



Barca victory borne out of faith in club's principles

Barcelona: Lionel Messi may have been the inspiration behind Barcelona's 3-1 demolition of Manchester United in Saturday's Champions League final, but the achievement of coach Pep Guardiola off the field cannot be understated. After a season with Barca's youth side as his only real coaching experience he took on the demanding role of first team trainer in 2008 and has since won three league titles on the trot.

It was not as though he arrived at a club that was running smoothly, in fact, far from it. In the summer of 2008 the club was in upheaval. After a successful run as coach, Frank Rijkaard lost control of the dressing room and had been dismissed.

Ronaldinho, the talisman for a side that had toppled the hegemony of Real Madrid's 'galacticos' in Spain and returned Barca to the top of the European game by winning the Champions League title in 2006, had gone off the rails.

During the 2007-08 season he only attended a third of training sessions and stories were rife of his nightlife excesses. He was not the only one as Deco and Rafa Marquez were also heavily criticised by fans and the media for their lack of commitment as the team slumped and Real won their second successive league title in 2008.

There were also problems in the boardroom as president Joan Laporta narrowly survived a vote of no confidence after those unhappy with his autocratic approach seized on the team's poor performances to rally against him.

The appointment of the inexperienced Guardiola appeared a gamble but it worked out perfectly as he was brought up on the club's football philosophy of quick-passing football and also had the necessary discipline. He was the icon of Johan Cruyff's revolutionary 'Dream Team' of the early 1990s.

The Dutch tactician introduced a new style of attacking football with the emphasis on the movement of the team as a whole rather than individuals and they won four consecutive league titles and the European Cup at Wembley in 1992.

Seeking a new challenge, Guardiola moved to Italy in 2001 and it was there in particular that he learned the importance of preparation and discipline, which would serve him well later as a coach.

Despite the quality of the present side which has led many to wonder if it is the best of all time, Guardiola, thoughtful and modest as always, denies it will ever match up to the Dream Team.

"They were pioneers and we cannot equal that no matter how many trophies that we win. They were a side that ended a long barren spell in the club's history."

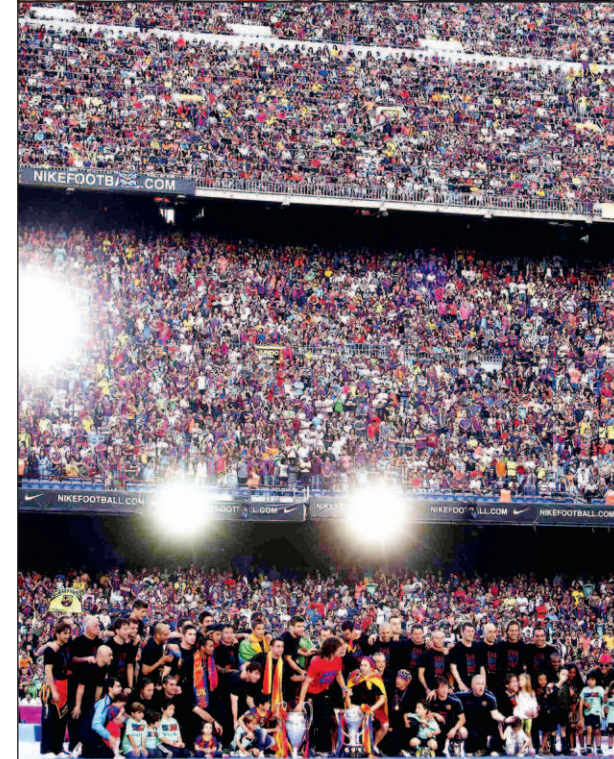
Since then (Louis) Van Gaal, Rijkaard and I have all achieved things but this would not have been possible without them," said Guardiola.

The development of youth players at the now famous 'Masia' who could be integrated already knowing the system was another important element of Cruyff's approach.

Since then there has been a steady flow into the first team including Carles Puyol and Xavi Hernandez but under Rijkaard and now Guardiola it has become a priority.

After his season as youth coach, Guardiola was well aware of the quality coming through and that they were ready. These players like Sergio Busquets and Pedro along with being well trained were also aware of the need to be disciplined.

Guardiola has carried on the philosophy of Cruyff and was able to celebrate at Wembley where as a player he helped his mentor change the history of the club. AFP



Shakira and her boyfriend Barca defender Gerard Pique on stage during a performance in Barcelona



Super fast times expected at World 10K

Ian Ladbrooke

The TCS World 10K Bangalore 2011 will see the arrival of fantastic names among the foreign men's and women's elite fields. Hopefully, given kind weather, we will see some super fast times on the roads of Bangalore on Sunday, June 5.

Defending champion Titus Mbishei of Kenya returns to defend his title. He would have faced Ugandan multi-medallist and last year's runner-up Moses Kipsoo but sadly he aggravated a back injury in last week's IAAF Diamond League meeting in Rome and reluctantly withdrew this weekend. However, we are delighted to announce the signing of former World record holder at the event Micah Kogo of Kenya, who took the record from Ethiopian superstar Haile Gebrselassie. Kogo has won major titles on road and track and is the second fastest ever at 10km on the

'I always believed that I will be back'

Ajit Bezbaruah | TNN

Parthiv Patel made his debut as a 17-year-old in England in 2002. His baby face hasn't changed much since debut. But he has grown manifold as a cricketer, more so as an individual who has seen many highs and lows at such a young age. When Parthiv was dropped from the team and he battled in the hot and dusty environs of Indian domestic cricket, no one gave him a chance to come back. But he did, and today he is India's No 2 wicketkeeper behind Team India skipper MS Dhoni. On the eve of his departure to the West Indies for one T20, 5 ODIs and 3 Tests, Parthiv shares few thoughts on all those years since his debut.

Excerpts:

After playing so much cricket at such a young age and seeing so much ups and downs in your career already must have made you a very strong and matured person...

After playing more than 283 games at the first class level over a period of 10 years I have seen many aspects of the game and life as a whole. More than my game it has helped me as a person and I have learnt to deal with every situation as a matured professional and individual. I am not too elated by success or too disappointed by failures now. I have learnt how to strike a balance between the two. Yeah! It has made me a strong and matured person.

Looking back at those days, did you ever believe that you will be part of the Indian Test and ODI

teams again on a foreign tour?

Belief! That was the only thing that kept me going. I know people wrote me off. I also heard a lot like 'he will never play for the country again' and things like that. But deep down I always believed that if I keep on working hard and am sincere in my efforts I will play for India one day. So I just kept on practicing and scoring runs. I am a wicketkeeper-batsman and lot of questions were raised on my keeping, so I worked on that aspect more and today I am happy with the results.

Despite your belief upon yourself, when people started writing you off, were you disappointed at any point of time?

Yeah I used to be disappointed when not picked but then that's only natural, isn't it? But I won't lament too much over one issue and would tell myself to start working even harder again.

Not even when new names like Naman Ojha, Wriddhiman Saha etc started doing the rounds and you were being completely ignored?

Not really because there are bound to be new names and much more competition. We have 26 states and few Union territories and so that many wicketkeepers. Like me, everybody would be working hard to achieve that goal of playing for India one day. So there is bound to be competition which is actually good motivation to help you keep focused.

Your family too must have backed you a lot during those days...

It is your family and close



friends only who knows what you are going through and how much effort you are putting to put things in order. Their words, opinions and advice matters a lot. But since I believed in myself, they too believed in me and took everything as it came. I am really thankful to all of them for standing by me when the chips were down.

Did you ever think that because you are playing for Gujarat it was a bit difficult to get that final push, which at times is so required?

Rather I would say that I am lucky that I was playing for Gujarat. As the only player in the Gujarat Ranji team with international exposure and one of the senior members in the team, it became my duty and responsibility to guide them. I also got enough opportunities to correct whatever deficiencies I had and it helped me develop as a player and captain.

...ON GUJARAT CRICKET

Apart from you there is no one from Gujarat Cricket Association (GCA) who is a serious contender for the Indian ODI, T20 or Test sides, isn't that a cause of concern?

Very true, but we have been doing well as a team. Even our age group teams are performing well. Players like Niraj Patel and Siddharth Trivedi were in serious contention for the senior squad few years ago. Bhavik Thakker had scored plenty of runs in the Ranji Trophy two seasons ago. But yeah! something is missing that no one has been able to make a huge impact in the domestic circuit to be a serious threat for national selection.

Gujarat players have shone once in a while and not been consistent; do you think a mental conditioning coach like Paddy Upton will help?

May be yes, because when there is someone who can keep your spirits high even when you are down; can point out those positives when your mind is surrounded with negative thoughts and help you get back to form it always helps.

As I have said many times before, selection is one issue I am not too much bothered about as it is something which is not in my hands. I can take care of those areas over which I have complete control. So I kept on working hard and kept on performing. And if you are consistent, you are bound to get your due.

Now that you have got these opportunities, any particular goal that you have set for yourself...

I am quite aware of the reality and the circumstances. But I can't be playing with negative thoughts in my mind thinking that I won't get an opportunity when the skipper (MS Dhoni) comes back. I haven't set any particular goal but will try to make the most of each and every opportunity that I get.

Too much competition might see a lesser career span unlike before and more comebacks perhaps...

That's perhaps the reason why Indian cricket is thriving at the moment. We are the world champions, we are the number one Test team and if you see how the local players are performing at the Indian Premier League (IPL) you will get an idea what kind of bench strength we can boast off. Too much competition also tends to bring the best in you every time you play. That also keeps everyone on their toes as none can take their place in squad for granted.

Competition is growing so is the amount of cricket that is played these days, do you see any change in approach by cricketers from earlier days because different format needs different approach and mental make up as well?

I can't talk about others but for me, my preparation and approach has remained the same whether I am playing club matches, district,

state or international. Today everything is run very professionally so a player also should show a more professional approach towards the game. With so much of cricket there is also a lot of importance for fitness so we have to keep a close watch on our fitness like never before.

Too much competition, too much cricket, how much time does that leave for the family more importantly now that you have also become a father...

Both are equally important and you can't choose one over the other. So it is very important to create a balance between both. With the help of family and friends, that's manageable.

Enjoying fatherhood?

Yeah, it is a different kind of feeling, can't express in words. But I am not yet having sleepless night and am not required to change nappies at night as both mom and daughter are at my in-laws place. But even that will be a nice feeling and I am sure I will enjoy that experience as well.

Talking about your forthcoming tour and a new captain in Suresh Raina, what does he bring into the game?

I have played a lot with him and under him. Suresh is a very lively guy, a livewire on the field, one of the best fielders in the world and he loves to lead by example. He is young but has a matured head on his young shoulder. In fact, the whole side is young and that is a very good great opportunity for all of us to make a mark in the absence of the seniors and show that we can play responsibly.

Rathanvel, Grahesh in joint lead

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Ahmedabad: Third seed Rathanvel VS of Tamil Nadu and 5th-seeded Grahesh Y of Andhra Pradesh have emerged as the joint leaders with a full score of 5 points each at the end of Round Five in the 25th National Under -11 (Boys & Girls) Chess Championship being played at the Karnavati Club in the city on Monday. The duo will take on each other in the sixth round to be played on Tuesday morning. In the girls section, 12th-seeded Khushi Dharewa of West Bengal has shot in to the top spot with a full score of five points. Khushi emerged as a sole leader with a full score of five points by defeating Sweta Senapaty Orissa with superior white pieces.

Rathanvel playing on second board with inferior black pieces had beaten statemate and 13th seed Aniruddh Aiyenger of Tamil Nadu, while Grahesh had outsmarted Elancheralathan P of TN with black pieces too.

While top-seeded and Chess Master title holder Puranik Abhimanyu of Maharashtra was held to a creditable draw by 7th seed Harsha Bharathakoti of AP. With this draw, both Puranik and Harsha are now sharing the second spot along with Prathish A of Tamil Nadu with an individual score of 4.5 points each.

The leader Khushi is closely followed by a trio of Sunyuktha CMN, Priyana K both from TN and Shah Vishwa of Maharashtra with a margin of



Action from the Under-11 National Chess at Karnavati Club in Ahmedabad on Monday

half-point at the score of 4.5 points each.

1st state major ranking TT on June 16

The season opener 1st Major Ranking Table Tennis Tournament will be held at Surat from June 16 to 19, a Gujarat State Table Tennis Association (GSTTA) press release said. The second ranking tournament will be held at Rajkot from June 30 while the third major ranking TT meet tournament will be held at Ahmedabad from July 13 to 17, the release added.



Action from the Under-11 National Chess at Karnavati Club in Ahmedabad on Monday

ting on 11 and Yatin was batting on 12. Dhaval Patel of Valsad picked up five wickets for 56 runs.

Ahmedabad in command

Smith Patel scored a magnificent 162 as Ahmedabad district declared their innings closed at 320 for the loss of eight wickets in reply to Valsad's first innings total of 133 on Day Two of the Reliance Inter District Cricket Tournament at Motera A ground here on Monday. At close on Day Two, Valsad were 25 without loss after 10 overs. Jigar was batting on 11 and Yatin was batting on 12. Dhaval Patel of Valsad picked up five wickets for 56 runs.

3rd Dan Black Belt for Dhavnit

Dhavnit Shailesh Raval, a student of Indus College of Aircraft Maintenance Engineering bagged the his 3rd Dan Black belt in taekwondo on last month. Dhavnit has been training under Ka-malsinh Mahor (4th Dan Black Belt) for the last 10 years.



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road. So Mbishei will have his work cut out to defend his crown.

Add to the mix some very swift Ethiopians including last year's Delhi Half Marathon runner-up Lelisa Desisa and former track star Ali Abdosh and it looks set to be a cracker. South Africa is well represented by Stephen Mokoka and Lazarus Nzima, both national champions and ambitious enough to try and take the title back to South Africa for the first time.

The ladies race is no less attractive. Asefesh Mergia, a winner both in Delhi and Bangalore and a frequent visitor to India, returns, fresh from her victory in January's Dubai Marathon. Grace Momeny, tied first place in the inaugural Bangalore 10k returns. She is the Commonwealth Games 10,000m champion and loves running in India. Former Kenyan Hilda Kibet of Holland is a lively character and always with plenty to offer in races and she is keen to run a fast time. Given her recent Marathon personal best, she is in fine shape this season.

(THE WRITER IS THE ELITE ATHLETES COORDINATOR FOR THE TCS WORLD 10K BANGALORE)

અમદાવાદ મ્યુનિસિપલ કોર્પોરેશન
એલેક્સાન્ડર ઓફ ઈન્ટરસ્ટ ડિપાર્ટમેન્ટ
જુની ઓફિસ ઓફિસ બિલ્ડિંગ, ગ્રીન માલે, કાલુપુર, અમદાવાદ.
એલેક્સાન્ડર ઓફ ઈન્ટરસ્ટ નં. ૦૧/૨૦૧૧-૧૨
અમદાવાદ મ્યુનિસિપલ કોર્પોરેશનના ટેક્ષ માતા દ્વારા વર્ષ ૨૦૧૧-૧૨ માટે આશરે ૧૮ લાખ ટેક્ષ બિલો છપાવવાના છે. આ બિલો અમદાવાદ શહેરના મિલ્કત ધારકોને આપવામાં આવશે. આ બિલોમાં જો કોઈ નેશનલાઈઝેડ/શિશુલ/જાહેર ક્ષેત્રની બેંકો પોતાના લોગો "બિલ્ડિંગ સોલ્યુશન્સ" તરીકે મુકવા માંગતી હોય તો ૬૩ એમએમ લંબાઈ અને ૧૪ એમએમ પહોળાઈ (૬૩x૧૪ એમએમ) ના બ્લોકની જગ્યામાં ઓછામાં ઓછા રૂા. ૨૦ લાખ (અંકે રૂા. વીસ લાખ પુરા) (ફલોર પ્રાઈઝ) તથા વધુમાં વધુ રકમ જે બેંક દ્વારા અમદાવાદ મ્યુનિ. કોર્પોરેશનને ચુકવવામાં આવે તે બેંકને લોગો મુકવાની મંજૂરી આપવામાં આવશે. આ અંગેના એક્સપ્રેશન ઓફ ઈન્ટરસ્ટ તારીખ ૩-૬-૨૦૧૧ બપોરે ૧૨.૦૦ વાગ્યા સુધીમાં આસી. મેનેજરશ્રી, ટેક્ષ મધ્યસ્થ કચેરી, જુની ઓફિસ ઓફિસ બિલ્ડિંગ, ગ્રીન માલે, કાલુપુર, અમદાવાદ ખાતે સીલબંધ કરવામાં રૂબરૂ મોકલી આપવાના રહેશે. એક્સપ્રેશન ઓફ ઈન્ટરસ્ટ તા. ૦૩-૦૬-૨૦૧૧ ના રોજ બપોરે ૦૧:૦૦ કલાકે ઉપરોક્ત કચેરીએ ખોલવામાં આવશે, જેમાં બેંકનાં અધિકૃત અધિકારી હાજર રહી શકશે. એક્સપ્રેશન ઓફ ઈન્ટરસ્ટની વિગતો મ્યુનિ. કોર્પોરેશનની વેબસાઈટ www.egovamc.com ઉપરથી ડાઉનલોડ કરવાની રહેશે. મ્યુનિસિપલ કમિશનર