



# GoodSport NEWS

S R I L A N K A O L Y M P I C W E E K L Y N E W S B U L L E T I N

*All About Federations*

## KARATE-DO COULD BE A LANKAN ELDORADO IN SPORT FEDERATIONS

Some may call it a frog in the well or someone else may describe it more vividly as a frog who has been pushed into a deep well.

Yet, the bizarre dilemma and conundrum of Karate-Do is as ironic in the ilk of another Harrison Ford drama – the Indiana Jones – they meander into a quagmire of unfulfilled dreams in spite of their brawn and men.

Yet the General Secretary of the Karate-Do Federation of Sri Lanka Keerthi Kumara Basnayake is adamant that they do have the wherewithal of reaching their own Eldorado given -

the right opportunities. The revelation was more than a drop of a brick.

Basnayake claims they do have the biggest of army in numbers running into more than 600,000 active Karateka's from the 10300 schools, plus the others attached in clubs and the armed forces – the numbers are huge but, where do they hit ship that sunk the Titanic?

Initially GoodSport queried as to how Karate-Do survived the Covid-19 chop which halted the entire globe.

Basnayake explained, “We did not bow down to the Covid-19 threat. We even held some competitions when the entire house was closed.

“We did so by conducting online tournaments and we called it ‘E-Kata’. We are proud say that we pioneered that concept.

“Taking the cue, we know so many other Federations followed suit. Besides, even during the height of the pandemic, we maintained the national pool culminating in a selection process.”

Continued on Page 02

From page 01



“Then we worked towards forming the Karate High Performance squad with the participation of around 400-500 players - this exercise was done to select six Karateka’s. That process consumed five days of intense competition. At that point I was of the view that our players were well on par with the Asian standards.”

During that time, the Karate-Do Federation employed an Iranian coach and were moving up. He was certainly impressed with the Lankan standards; he especially named six players both men and women as potential medal prospects.

However, the episode ended with the coach at the end of his contract taking the six players along with him to Dubai and employing them as professional Karateka’s in the club circuit.

Basnayake added “We could not disagree with the Iranian Coach because as a Federation were not in a position to provide them with employment with equal remuneration. Yes, it was a frustrating situation, but, we just had to bite the dust and grin.”

***“I think the Ministry of Sport should be more flexible on such opportunities.***

***The bottom-line is that the government should delve in and find out who could be the prospective medal winners for the country.***

***The most important thing here is medals to the country.”***

GoodSport then quizzed as, "With such solid nursery and a structure, why are we not producing Medal winning material?"

The Karate-Do General Secretary answered in this manner - “We are stuck in this gumball because we do not have sufficient funds to send our players to take part at international competitions.

“We may be able to make it to one international competition per year. But, when it comes to the next competition it may be another "who will make it to the travelling team".

“All depends upon who could find the necessary funds to travel on that occasion.

“The prime reason is the Ministry of Sports does not make monetary allocations for these sports in a proper manner. Three months ago we travelled overseas for a Junior Championship - there were six of them.

“Now next October it will be the Asian Games and it is stipulated they will include two athletes.

“Then the Asian Championships are to be held in July, there we can include twenty prospective players. But, we cannot take part in the Asian Championship for the want of money. Even the Ministry will not make any allocations for that.

“Besides, finding a sponsor for it is well-nigh impossible. I think the Ministry of Sport should be more flexible on such opportunities.

“The bottom-line is that the government should delve in and find out who could be the prospective medal winners for the country.

“The most important thing here is medals to the country.”

The next question we asked was on the just concluded Karate-Do nationals?

He said “There are two types of championships. There is a championship where they go through the provinces and the districts. We consider this also as a national championship. Besides that, there are 462 clubs - they also have championships of their own.”

From page 02

“This is a grade one tournament and NOC SL Treasurer Gamini Jayasinghe was the Chief Guest at this championship. Also it was an open ended tournament where anyone could take part. This tournament is a preamble for international tournaments.

“Yet, the irony is that if there are prospective players with international potential, they cannot fulfil their aims for the want of necessary funds. This is the vicious circle and the reality of Karate today.”

GoodSport took time to query about their current and future plans – a proper plan for the next Asian Games to the 2024 Olympics in Paris.

Basnayake said, “I think this problem is common to the South Asian region barring India. India has the necessary funds to sustain and develop their game. We have problems in taking part in vital tournaments and as a result we do not get a ranking.

“Without a ranking we do not get selected for the Olympics or such important tournaments. We do not even have the funds even to take part in qualifying tournaments.”



Finally, we asked, “With such a solid background of 600,000 school level players and players from 462 clubs – where do they go? What do they get by involving in such as Karate-Do?”

He said, “The only hope that could guide them is gainful local employment. Our players do not have the funds to move up internationally because of funds. But locally, when they get involved in tournaments we provide them with certificates and points.

“For instance, the last government employed 3500 sports teachers and over a quarter in that lot came from Karate. Besides, from the 10,000 schools they have employment to at least 5,000 coaches.”

“Besides some start their Karate schools. They also have openings in the armed forces and there are 2000 to 3000 attached to that.”

Comparatively with proper planning and proper vision Karate could be another Eldorado in sports. But, the Karate officialdom feels the pressure of a spoke-in-the-wheel courtesy the Ministry of Sports.

Basnayake says there are heaps of monsters under the bed. He claims there are tons of audit queries against Karate-Do and yet, sheet that lay on is white and clean. Still the poser remains unresolved and the Ministry thinks Karate is Wong Jackman of Bruce Lee fame.



# “GIRLS ON PAR” AND THE EVOLUTION OF GOLF



Innovation is a part of evolution. For any entity to grow and get deep-rooted the wheel has to keep revolving. Sri Lanka Golf found a willing partner in HSBC in their quest to get to the grassroots of the game and take it to the level of making a Jason Day – a former cadet, an Australian professional golfer who became a PGA Tour member and winner of the 2015 PGA Championship. He is a former world number one in the World Golf Ranking. So practically the task has potential and the mission is accomplishment.

This is the second edition of this ground-breaking mission and it is the HSBC Future Lions Golf grassroots programme which is running from 24 February to 9 April. The programme is designed to introduce the game of Golf to children aged 9-12 years in the country and provide them with the opportunity to develop their skills and pursue their passion for the sport.

Besides the golfing aspect, the organisers moving the vision of “Girls on par” a subtle you may call, but, a timely attribute to the IOC vision of gender equality or Gender Equity – in short more girls using the golf course for real competition.

The programme included coaching clinics with hands-on instruction from experienced golf professionals for young golfers of all skill levels. The HSBC Future Lions Golf grassroots programme is open to youngsters aged 9- 12 years across the locations. This year, a special feature will be the introduction of “Girls on Par” programme which is an initiative to increase the participation and representation of young girls in the sport.

The first leg of the programme was initiated in July 2017, with over 700 young people participating and several of them going on to compete in local and international tournaments.

The second leg of the program will build on that success by expanding the reach of the program and offering even more opportunities for young people to get involved, with the involvement of six leading Golf clubs namely at Shangri-La Golf Resort Hambantota, Nuwara Eliya Golf Club, Victoria Golf Resort Kandy, Eagles Heritage Golf Club – Anuradhapura, Eagles Links Golf Club – Trincomalee and Royal Colombo Golf Club – Colombo. The programme was conducted across seven locations. 250 of them underwent further advanced training and development at the respective academies and what’s significant is that the programme introduced 25 new junior Golfers who played at a national level thanks to this national effort. What’s significant is that two Junior stars produced by this programme were master Adithya Weerasinghe and Thenuk Sathsindu from the Anuradhapura Academy.

Both players are single handicappers and are now playing competitive Golf and recently were selected to the Sri Lanka Golf (SLG) national junior squad.

Michael Perera Magala , President of Sri Lanka Golf stated, “As the national body for Golf, Sri Lanka Golf is delighted to launch the second edition of HSBC Future Lions grass root programme once again. The programme made a huge impact on junior Golf helping to popularize the sport across the country and more importantly support the new talent to emerge through the programme as two of the participants made into the junior national squad which is testament of the impact the programme has made.

From page 04

“We would like to place on record our appreciation for the great support from HSBC our title partner, the Junior Golf Development Committee led by Chairperson – Niloo Jayatilake and her team and all the partners and participating clubs towards this national endeavour.”

The HSBC Future Lions Golf grassroots programme was instrumental in introducing Golf to over 700 children across seven centers in the country from 2017- 2018.

“Since then, we have had an addition of over 25 new junior players who took part at national level Golf events.

HSBC has been a global supporter of Golf and continues to play an important role in Sri Lanka, as the leading international Bank that has operated for over 130 years, since opening its doors in 1892. The bank sponsors The Open in UK, HSBC Women’s World Golf Championship in Singapore, HSBC Golf Championship in Abu-Dhabi and WGC Golf Championship in Shanghai, China.



The respective schools especially around the outstation Golf clubs will be notified on dates of the programme by Sri Lanka Golf in the next few days.

HSBC and Sri Lanka Golf invites girls and boys between the ages of 9- 12 years to attend the Grassroot programme for a fun day and try Golf and learn more on this exciting sport from coaches and instructors who are attached to the respective locations.

Niloo Jayatilake, Chairperson of the Junior Golf Development Subcommittee stated, “In its first edition, -

“But the pandemic in 2020 onwards had an impact on sustaining the effort and being the first we have had many learnings which will be addressed in the second edition.

“We look forward to once again extending the HSBC Future Lions grassroots programme to boys and girls across six locations and through it help them become champions Golfers. I would like to thank the entire team that was involved in getting the programme together and look forward to the support from HSBC, our partners and participating clubs and parents to move forward with the programme.”

The bank has also supported millions of children around the globe to take up the sport through local grassroots programmes in UK, Hong Kong, Singapore, China and Abu-Dhabi.

Sri Lankans will no doubt benefit through the HSBC Future Lions programme and thereby join the bank’s global effort to promote the sport.

The HSBC Future Lions grassroots programme is further supported by the following partners, Olu – Beverage partner, Alerics – Ice Cream Partner and MAS Kreeda - Sportswear partner in 2023.

# TRINBAGO 2023 COMMONWEALTH YOUTH GAMES

*Minister unveils Trinbago 2023 mascot at Commonwealth Day celebration*



Trinidad and Tobago's Minister of Sport and Community Development, Shamfa Cudjoe, and representatives of the Local Organising Committee, today unveiled the mascot design for the Trinbago 2023 Commonwealth Youth Games, at a celebration to mark Commonwealth Day.

The event at the Rootsyard, at the Trinidad Theater Workshop in St Clair, Trinidad, was attended by the British High Commissioner, Harriet Cross, and representatives of the Embassies of Jamaica and India.

As well as being the first to see the Games mascot, people attending the event were able to learn more about Trinbago 2023, while enjoying themed games, quizzes and crafts.

The mascot, Cocoyea the leatherback turtle, is based on a design by local, young artist Djibril Annisette, from Port of Spain, who was the winner of a competition run for schoolchildren in Trinidad and Tobago. Inspired by eight-year-old Djibril's winning entry, designers created the final artwork, which will now be brought to life, becoming one of the most recognisable faces of the Games.

The concept behind Djibril's design is that, just like the tough, flexible spine of the coconut frond, Cocoyea, represents resilience in the face of difficulty. Its strong flippers serve to sweep away divisive elements, while simultaneously enveloping all citizens in a warm and unifying space.

The leatherback turtle is important to Trinidad and Tobago for its ecological, economic, and cultural significance. What's more, the mascot's back, or shell, depicts elements of the national instrument, the pan, another important part of the country's DNA.

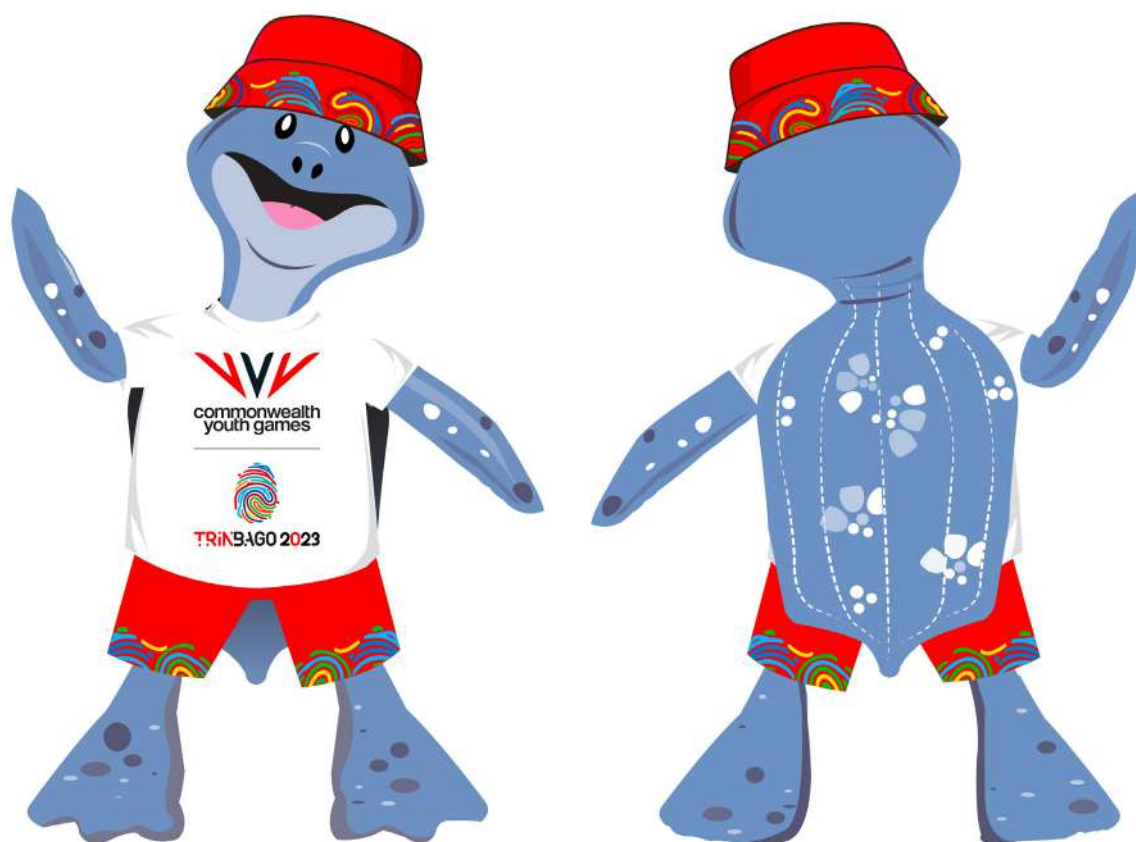
From page 06

The Minister of Sport and Community Development, Shamfa Cudjoe, said: "I am delighted to be here with colleagues from across the Commonwealth to celebrate Commonwealth Day, in this Year of Youth when we are hosting the Commonwealth Youth Games.

The 7<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Youth Games will be held across both islands from 4-11 August. It will feature a sporting programme of Aquatics (Swimming), Athletics and Para Athletics, Cycling (Road and Track), Triathlon, FAST5 Netball, Rugby Sevens and Beach Volleyball.

Emerging athletes aged 14-18 will be joining from across the Commonwealth's 72 nations and territories.

Diane Henderson, Trinidad and Tobago Commonwealth Games Association President, said: "Cocoyea, Djibril's wonderful interpretation of a leatherback turtle, is set to be one of the stars of the Games.



"We are working on delivering a spectacular staging of the Games - one that will be an inspiration for young people across the Commonwealth and a wonderful showcase of our beautiful islands.

"I am particularly thrilled to have the honour of unveiling Cocoyea, the mascot for Trinbago 2023, and applaud the creativity of eight-year-old Djibril Annisette, a brilliant student of the British Academy. Cocoyea perfectly reflects the spirit of the Games and the eclectic culture of Trinidad and Tobago."

***"I am particularly thrilled to have the honour of unveiling Cocoyea, the mascot for Trinbago 2023, and applaud the creativity of eight-year-old Djibril Annisette, a brilliant student of the British Academy."***

"Just as the leatherback turtle comes from all over the world to our beaches, so too are all the visitors coming to our shores.

"It aptly reflects the people of Trinidad and Tobago's hospitable nature, a sense of fun and love of sport. We can't wait to see the energy, enthusiasm and enjoyment Cocoyea will bring, during and in the lead-up to Trinbago 2023."

*This is a series of insights into sports in the words of the International Olympic Committee*

# History of - ARCHERY

Archery, one of the oldest sports still practiced, is closely linked to the development of civilization. As a cultural advance, it was comparable to the discovery of fire and the invention of the wheel.

## Archery in Battle

In 1200 BC, the Hittites and Assyrians shot their bows from chariots, becoming fearsome opponents in battle.

They made their bows with tendon, horn and wood, and also developed a new re-curved shape.

This made their bows shorter and more powerful, making them easier to handle for an archer on horseback.



## A Noble History

Archery was the favourite sport of the Egyptian pharaohs during the 18<sup>th</sup> dynasty (1567-1320 BC).

Many centuries later, some of the earliest recorded archery tournaments took place during the Zhou (Chou) dynasty (1027- 256 BC) in China.

Such events were attended by Chinese nobility.

Much later, English writers honoured the longbow for famous contributions to their country's victories in the battles of Crécy, Agincourt and Poitiers.



## Most Decorated Archer

Archery first appeared in the Olympic Games in 1900, was contested again in 1904, 1908 and 1920, then again—after an absence of 52 years—from 1972 to the present.

The most decorated archer in Olympic history is Hubert Van Innis of Belgium, who competed in 1900 and 1920, winning six gold and three silver medals.

