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SJC sports teams triumph at Alliance inter-university competition

Sanjana Anand

CAMPUS: St. Joseph's College (Autonomous) secured first place in football in an inter-university sports competition hosted by Alliance University last week. They faced Christ University in the finals. Additionally, the SJC Volleyball team came in third place. The victory of these two teams was announced during the 138th Annual Athletic Meet of the college. Ayush Raj, SJC's football team captain said, "We have won 3 tournaments in the last month and we look forward to winning more. It's completely a team effort." Ayush went on to say how their initial losses as a team led to them re-evaluating their relationship and dynamics on the pitch and to working around the differences. Prasanna B, SJC's volleyball team captain said, "Our team is our strength and we look forward to winning more tournaments. Most of the team members are from the first year. Initially, it was tough and we did not win any matches in the previous tournament. So, finishing off in the third spot is something great. My team and I have both worked on the team's coordination which we lacked before and that's how we won."

Bharathi BL expounds 3P's recipe for success

Gautam Nagar

CAMPUS: "The combination of passion, preparation and performance are integral to ensuring success in every aspect of life," said Bharathi BL, an international athlete and the Vice President of the Karnataka Athletic Association. She was the chief guest for the 138th Annual Athletic Meet of St. Joseph's College (Autonomous) held on Friday, April 29. Bharathi is a recipient of numerous medals, emerging as the champion at various athletic and throwball tournaments held across the world. With the belief that youth fitness is the 'golden key' to sports in India, she also trains aspiring sportspersons at Bharathi Sports Academy and is currently the



On the march

Nodal Officer for the Khelo India University Games that recently concluded. In her opening address, Bharathi commended the college for conducting its annual

sports for a long time. "I have not seen any college celebrating an annual athletic meet for 138 years. That itself is a huge achievement for any college in Karnataka," she said.

She also stressed the importance of a disciplined regime, staying grounded, and having faith in one's mentors. "If your coach or your teacher is giving you an assignment, re-

spect it, as there is a purpose behind it," she said, while also explaining the importance to strike a balance between sports and academics. Bharathi's sentiments were shared by Fr. Dr Victor Lobo, Principal of St. Joseph's College, who stated that students should gain excellence in both, sports and academics. "Dreams and aspirations cannot be curtailed, hence a balance should be maintained between sports and academics," he said. In the concluding address to the opening ceremony, Fr. Swebert D'Silva, Rector of the college noted the ethics of fair play in sports. He stated that participants must exhibit qualities of sportsmanship. "This will be felt when one wins with dignity and loses with grace," he added.

Mukesh

An athlete, now on the other side of track: Fun in the sun for students and teachers alike

Afreen Hussain

CAMPUS: "It feels like I'm one among all of you after coming here," said Bharathi BL, Vice President, Karnataka Athletic Association (KAA), a qualified coach, and a committee member of the Khelo India Talent Identification Programme who has also represented the country at the national and international level who has bagged prestigious awards. While speaking to The Beacon on the occasion of the 138th Annual Athletic Meet at St. Joseph's College, Autonomous, Bharathi BL said, "It is like a role rever-



From the field to the dias - A journey

sal, while being an athlete I was in front of the camera and now I am behind it, doing all the work as a coach. This has taught me the pros and cons of being an athlete."

py to be able to witness it. I am an '83 born but I wish I was '04 born," she chuckled. "The march past had a mixed crowd, and I could see how some students were purely sports-minded, whereas some others were focusing on the style aspect like wearing printed t-shirts, putting on earphones, etc. I believe that this is how a college crowd should be; you cannot have a completely sports-oriented college. The faculty members who were marching with the students were so involved and it made me proud to see them march by," she concluded.

"When I entered the college today, there was a lot of difference that I saw, between how it was back then and how it is now. There is a vast development and I am hap-

Fun in the sun for students and teachers alike

Sharon Anna James

CAMPUS: It was an occasion that provided an opportunity not only for students to showcase their sporting prowess but also for teaching and non-teaching staff to showcase their ability on the field. SJC's 138th Annual Athletic Meet, organised last week by the Department of Physical Education had an event exclusively for the staff, a 4x100 mixed relay. Ms Poonam from the Department of Botany spoke to The Beacon and said, "It was fun. We were quite excited about having these events for the staff. Normally that's not there, so it was a nice bonding experience for all of us." The other event for the staff was the Tug of war. Teachers from various departments came together to compete against each other in both the events and attempted to bring glory to their departments with their students and fellow staff members cheering on from the sidelines. "I feel like a child; like I went back to my school days and college days," said Ms Latha Paul. Her colleague from the School of Social Work, Dr Lavanya added, "After a long time, we are just being ourselves and we don't have to worry about anything, so we are just happy doing this."

Mukesh

Bengaluru to Kadapa: Meet Vaishnavi, the multi-sport star

Saishyam Srikanth

CAMPUS: Many athletes have represented their college and have captained a sports team too, but only a handful have captained their college team in two different sports. Vaishnavi C, a third-year BCom student at St. Joseph's College, is the current captain of the handball and kho kho teams in the college. Yet, these two aren't even her favourite sport. That honour is reserved for cricket. Her journey with cricket began after she watched India's magical run to the 2017 Women's World Cup final. "I began playing the sport with the boys' team at my

school. But when I moved to pre-university college, I had to pick up a sport other than cricket as the college did not have a girl's cricket team," she said. This was when she fell in love with kho kho. Facing a similar situation during her BCom years, she played handball for Bengaluru City University, she said. Meanwhile, her cricketing journey continued. At some point, she faced issues with the selection system in Karnataka and decided to move to Kadapa to ensure that she had a brighter chance of representing a state team. "Whenever the right-arm off-spinner has a break from

college, I train in this town in Andhra Pradesh," she said. Vaishnavi has moved up to the Zonal U19 team, thanks to her exploits at the district level, but the pandemic threw a spanner in the works. Today, Vaishnavi hopes to break into the AP team soon and dreams of playing at the international level just as her idol, Ellyse Perry does. Vaishnavi's daily schedule involves fitness training and handball and Kho Kho practice every morning. In the evening she sharpens her cricket skills. Before venturing into team sports, Vaishnavi had a tryst with middle distance running.

Athletic Meet back with a bang

Subadra Sarath

CAMPUS: After a two-year hiatus, the 138th Annual Athletic Meet was held by St. Joseph's College, Autonomous. It focused not only on sports and competition but also on unity and team spirit. "With the support from the student sports committee, we were able to put on a great event. After bonding and teamwork, we decided to name ourselves 'student sports family'," says Pushparaj, the Vice President of the student sports committee. After Prathibha, the most awaited event was the Annual Athletic Meet, and the expectations were met with the 'tante' folk band closing the event, he said. "Not just the students but also the teach-

ing and non-teaching staff enthusiastically participated and cooperated in making sports day a memorable one," he said. The main problem they faced during the event planning was that students didn't have any experience on how to conduct an event, said Pushparaj. "For two years there were no events happening; but, slowly all the members got on track. This time, teachers, the Director, and other faculty members also participated and enjoyed it a lot. In fact, participation from teachers was more than that of students," he added. Nimish Bhardwaj, Joint Secretary of the student council, congratulated the sports committee and Hazel for putting on such a fantastic show.