jaypee Punjab Warriors	Delhi Waveriders	3 - 3	1 - 3

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Experience of the winning captain about HHIL - 2014



Winning seems to be the mantra for Sardar Singh, the captain of the Champions of second season of Hero Hockey India League. In a candidinterview, Sardar shared his experiences at the recently concluded tournament, giving a large share of success to his teammates and promoters. The Hero of Indian hockey is all geared up to a packed sporting year ahead and is already planning strategies to take on competition at the international arena.

Congratulations for winning the second season of HHIL. What was the success Mantra of your team for winning the title?

It was a team effort which helped us win the title of the second edition of the league. I would like to thank our Coach Cedric D Souza for his guidance and special thanks to Manpreet Singh Chadha (Monty), John Abraham and entire management of Wave Group for their support in the entire league. Despite losing two matches initially, confidence level of the team was very high. Success Mantra of the team was better coordination between the players and everyone was focused on their respective roles. Although we had very less time for training this year, I am happy that we lived up to the expectations of our fans and coaches.

What kind of impact did it have to have Co-owner of your team and Bollywood star John Abraham in the dugouts?

He is very famous actor and loves sports. In the changing room, he used to motivate us and even have fun with us by telling some memorable moments of his shootings. He told me that he has been watching hockey from a long time and was a big fan of mine which was a big motivating factor for me. He used to spare time from his busy schedule to watch our matches during HHIL and we also ensure that we made him see the best hockey.

Did John ever come with any inputs before and after watching your games?

Whether we lost or won the game, John always used to come and cheer us. I remember his words "Let's do it".

What do you think about John's knowledge for the game of hockey?

I think John is a big lover of the game and he understands it very well. It was his dedication for the game, that most of the time he cancelled his shooting schedules just to attend our matches. His presence at the stadium, kept us motivated all the time and helped us win the matches. He even told me that he was keen to promote the sport of hockey and wanted to take it to the next level.

How do you rate overall performance of your team?

We started the second edition very well but lost our rhythm after losing two matches. Then we had hard training sessions, team meetings and video sessions which helped us a lot in making strategies against other teams. We made a lot of improvement in our game and remained focused on winning the matches.

In the inaugural edition, your team performed well throughout the tournament but lost the finals. Was there any added pressure on you this time before going into finals?

Yes we played well till semi-finals of the inaugural edition and unluckily lost the finals. But this time there was additional pressure to perform well and win the title, as we have already checked the taste of Runners-up in 2013. In the first quarter of the final match we committed some errors but from the second half onwards the team was geared up and gave our best in the last 7-8 minutes of fourth quarter.

What do you have to say about the performance of young Indian players in HHIL 2014?

Most of the young Indian players performed well throughout the league. While playing with the star players of the World in the HHIL, our young players have improved a lot in their fitness and tactics even their body language has also changed. I have seen major improvement in the young players who are part of the Camp for FIH Men's World Cup. We need regular tournaments like HHIL as it will help our youngsters to learn a lot and improve their game. This will actually help us to uplift the level of our game. I want to add one thing that in the second edition, fans have watched more competitive and quality hockey.

2014 is a crucial year with big major tournaments such as World Cup, Commonwealth Games, Asian Games and Champions Trophy. How are you looking forward to it?

As we all know that this year is very important for Indian hockey. After a long time we are working very hard on our fitness. Our focus will be to keep us injury free. We finished eighth in the last World Cup, so this time our target will be to finish at fifth or sixth place and yes if we will perform much better then it will be very good. In the Commonwealth Games our target is to play finals and in Asian Games we will try all out for Gold.

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Young Talent of HHIL-2014

Hockey India interviewed two youngsters who played for the first time in the Hero Hockey India League this year and impressed everyone with their performance. The youngsters Affan Yousuf and Lalit Upadhyay have watched the inaugural season of the league on their Televisions but the Closed Bid happened in November 2013 make their dream come true as both the players were bought by Jaypee Punjab Warriors and Kalinga Lancers respectively. Their outstanding performance in their first edition of the league helped them selected in the 33 core probables for the FIH Men's World Cup to be held in The Hague, Netherlands this year.

The Uttar Pradesh born Lalit Upadhyay is also one of young player who impressed everyone with his skills and hard work. Even one can expect great things from him in the future We had a chat with him about his experience playing in HHIL 2014 and watching the tournament in 2013.



A young forward Lalit Upadhyay from Varansi feels lucky to be the part of the Hero Hockey India League Season 2 as his performance in the league helped him to find a place in the camp of the FIH Men's World Cup. He even feels that HHIL came as savior in giving him financial stability and platform to show his talent.

You made your international debut in the U-21 team when the Indian team visited Kuala Lumpur. How will you describe your journey from there till today when you are in the camp for the World Cup?

It's a dream for every player to play for India. Every young player playing for India junior wants to play for the national team. I am really happy that I am able to make it to the list of probables. The credit goes to HHIL. Since 2009, I have been trying for it for long now. I was part of the Junior World Cup team, team to Holland and then with Kalinga Lancers. It was HIL which gave a huge platform to young players like us to show our talent.

Being in the Core Probables team, how is the training going on and what targets have you set for yourself if you get the chance to play during the World Cup.

This is my first experience in the senior camp. It a great learning experience as one gets to play with top players across the country and being coached by the national coach like Terry Walsh. The practice, training etc. are all excellent.

You were one of the junior Indian star performers during the recently concluded HHIL 2. How does it feel to get the recognition on your efforts on the field?

I think every match has to be taken differently and it a new challenge every day. The focus should be improving on my previous performance and giving my best in every match. I am happy that I performed well though I could have done better.

You were in the Kalinga Lancers team, what learning did you take from the international players in the squad and how did you put that in you play?

Playing with both Indian and International players was great experience. Playing with Indian players like Prabodh Tirkey who is one of the best Indian left half player. His motivation and guidance was a great help. The international players bring their own experience like the time to dodged, when to release the ball and carry the ball depending on situation. So there is a lot of benefit playing in such an environment.

You even have to your credit of winning one Hero Goal of the match. What was the feeling. Can you describe that days play?

I tried a lot during the tournament. The idea is to give your best for the team by making least mistakes. I tried my best to convert the given opportunity. It was good experience, crowd was happy and the team gained.

How has the learning been under Terry Walsh. How has it improved your game?

I trained under him for the first time. He brings a lot of new training drills, his focus on perfection has helped us a lot

There was a period between 2011 – 2013 when you did not get a chance to play in any single international game, but you continued playing the domestic matches. What was the feeling at that time. What motivated you to keep trying?

I played for Air India. My coach Dhanraj Pillai who is an icon player, guided me a lot. Sameer Dad was also there and encouraged a lot during these two years. My target was to give my best in the matches I was playing.

How has the journey been for you from childhood to now where people recognize you?

I have struggled a lot in my childhood days to play hockey due to financial crisis in the family. My coach at SAI, Mr. Parmanand Mishra supported me a lot both financially and psychologically. He identified my talent and encouraged me to play. He basically took away other worries off my shoulder to leave me to worry only about playing hockey. I must say that HIL came as savior giving us financial stability and platform to show our talent.

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Hero Young Talent of HHIL-2014

The second season of Hero Hockey India League was a big success. The most heartening thing of HHIL 2014 was the performance of Indian youngsters. Despite the presence of international stars like Jamie Dwyer, Moritz Fuerste and Jaap Stockmann and senior Indian players Sardar Singh and VR Raghunath, it was the junior Indians who stole the limelight. Amongst these youngsters was Madhya Pradesh born Affan Yousuf who played his first season of HHIL this year and earned high praise for his performance in the final from coach Barry Dancer. He was consistent throughout the tournament, scored four goals and kept the defenders on their toes.



Affan Yousuf the young Indian star hockey player who made news during the recent Hero Hockey India League for his performance and which helped him in getting the recognition and a place in the camp for Senior Men Core Probables for FIH World Cup 2014. He talks about his childhood, how he started playing hockey, his initial years in the game and how he got the platform of the second edition of Hero Hockey India League.

How has the journey been from football to hockey? What made you switch to hockey?

When I was in school I used to play football. This was because this was at that time no one used to play hockey. But then our sports teacher changed and he knew my dad who is also a hockey player. One day the sports teachers suggested to me that why do I not play hockey. I liked his suggestion and showed by enthusiasm. Since then he started hockey in school and many students then joined in. Eventually we made a team and even went on to play many tournaments. After school I joined SAI and there I had the opportunity to get coached under YS Chauhan and from there I learnt a lot on the game.

While I was playing for Indian Oil, at that time Dhanraj Pillay called me to join Air India and I was part of their senior team and was even nominated as the Best Player. Post my domestic performance, I got an opportunity to play in the Hero Hockey India League 2014 and through my performance in HHIL I was picked up for the camp of FIH World Cup 2014 and also got new job in the Central Railways.

You belong to a family with known names in the field of hockey. Does it add pressure on you to perform as per the standard that they have set?

Whenever we get together we always talk hockey. We discuss various games and how can I better myself. My dad and my uncle always motivate me to play freely and not to come under any pressure. Coming from a family which has hockey players is an advantage in itself as while they understand the nuances of the game plus their experience helps them in guiding me properly.

In the recently concluded HIL you represented Punjab Warriors. How was the learning from the League?

The experience of HIL has been great. Having the opportunity to play under players like Jamie Dyer, Kieran Govers etc. from whom I learnt a lot. The learning was from passing the ball penetrating through the defense and knowing what should be your next step. I am happy HIL happened to me, which gave me the platform to get the recognition that any player looks out for. It was because of HIL that I got this opportunity to be in the 33 players list for the upcoming FIH World Cup.

What was the learning from coach Barry Dancer?

I learnt a lot from him. He taught things like ball handling, penetration etc. He always stressed on ones vision in terms of, be aware of players around you and see the passes that they are making which will help me in understanding my next move.

With international players what are the learning's that you are taking from them and how is it helping you in bettering yourself as a player?

During HIL I learnt a lot for Jamie Dwyer. His quickness impressed me a lot and I feel he is the only player who while playing knows what he will do next or what will be his next move. This in a way he doesn't loose out on time and plus he doesn't give time to the opponents to think and in a way takes them by surprise. I am hoping I can adopt his style into my play.

You are one of the star performers amongst the junior Indian players in the HIL 2. How does it feel and how are you coping with this?

I am happy that I got the opportunity to be a part of HIL 2 and this platform helped me get the recognition that any player looks out for. I think this recognition is every players dream and I am happy that I got it.

You are in the Camp for the World Cup. How is the training going on?

The training is tough and we are going through our daily drill. It's a learning period for me as I am looking at preparing myself for the big platform. It's a nice feeling of having players like Sardar Singh, Sandeep Singh, Gurbaj Singh from whom you can learn a lot and plus on the other hand you have a coach like Terry Walsh who monitors your every move and immediately tries to rectify by telling us how to better ourselves.

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Hero Hockey India League-2014 Trophy Unveiled

Brand Mascot 'Gaurav' also introduced in a ceremony

Hockey India unveiled the charismatic trophy & Mascot of Hero Hockey India League Season 2 in New Delhi on 23 January 2014. The glittering trophy to be awarded to the winner of Hero Hockey India League and median brand mascot were unveiled in the presence of Dr. Narinder Batra, Chairman Hero Hockey India League.

The stunning masterpiece of trophy seems like a crown embedded with Swarovski at top and bottom with two beautiful golden Hockey Sticks on both the sides. Taking this excitement to higher level, new mascot named as 'Gaurav' meaning Pride, was also introduced to add new & refreshing chapter to the trajectory of Hockey India League. This eye-catching mascot is designed to arouse the interest for Hockey and to connect all hockey fans with the game in a completely redefined manner.







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to lucky spectators at Six Venues

Hero Hockey India League awarded 34 bikes to the lucky spectators during the league at all six venues Bhubaneswar, Delhi, Lucknow, Mohali, Mumbai and Ranchi. During every match one lucky spectator was awarded a Hero bike.

BHUBANESWAR



Sandeep Kumar



Mohd. Rizwan



Bipin Chandra Padhi



Ramesh Kumar Sahoo



Amitabh Khuntia

DELHI



Manoj Meena



Mahender Kumar



Kartik Dhawan



Gopal Mishra



Deepti Raj Goyal















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Hero L HeroHHIL awarded 34 Hero bikes Hero L Hero to lucky spectators at Six Venues

| Hero | Hero | Hero | Hero | Hero

LUCKNOW







Murlidhar Yadav



Ankit Singh



Vinay Kumar



Nath Yadav

12 Hero 12 Hero 12 Hero 12 Hero 12 Hero 13 Hero

MOHALI



Rahul sood



Kuljeet Singh



Akshya singh



Dilmil singh



Prem kumar

Hero I Hero I Hero















P-23 Vol-7

Hero L Hero HHIL awarded 34 Hero bikes Hero L Hero

| Hero | Hero | Hero | Hero | Hero

MUMBAI



Krishnaraj Gopalkrishna



Raju More



Clinton Fernandes



Akshay Balchandani



Abhijeet Vaishnav

12 Hero 12 Hero 12 Hero 12 Hero 12 Hero 12 Hero

RANCHI



Dhirendra Kumar Mahto



Bhuneshwar Oraon



Pravin Kumar Dang



Om Prakash



Sunil Prasad















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Hero L Hero HHIL awarded 34 Hero bikes Hero L House Hero

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HHIL FINALS - RANCHI









Anil Prasad

Saurav Karel

Vijay Prakash Sah

Dinesh Kachhap

























<u>12 Hero 12 He</u>



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