

Lesson -3

**Major Dhyan Chand - The Magician  
of Hockey**



**Major Dhyan Chand**

Dear Students, bring this scene before your eyes before reading this lesson :

Day- 15th August, 1936. Time - 11:00 a.m. The Olympic Stadium of Berlin. The hockey teams of India and Germany are facing each other to play hockey. Indian team is fear stricken, because Indian team was defeated badly while playing a practice match with the same team of Germany. But the captain of Indian team Major Dhyan Chand was in high spirits. The match gets started. Major Dhyan Chand with his hockey stick to dodge the opponents, dribbling the ball left and right, forward and backward

reaches the D (shooting circle). Other members of his team also get encouraged. After that there was no looking back. Indian team strikes goal after goal, altogether eight goals. Dhyan Chand solely scores three goals. India wins the match and there was rejoicing all around.

Major Dhyan Chand was a famous hockey player of India. He brought laurels for India at world level. He won gold and silver medals on International level in the field of sports.

Major Dhyan Chand was born on 29th August, 1905 at Allahabad in the house of father Sameshwar Dutt. Dhyan Chand's father and elder brother were also prominent players of hockey. Thus, Dhyan Chand received his game in heritage. His father worked in British Indian Army.

Major Dhyan Chand joined army as a soldier at the age of sixteen. There a Subedar Major Tiwari motivated him to play hockey. Major Dhyan Chand used to practise hockey with great dedication after his duty hours in the evening till late night in the moonlight. He participated in sports competitions of army from 1922 to 1926. Dhyan Chand's game was highly appreciated during the annual sports competition in Delhi. This appreciation boosted Dhyan Chand's spirit high. He played his first International match in Newzealand on 13th May, 1926. In Newzealand 21 matches were played. India won 18 matches out of these due to the marvellous game played by Dhyan Chand, two matches were played drawn. India lost only one match.

In 1928, the Indian team participated in Amesterdom Olympic games for the first time. Indian team after winning initial matches defeated Australia by 6-0, Belgium 9-0, Denmark 5-0, Switzerland 6-0 and Holland 3-0 in final match and India emerged as a hockey champion

of Olympic games. In this final match two goals out of three were exclusively scored by Dhyan Chand.

Indian team participated in Los Angeles Olympic games in 1932. Dhyan Chand played crucial role as a centre forward player. In these Olympic games the final match was played between India and America. In which India defeated the American team by 24-1. Among these 24 goals, Dhyan Chand alone scored 8. An American newspaper after the shameful defeat of America wrote that Indian team was a typhoon that came from the East. Indian team scored 262 goals during these Olympic games. Dhyan Chand scored 101 goals alone. Major Dhyan Chand's name was included among the top most players of the world.

There are many legends about this great player. Once in Holland, the authorities broke Dhyan Chand's hockey stick to check if there was any magnet like element inside it. Actually Dhyan Chand had a great control on the ball. His ball did not separate from his stick. Many people believed that his hockey stick was a magical stick. Dhyan Chand won the heart of the German dictator Hitler. Hitler even had offered Dhyan Chand to play for Germany and tempted him by offering a high post in the German army, But Dhyan Chand felt proud to play only for India.

Even great cricketer Don Bradman became Dhyan Chand's fan. He asked Dhyan Chand how he scored so many goals. Dhyan Chand answered as runs are made by a bat, similarly goals are scored by a stick.

Indian government recognized Dhyan Chand's wonderful game skill and honoured him with "Padam Bhushan" in 1956. He was declared the best player of the century by the Indian Olympic Association. 29th August, Chand's birthday, is celebrated as National Sports Day in

India with great pomp and show. A statue of Dhyan Chand has been set up in Vienna, Australia to honour him. This statue has four hands holding four sticks. This statue is a symbol of his marvellous skill of his game. His son Ashok Kumar also won many medals for Indian Hockey team in World cup, Olympics and Asian games. Dhyan Chand received much love from all over the world.

It seems after counting the achievements of Major Dhyan Chand, it was established that he was born to play hockey. He set many mile stones in the game of hockey. He scored more than 1000 goals in his career. Among these more than 400 were scored on International level and against different countries. Dhyan Chand was offered promotions in the army for these victories time after time.

Dhyan Chand passed away on 3rd December 1979. The Indian Postal Service had even issued a postage stamp in his memory. In the same way an International Stadium at New Delhi has been named after him in his memory.

Major Dhyan Chand was a great son of mother India. Every Indian is proud of him.

### EXERCISE

1. When was Major Dhyan Chand born?
2. When did Indian hockey team participate for the first time in the Olympic games? Which medal was won by Indian team in these games?
3. Describe any one episode related to Major Dhyan Chand's life.
4. When and where did Major Dhyan Chand play his first International match?

5. In which country is Major Dhyan Chand's statue installed?
6. Write a brief note about Major Dhyan Chand's life?
7. What efforts have been done by the Indian government dedicated to the memory of Major Dhyan Chand?

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