

Sambalpur kids clinch title



Runners-up Sayeed Seminary, Cuttack with officials

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Winners NG Town School with head scout Jamshed Nasiri

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Bhubaneswar, Dec 29: In a seven-a-side soccer tie, NG Town High School, Sambalpur defeated Sayeed Seminary, Cuttack 3-1 via the tie-breaker in the final of the Tata Tea Jaago Re Inter Milan Soccer tournament (Bhubaneswar stage)

here at the Kalinga Stadium Thursday. With the victory, NG Town qualified for the National Championships at Shillong. The match ended goalless after the end of the stipulated period.

Sambalpur converted all the

three spot-kicks while Sayeed Seminary could find the net only on one occasion. The goal scorers for NG Town were Sudam Oram, Kisan Behera and Suraj Toppo while Md Bilan scored for Sayeed Seminary.

Iranian soccer star Jamshed Nasiri who made a name for himself playing club football in India was present at the ground as the 'head scout' for spotting talented youngsters. "The kids have performed wonderfully. Two kids have

been selected from the tournament. They will travel to Calcutta shortly and may even have to travel abroad for coaching. So we have asked them to keep their passports ready," stated Jamshed after the end of the game.

When asked if he was able to spot any talent in Orissa barring the two kids, Jamshed stated, "The rural kids are born athletes. All they need is proper guidance. We have talked to a few local clubs and we will continue to guide them to improve the standard of soccer in Orissa."

Jamshed further stated that he expected other districts of Orissa to take part in the next season. "This time only schools from Sambalpur, Cuttack and Bhubaneswar participated. Hopefully in 2012, others will follow suit. That way more talent will be on display," he stated. PNM