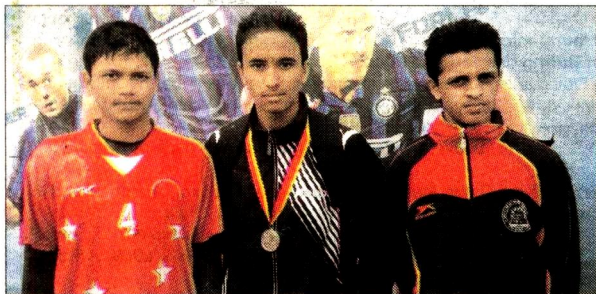


# From Chandigarh to Shillong, with Milan in sight



(L-R) -Nishu Kumar, Gursimrat Singh and Bikram Singh of GMHS Sector-36 school who have been selected for Training Camp at Kolkata.

EXPRESS

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SOME players are born with vision to score cumulative goals, while others have the quality to mount pressure and stop these players from coming up with memorable strikes. Bikram Singh, a strapping young lad, falls in the second category. Blessed with good height, and a cool head, Bikram, with a confidence of steel, was one of the star performers for Government Model School, Sector 36- his team- as they drubbed St Stephen's School, Sector 45 by 7-0, in the final of Tata Tea Jaago Re Inter Milan Soccer Stars Tournament (Chandigarh Zone), at the Sector 17 Football Stadium.

His rock-solid performance in the seven-a-side tournament not only earned kudos from his coach, Harjinder Singh, but also Jamshed Nassiri, head spotter and former Iranian international. As expectedly, his name along with two of his other team-mates, appeared when the final list of the players selected for training in Kolkata, was out. The other two players were Gursimrat Singh and Nishu Kumar. Also, one of the thing that stood out was that all three of them are defenders, and are trainees at Chandigarh Football Academy.

While Nishu and Gursimrat were part of the winning team that took part in the last edition of the seven-a-side tournament, it is the first for Bikram. Also, one of the things that worked in favour of these players was the absence of Mizoram players, who are currently on winter break. Samuel, Timohi and Ramdin will also stake their claim for place among the 30 players, and then the final 16 will get a chance to meet players from Inter Milan, the 103-year-old Serie A team, when the all India finals is played on April 28, in Shillong. Daniel Lalhlimpuia and AZ Lalramzauva will leave for national duties.

"We will take the team for participation in all India finals. We will substitute Samuel, Timohi and Ramdin with other players so that they can also stake their claim for a berth in the final 30 players. It is a good opportunity for our players to break into the Indian sub-junior team," shared Harjinder Singh, coach at CFA.

Meanwhile, Anmol Gupta of St Stephen's School was adjudged the best goalkeeper while Mohammad Shaukat of GMS-36 emerged the highest scorer. Anirudh Thapa of St Stephen's-45 was declared the most valuable player of the tournament. In the skill test, Sanjeev Stalin and Rishab Vashisht emerged champions. The tournament will now move to Ludhiana where competitions will be begin on January 19.