

EXCLUSIVE

9th
EDITION

UNBEATABLE?

FLOYD MAYWEATHER

50-0

SLAM

OCT

THE MOST
EXPENSIVE
TRANSFER OF ALL
TIME

HAS **NEYMAR'S €222M**
DEAL CHANGED FOOTBALL
OR IS IT JUST A ONE-OFF?

AU REVOIR!

LAHM, ALONSO AND TOTTI
BRING DOWN THE CURTAIN.

LOYALTY
IN THE **NBA?**

KYRIE-THOMAS TRADE.
A MOVE FROM STATUS QUO?

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

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"And he finishes off in style, a magnificent strike into the crowd. India lifts the world cup after 28 years... "

It was M.S. Dhoni's winning six in Wankhade that united the whole nation to live that one dream - Together. Sports enthral people, generating excitement, emotion, commotion, aggression and excellence. It is sports singly that manifest our most competitive, competent and menacing side. At Doon itself, we get to witness this. Whether it be the finals of the Afzal Khan Basketball Tournament or two houses aggressively fighting for the house cup. It binds the whole school together.

At Grand Slam, that is essentially what we do. We bring people together. We not only try to engage the sports fanatics but also those whose interests lay elsewhere. We strive to intellectually attract you while at the same time pose questions that need to be answered. In 2017, we saw numerous developments in the realm of sports. With UEFA Women's Euro Championship and "The Money Fight" between McGregor and Mayweather, sports enthusiasts around the world were surely engrossed and hence it is our duty to bring all that to you.

In the 9th issue of the Grand Slam, we have addressed issues like spot fixing and school games while highlighting events like Usain Bolt's retirement and Neymar's exorbitant transfer. By internalising the design, we have been able to give attention to details like never before, giving the publication finesse. We sincerely hope that we have been able to provide you with a charismatic issue. As always, we are open to feedback. Happy Reading!

Signing off,
Harshit Bansal,
Editor-in-Chief.

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IRVING – THOMAS TRADE

By: Lakshman Santhanam

In august, we saw Kyrie Irving requesting a trade from the Cleveland cavaliers, feeling unhappy coexisting with all-star LeBron James. He is now en route to Boston, switching places with Isaiah thomas, a legend in celtic history. Though he hasn't revealed anything substantial, it is quite obvious that Kyrie was tired of playing in the shadow "the king", lebron james, and wished to go out on the floor and make more of an individual impact on the game. Though, even more surprising, was the fact that the celtics were willing to give up one of their key starters. Regardless, both players have a lot to contribute to their new teams.

Kyrie irving, an NBA champion, an olympic champion and a four time all- star, is exactly

what one of the biggest rivals for the cavs need to boost their game. But this deal could've fallen to shambles as the cavs worried about the issue of Isaiah's hip injury, which had ended his season early last year. The deal was at a standstill, while the cavs argued that the celtics under-disclosed information on the progress of isaiah's recovery and demanded for further compensation. Thomas had originally hurt himself against the timberwolves when Karl- Anthony Town fell on him during a game.

Originally, the celtics had intended to trade Thomas, Jae Crowder, Ante Zizic and the unprotected Brooklyn Nets 2018 first-round pick in exchange for the taller, more renowned irving, but due to demands for a renegotiation by the cavaliers, it was unclear

if the trade would be a success. Both teams were certainly quite eager for the completion of this trade. The cavaliers certainly knew that they might not get such a lucrative offer in the current market, and isaiah had put a portion of the celtics season in jeopardy due to his recovering hip injury. Eventually, the deal concluded with the addition of a 2020 second rounder to the deal on the Celtic's side.

The future of the cavaliers is unclear. There have been rumours floating around that LeBron might be planning to leave them to join los angeles. Considering irving and thomas are similar players, having a veteran like crowder will certainly give the cavaliers an edge. Essentially, the cavs got all they could possibly want when the celtics made their offer. According to sports analysis, thomas was only the icing and not the cake. The public

perception was the exchange of two point guards between two rival teams, but to the cavalier front office, the real deal closers were the unprotected nets pick and chowder. Dan Gilbert, the cavs owner is believed to making decisions on the perceived notion that LeBron James will no longer be a part of the Cleveland cavaliers next summer, when he becomes a free agent.

The celtics on the other hand made the call to trade isaiah due to his hip injury affecting their season as well as his horrible defence which has always dragged the team down. Kyrie, being taller and younger, was definitely worth the trade. The celtics are betting that Kyrie will be able to put up better numbers on court, which wouldn't be surprising.



WHAT A GAMES BLAZER MEANS TO ME ?

By: Ajatshatru Singh

While making my way to dinner in the winter of my D form, a senior student wearing a conspicuous dark blue blazer caught my eye. Curiously, I approached him and questioned his choice of attire. He smiled, and called it a 'Games Blazer'. From that day onwards, I put hours of effort every day, training harder, playing stronger and working to enhance my skill; hoping that one day, I'll receive a blue blazer of my own. Four years later, on October 19th 2016, I was presented with one of my own. 'A dream come true', some may say; for me, it was a well-earned achievement, carrying five years of hard work.

Not only does the Games Blazer signify excellence on the sports field, but it is also a symbol of grit and effort, something that sets a Games Blazer awardee apart from another Dosco. The Blazer carries a weight of expectation, having been worn by countless merited Doscos of the past. However, as I near the end of my SC Form, I have noticed that sometimes, Dosco's pick up certain

sports only to collect points in order to attain the Blazer, as if it were a mere accolade. I feel this destroys the purpose of the Blazer and should not be done. What drives one to play a sport should be their passion and love for it, not to obtain points for a blazer. I have been approached by numerous junior Doscos, who have constantly inquired on how to earn points for a Games' Blazer. My response is simple- 'If you work hard and play for the love of the sport, the Blazer will come to you'.

One shouldn't be driven by the materialistic intent, or to seek a feeling of entitlement to possess the Blazer. I had never played sports in pursuit of the Games' Blazer, be it cricket, hockey or football. I don't mean to say that one shouldn't work towards a Games' Blazer, but should, rather avail it through sports they play with true fervour and zeal, both in practice and spirit. Seeing promise and talent coming up in junior sportsmen, the honour of the Games' Blazer will be sustained with them.



HOW SPORTS IN SCHOOL TEAMS HAVE CHANGED ?

By: Keshav Maliah

Our institution has always been one that encourages holistic development of a Dosco. The field amongst numerous realms in school is an arena for the young and aspiring to maximise their opportunities. I have always stood in awe of the sporting field as it was one place which helped me grow as an individual and am sure will do the same for many more young Doscos in the years to come.

Since my D-form I have been an avid sportsman, involved in numerous sporting activities. Being a member of the school team has helped me develop, both physically and emotionally on and off the field. Over the years as the school has transformed, there have been numerous changes. Things I would like to bring to the lime light would be the relationship of the juniors and seniors on the field. I always had a sense of inferiority while I played along side my seniors when I joined the school. There was always a feeling of trepidation whilst playing with my seniors. What I have noticed recently, is that there is more confidence kindling amongst the juniors which allows them to cooperate and step up when needed. As our school follows a hierarchical system, there

always remains this common misconception that a senior is above a junior on the field. This is one realm that by both rungs of the hierarchy work, and are treated equally.

There has always been a collision between the school spirit of a student and the spirit with which the student represents the house. In the past five years, I have noticed the depleting spirit of the student when he represents the school. First, we are the representatives of this institution, then one of our respective houses so we should always put our school before our house. The will to play on the sports field has reduced. Rather than for the love of the sport and the passion of the game, people have started playing sports to complete materialistic objectives. This is one thing which ruins ideals like sportsmanship and must be changed. One should play the sport for the love of the game, rather show off a blazer to everyone.

In conclusion, as an amateur sportsman, the field has taught me things I cannot explain and nurtured relationships like no other. It has developed my character, and made me into the person I am today.

THE FIGHT FOR PERFECTION

By: Abhyudaye Gupta

A fight everyone awaited, a fight many watched. One of the world's most expensive sporting events ever. Floyd Mayweather, veteran boxer, up against Conor McGregor, young MMA fighter with quite a name. Presented below is a round-by-round analysis of the breathtaking fight.

ROUND 1: The first round saw McGregor coming out as the more aggressive one, landing a few blows to the body, as he promised he would do. Mayweather is seen on the ropes. McGregor pleased and surprised many by clearly winning that round after dodging a straight from Mayweather. Showboating was seen as well, with McGregor putting his hands behind his back, taunting Mayweather.

So far, McGregor has established that he is in this for the full ride. Could he be giving in to Mayweather's strategy or is the American actually up against real competition?

ROUND 2: All the excitement the Irishman had built in the first round seems to be fading, with his aggression being replaced with keeping the veteran at a distance. McGregor was made aware of the fouls he was committing, hitting Mayweather in the back of his head.

McGregor's stance and punching method is growing more and more unorthodox. Could he be looking to unleash a strategy of his own, or is he playing right into Mayweather's plan?

ROUND 3: So far, McGregor seems dominant, much to the surprise of many! However, he was warned once again for delivering blows to the back of Mayweather's head, or he could be penalized. This round too, goes to the Irishman.

Mayweather was seen smiling while taking jabs from McGregor. Is this all part of his strategy, or could the Irishman have more in store for him?

ROUND 4: Mayweather seems to be in action in the fourth round. After being backed up against the ropes again, Mayweather ducked and landed a solid one, causing the Irishman to back-pedal a bit. Mayweather seems to be more involved now, as they both grapple for control. This one goes to the American.

Is Mayweather playing his strategy, or is he wondering if he will face an outcome he never expected, and is acting out of fear?

ROUND 5: Mayweather moves from his corner first in an attempt to regain control. McGregor seems to be tiring out, with his punches turning to taps and swipes, and his stance seeming to loosen slowly. Mayweather





is most certainly relying on offence, and is not seen keeping his guard up, lashing out at the Irishman with a lot of power.

Mayweather, now with his defense down, seems to be irked by the Irishman, as he pushed him in the end of the fifth round. Could the Irishman be getting into his head, getting his guard down to strike at the right time?

ROUND 6: The veteran is disconcerted, as the rookie unleashed himself with the veteran's back turned. Mayweather is back with his defensive stance, but he still has control of the fight in a major way. Conor mocks him by sticking his tongue out and chuckling – almost as if he is having fun. McGregor has, however, won respect by surviving till the sixth round, with only five in an MMA fight.

Mayweather, who is in the driver's seat in this fight, could possibly give in to his temper with all the mocking and perhaps the Irishman's resilience. This fight has even scorecards so far; which way will it go?

ROUND 7: Mayweather, even at forty, has his speed, and he uses it in this round. He knocks McGregor around the ring, with the Irishman grabbing on to the American to catch his breath. He is trying, but Mayweather is connecting far more and far better. Mayweather seems to be in full control. McGregor is becoming sluggish, and Mayweather seems to be cruising. Will the fight last all twelve rounds?

ROUND 8: The fighters both seem to have gained second winds, with both of them coming at each other with all they have. Conor is light and springy, but his arms are weak. Mayweather is consistent with his punches and dodges. McGregor gets in for a bit, then Mayweather sends him back with an uppercut.

The fight has taken an exciting turn, with both the fighters seeming keener on being the winner. Could McGregor regain all he lost previously, or is he too tired to put up with Mayweather's fists?

ROUND 9: McGregor started this round off strong, but his body does not seem to be responding to his brain commands. He is getting slower, but he is putting up an amazing front. Mayweather, however, seems to be in for blood, looking determined to knock the rookie out as he pushes him around the ring.

McGregor is putting up a brave front, but he is obviously exhausted and cannot go on for long. Will the scorecards be in his favor, or will Mayweather end it before the judges call the results out?

ROUND 10: McGregor gives in all he has, with knockout seeming to be his only bet at winning. Then, Mayweather takes McGregor all the way, and he blows to kingdom come. The fight ends with 1:55 remaining. The referee declares a technical knockout in favor of Floyd Mayweather.

The veteran walks away with a clean record of 50 wins to 0 losses. McGregor sure gained a lot of respect, publicity and fame. Both the fighters leave the arena, a hundred million dollars richer.

A WINDOW OF BROKEN RECORDS

By: Siddhant Singhania

Hearts were broken, dreams had gone astray, feuds had erupted; James finally ended his bench warming streak, Morata gave up being a second and Monaco saw the dismantling of its league winning team; the summer transfer window of 2017 was the reason for all. One of the most exhilarating, intoxicating and electrifying transfer windows of all time, the summer of 2017 saw jaw-dropping transactions and deals being struck where money was considered no more than a joke. First Neymar, followed by Dembele and finally Mbappe, hundreds of millions of Euros were simply blown away. Therefore, let's look at the 3 brokered deals which shock the footballing community to its core, all breaking the previous highest paid transfer of Paul Pogba and raising the bars to more than its double.

Ousmanne Dembele, the 20-year old French international started his career at Rennes before joining Borussia Dortmund in the summer of 2016. An exciting young talent to watch, the winger grabbed 40 goals the previous season and caught the eyes many European behemoths like Chelsea, Manchester United and Barcelona due to his dexterous dribbling and scoring abilities. Thus, his transfer seemed on the cards and had heavily been linked to Barcelona after the departure of the much revered Neymar. Suspensions arose when Dembele went AWOL during a Dortmund practice session and started ignoring the calls of manager Peter Bosz. This resulted in the club suspending him which finally led to his transfer to Barcelona for a staggering initial transfer fee of €105 million with an additional €42 million as add-ons. A five-year deal was signed on 28th August at the Camp Nou in front of 17814 fans, with Dembele becoming the most expensive transfer in Barcelona's rich history.

Who doesn't know about teenage sensation Kylian Mbappe? Another French international, Mbappe broke into the main team of AS Monaco as a regular last season in the tender age of 17 and took the world by storm. Netting 31 and being the key to

Monaco's spectacular Ligue 1 victory and a journey till the semi-finals of the Champions League, Mbappe emerged as one of the most sought after players early into the transfer window, being heavily followed by European giants such as Real Madrid, Arsenal, Manchester United, and many more. Mbappe had mentioned since early on that Cristiano Ronaldo was his role model and it was his childhood ambition to play for Real Madrid someday, sparking immense speculation and talks.

The deal seemed imminent, only to be spoilt by diplomacy and financial greed. An actual deal was brokered between the two parties though, with Real Madrid president Florentino Perez and General Director Jose Angel Sanchez having negotiated with AS Monaco and Wilfred Mbappe, Kylian's father, in Los Angeles, to an asking price with Mbappe earning €6.99 million every year on a six-year deal. But the teenage wonder kid demanded a wage €14 million per year which the Qatari owners of Paris Saint Germain were willing to pay. Real Madrid luminaries such as Karim Benzema, Toni Kroos and Luka Modric would be receiving less than half the annual wage that Mbappe would be receiving if his demand was to be met with; with even the Madrid captain Sergio Ramos receiving a lesser wage than him.

Also, the teenage prodigy desired regular first-team play which was unlikely in Madrid due to the presence of the Welsh beast Gareth Bale. Thus, a season long loan with PSG was agreed upon since it met with Kylian's dad's demands and officially signed on the deadline day of the window. A clause was added obligating the club on permanently buying the player for €180 million, though only if they weren't relegated to Ligue 2, which although seems very unlikely. This was done because another financially heavy deal would result in them severely violating the FIFA financial fair play regulations, exposing themselves to sanctions by UEFA, with a likely form being exclusion from the Champions

league.

Finally, Neymar, the Brazilian superstar who had first shook the world during the FIFA Confederations Cup 2013 earning a transfer from Santos FC to FC Barcelona. A transfer had seemed underway during the January transfer window this year, only to end in Neymar expending his contract with an increase in his release clause from €190 million to €222 million. Rumors directed towards Neymar again sparked this window, amidst which a feud with teammate further strengthened the rumors. According to reports, Neymar's entourage had called PSG chairman Nasser al-Khelaifi informing him about Neymar's interest in joining the club. This led to the advent of secret talks between the two parties, till finally the PSG hierarchy decided that the club could recruit the superstar.

But when the Paris lawyers arrived at Madrid to the La Liga headquarters to pay the sum releasing Neymar, the offer was turned down by the La Liga President Javier Tebas on grounds of breach on the UEFA Financial Fair Play regulations, threatening to pass on the case to UEFA to appropriately deal with it. A simple yet erudite solution to the rather complex problem, Neymar's legal representatives arrived at Madrid and directly made the payment of €222 million to the FC Barcelona offices in the player's name with regards to the unilateral termination of the contract that united both parties. A free agent, Neymar received the funds from PSG regarding the transfer and thus the move was underway. Though a UEFA FFP breach investigation is ongoing, the transfer is done and complete, coming as an entire tsunami for the entire footballing community.

Thus, the summer transfer window of 2017 encountered an enormous raise in the benchmark of football transactions, with bars continuing to rise each season. A great deadline day end to a rather riveting and enthralling window of exciting transfers, sensational rumors, disheartening disappointments and appalling judgements, we eagerly await the unfolding of the coming season of 2017/18.



THE IMPERFECT END TO THE PERFECT ERA

By: Shashwat Bansal

It's the finals. The crowd is wild. Your heart beats against your chest like a caged animal. You can feel a disappointment coming, deep within your gut, but manage to convince yourself that you're going to win this. Mustering one last prayer, you ready yourself for the last 100-meter sprint of your life. Bang. You fumble. You're behind everyone, but give it your best shot. You won't make it. And that quick: your first and last loss in the world 100 meters finals.

Boy, this is the one time nobody would want to be in Bolt's shoes. This may well be the greatest anticlimax there ever will be. Imagine breaking the world 100-meter record thrice, and then ending your career with a bronze. But there is one more athlete who's shoes you would probably wear just as reluctantly as Bolt's, if not more so. Justin Gatlin, the man who beat him. Why? You would definitely not want to win to a crowd booing you for winning. For using drugs several years ago. For gatecrashing Bolt's farewell. For being the third wheel.

So, Gatlin bowed. He bowed, to clear the confusion. To pay his respect to one of the greatest athletes of all time. To show that this doesn't change a thing. To show that Bolt has left behind a void that will never be filled, even by him. To show that Bolt is still the GOAT. (No, not that one... it means "The Greatest Of All Time")

On the other hand, some stubborn spectators believe that he bowed just to gain publicity. To steal Bolt's fans. To kick start his career's second chance. To paint a picture of him as a humble and modest being who will take over after Bolt leaves. After all, they say, as one athlete goes down, another feeds off him to rise. But I still believe that we live in a world of gentlemen, not savages. I still believe that Gatlin deserves one last chance.



These people have been conditioned to think that since he was a doper, he does not deserve our respect, but let's face it: Gatlin pushed his limits more than Bolt did, and for this, he deserves not just the win, but respect too.

Moreover, I believe that we are wrong for jeering at him. It was Gatlin's duty, just as it is of every sportsman, to push the limits of not just himself, but of his competitors too. This is the only way society can maximize potential. If Bolt is out of shape, then Gatlin must beat him and tell him to either pull his socks up, or quit, even if he is retiring. Bolt, on the other hand, has "no regrets." He feels that he had done his part a long time ago, and this was a comparatively casual season for him. We must not expect something great from someone who is literally telling us not to expect much this season. He has, in the past, pushed the limits of humanity right to its edge and openly challenged everyone to push it further. Many more men will try and fill his shoes, as he has given them more than enough incentive. Sure, he didn't go out with a bang, but it doesn't matter.

WHY DO WE LOVE SPORTS ?

By: Zoraver Mehta

In school, it is not uncommon for senior boys to fall at their housemasters feet to let them watch the odd 2 o'clock game. As for myself, I cannot recite the Liverpool starting eleven and do not care whether Pogba is performing up to his full potential, and even feel that the football world spends too much money on transfers. However, having seen my closest peers deliberate for hours on edge about the aforementioned motivated me to contemplate on why we like the teams we do.

Are you a true fan? I hear that question in and around school quite often. What exactly does being a true fan mean? Does it mean knowing the teams history and background or is it about dressing yourself from head to toe and painting your face in team colours? The most exacting definition I have heard is one who sticks by a team through its highs and lows, and good or bad decisions.

This unconditional love which fans from all over the world give is extraordinary! No matter what the colour, sex, nationality, religious beliefs, if two people support the same club, a degree of warmth is shared. They celebrate the goal for the team, for the club, or for the city or country they live in. The ecstasy that overwhelms when Dhoni scores a six on the last ball, or when Messi scores the match winning free kick; that, for fans, is pure joy—a moment to relish.

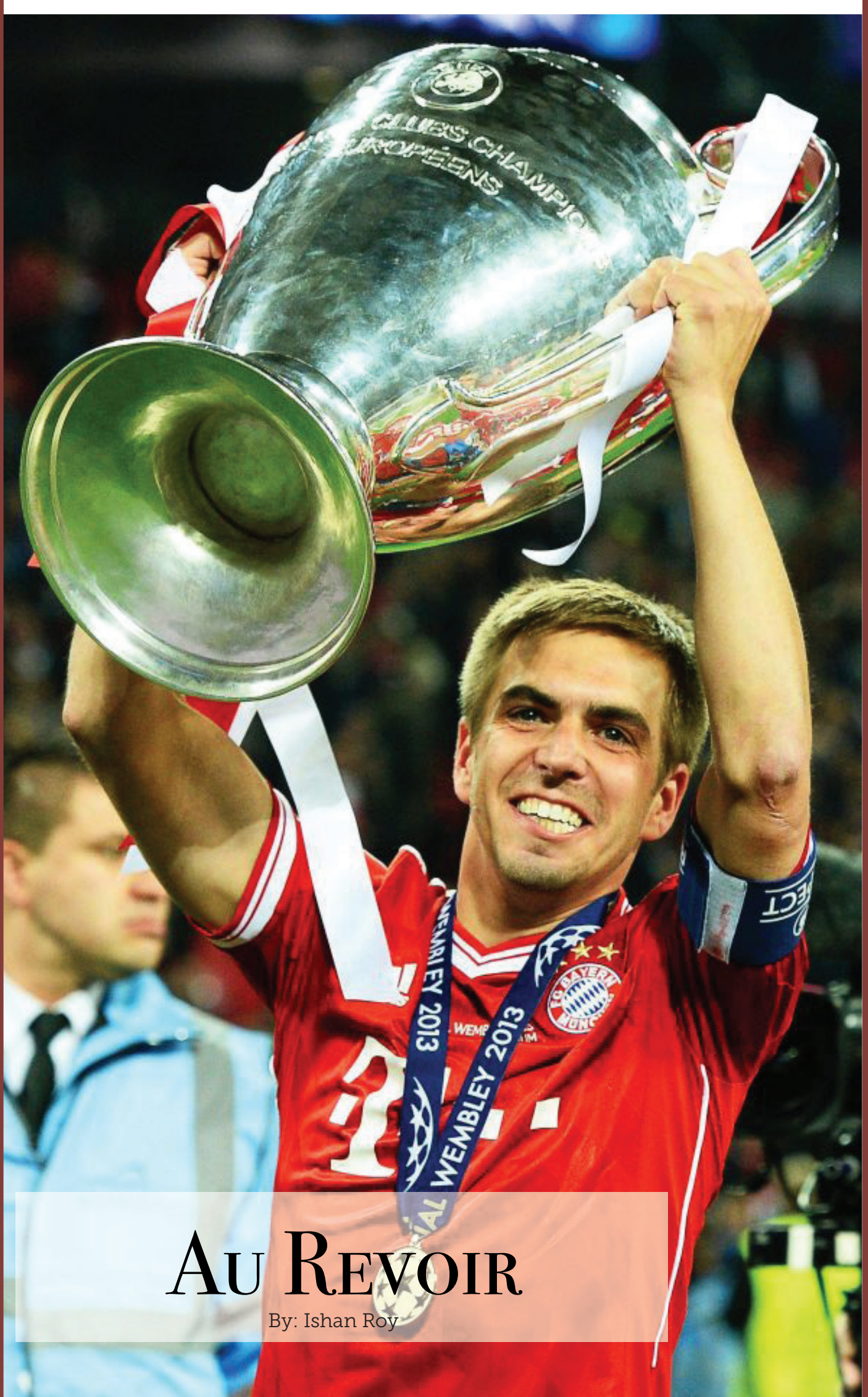
When 'your' team loses a game, or your favourite cricketer doesn't perform well, the way people behave is comical. My Liverpool loving formate feels physically sick, the world becomes black and white, and his appetite dies. Even after few days, he feels depressed. Less than my Shaun Marsh devotee who locks himself up in a room if the

the batsmen doesn't perform well. After a game, they can't help but think 'what if he the referee gave the offside', or 'what if that player wasn't sent off' and so on. One imagines things, that could have happened, that should have happened. I find this sweet grief fascinating. Match attendance is a given, of course, but there is also a duty to engage emotionally in the life of the team in order to 'impact positively' on a team's performance!

The specific social and cultural role that sports play in any given country, however, is heavily influenced by historical factors. These include whether a major or home side has won an important tournament at a decisive time or whether the sport was traditionally played by upper or lower classes. In parallel, historically poignant football rivalries between some nations (England vs Scotland, or India vs Pakistan), which are also politically averted to one another, play a role in defining specific national characteristics. These influence how people relate to football in their country and how they support teams at the local, regional, national and international level.

Football Club Barcelona's crest carries their famous motto 'mes que un club' meaning 'more than a club'. More than the football played, the cultural weight carried by the club is immense. Throughout the Franco regime, when the Catalan language and identity came under persecution, Barcelona's stadium, Camp Nou, was one of the few places Catalan could be spoken without fear of retribution. The last decade has been amongst the most successful in Barcelona's history, with a starting eleven built on a spine of Catalonian players the team are now recognised as the symbol of Catalan identity across the world. It is perhaps not a coincidence that this successful period of the club has coincided with a active political call for Catalonian independence.

All in all, the most important part of supporting a team is the tradition and community that surrounds the entertainment. The value of sport, I believe, extends beyond sport for sport's sake. It can play a role in bringing communities together, having an exceptional social and cultural impact by giving people from Jaipur House, to London, a song to sing—together.



AU REVOIR

By: Ishan Roy

This past summer marked the start to an end of an era in the footballing world with three of the game's greats calling it a day. Playing for a combined 61 years Phillip Lahm, Francesco Totti and Xabi Alonso mesmerised fans and players alike. With all three of them having been crowned world champions with their respective nations they truly cemented their place as legends of the beautiful game. With each of them having captained their clubs and countries at one point of time they have won almost everything there is to win for a footballer.

"I've cheated on wives, girlfriends but never on Roma." Called by many as the eighth king of Rome, Francesco Totti truly epitomises the word 'LOYALTY'. He spent a whopping 28 years with Roma starting his career all the way back in 1989 and hung up his boots in the summer of 2017. He finished his career as the Italian league Serie A's top goal scorer scoring 250 times in 619 appearances for Roma. He was crowned world champion in 2006 when Marcelo Lippi's side succeeded in Berlin. He became the oldest goal scorer in the UEFA champions league at the age of 38. Winning the Serie A once, the Coppa Italia twice and the Supercoppa Italiana twice seems a bit underwhelming but the Italian ace truly signifies passion and determination. In many stages of his career he was offered big money transfer deals but he pledged his loyalty to Roma and is therefore considered the greatest Roma player ever.

The Munich born full back Phillip Lahm skippered his boyhood club Bayern Munich and the German national team to many honours and titles. He was regarded by many as the greatest full backs of this generation. His ability to play on the left, right or in the defensive role of midfield made him a great asset to any team. The tactical defender won many individual honours as well and spent fifteen years at the Allianz Arena. He was part of the UEFA team of the year on a numerous number of occasions and won the German 1st division league eight times along with two UEFA champions leagues and six DFB Pokal cups. He was inspiration for many and after leading the nation to a world cup triumph in 2014 he retired at the international level. He continued for another three years at the club level with the Bavarians. He left the German giants as one of the most successful players of their history and left an ever lasting impact on world football.

Having being capped by Spain one hundred and



fourteen times Xabi Alonso was a true legend of Spanish football. The man from Toliso, Spain started his career with Spanish side Real Sociedad before spending a loan spell at Eibar. He made it big when he moved to English giants Liverpool in 2004 and won the UEFA Champions League in his first season at the club. He established as one of the greatest central midfielders and was a master of the pass. After five years with Liverpool he moved back to his homeland with Real Madrid where he further added to his portfolio by winning another champions league, a La Liga and a Copa del Rey. He had a three years stay in Germany with Bayern Munich and won the league in all three years. He was at the heart of Spain's golden age from 2008 to 2014 winning two European championships and one world cup. The midfield trio of Xavi, Iniesta and Xabi Alonso was considered the greatest ever by many and their vision, passing and understanding of the game set them apart.

They were truly instrumental in their respective club's successes and not seeing them play at the top level will be a hard fact to face. They will be missed by fans, players and pundits across the world and it has been a privilege to witness these three maestros play.

THE UNDERDOG'S VICTORY

By: Angadh Sanghera



The 2017 UEFA Women's Championship was held this year. In this latest event of Women's Euro, the number of teams was increased from 12 to 16, and divided into 4 groups. The tournament was held from 16 July to 6 August and a total of 31 matches were played. The host for this tournament was declared by the UEFA Executive Committee on the 4th of December, 2014. It was actually held in seven different towns in the Netherlands. This year's tournament was full of surprises.

The Netherlands, despite being the underdogs of the tournament bagged their first European Trophy. Many foresaw another German victory this year, but were proven wrong. Their 22-year-streak as champions of Europe ended as they lost 1-2 to Denmark in the quarter-finals. This was Germany's second loss in the finals since 1993. Another former winner, Norway, lost to both finalists and ended up being last in their group without any points. This was definitely the year of the underdogs. On the other hand, the Dutch took the other 15 teams by surprise as they were the only team with England to have won all their group stage matches with not

even a single loss. The Netherlands seemed to be on a roll, as they reached the quarter finals with great ease. Even Germany and England had qualified for the quarter-finals after being ranked number 1 in their respective groups. However, the Germans were kicked out of the tournament by the rookies: Denmark. England still hadn't lost hope and won their quarter-final to face Netherlands in the semi-finals. This was expected to be a nail biting game as both teams hadn't lost a single match since the beginning of the Women's European Cup, but the underdogs astounded the crowd in a phenomenal 3-0 win. The second semi-final was held between Austria and Denmark which resulted in a 3-0 loss in the penalties for the Austrians.

As I mentioned earlier, the final of the tournament was between the Netherlands and Denmark. Both the teams were first-time finalists and the match ended in a 4-2 win for the host team. Apart from Germany only two other countries have won the championship: Norway and Sweden. The finalists met each other in the group stage of the tournament, with the Netherlands winning 1-0 via a penalty from

Sherida Spitse. The Women's Dutch team not only won the championship as a team but also won many individual awards. Out of the 4 main awards, 3 were won by the Netherlands. The one award that they couldn't get their hands on was the Golden Boot, which went to the more deserving English striker. The Silver Boot and the Bronze Boot were won by Vivianne Miedema and Lieke Martens respectively. Lieke Martens wasn't just the Bronze Boot winner, but was also adjudged the Player of the Tournament. She scored a total of 3 goals out of which 2 were in the finals. The fans and the critics believed that she was the one that pushed the Netherlands to their victory.

I believe that the Euro 2017 was a chance to show how far Women's Football has come across the continent and the huge diversity in play that exists in Europe. It is a chance to show off the strengths of the women's game as a whole, with an excitingly competitive tournament where a new audience can see the development. Most commonly, and perhaps most genuinely, the women's game is generally dismissed for not being as exciting, fast paced and skilful as the men's, but I believe that this is completely wrong and we shouldn't underestimate what women can do, instead we should encourage them so that they can achieve the impossible and do what has never been done. The game is definitely growing rapidly, the technical ability and pace is also increasing phenomenally, but there is still a lot of discrimination against women in all areas of life which should be stopped. It has been decreasing in the past years, but I believe there should be none at all in the future.



SPOT FIXING

By: Vikram Jain

From Pakistan's Test match against England, to Shreesant and Chandila's IPL controversy, spot fixing has turned into a full-fledged business than mere incidents of dishonesty. What a steeping number of instances of spot and match fixing concerns us about is what remains of true sportsmanship. How a team simply chooses to nudge out the true essence of a sportsman for the sake of winning. Moreover, what is crucial to realise is the fact that scores of other cases go unnoticed by the authorities, and the ones that do come out, do not fail to bewilder us.

1.The most renowned out of the lot remains the Pakistani National team's case against England during a test match series. Amidst one of the games, fast bowlers Amir and Asif were found to be bowling no balls at particular instances in exchange for money from a bookmaker. There was substantial video evidence found against the two to have accepted bribes worth 150,000 Euros each. Salman Bett (the bookmaker), Muhammad Asif and Muhammad Amir were banned by the ICC for periods ranging from 5-10 years. Additionally, the three were given sentences in the range of 6 months to 2 and a half years.

2.The IPL was shocked by the Rajasthan Royals match fixing scandal in 2013 involving Sreesanth, Ajit Chandila and Ankeet Chavan and 23 others. They were believed to be under the influence of Dawood Ibrahim and Chhota Shakeel. Chavan and Sreesanth were eventually released on account of lack of evidence, but have managed to plague their names in the sport industry.

On the other hand, Match fixing is pre-planned and often associated with a long term outcome, such as fixing a few matches for an overall series win.

1.Italy has been subject to a few of the largest football scandals of all time. The first case appeared in the 1980 and ended up being referred to as 'Totonero', the black lottery scandal. It later turned out several teammates had placed bets on their own team's result.AC Milan and Lazio Roma were relegated to the Italian second division league, and the Italian star striker, Paolo Rossi was suspended for 2 years.

2.In 2005, the second division referee Robert Hoyzer was caught in a € 2 million match fixing scandal in Germany. Additionally, he was accused of other match fixing cases in the third division as well. This included a match fixing case between Hamburg and Paderborn, involving a red card and two controversial penalties. What got this case into limelight was the fact that it took place just prior to the World Cup hosted by Germany in 2006. Hoyzer was incarcerated for 2 years, while other players and officials received several bans.

3.Another infamous case of such match fixing further brought to public attention by several



documentaries and a movie was Mohammed Azharuddin's. Besides having captained the Indian team from 1989, he was accused of a match fixing scandal in 2000 against South Africa. The South African captain, Hansie Cronje claimed that Azharuddin was the one who introduced him to

the Bookies. The ICC and BCCI banned him for life based on a report submitted by the CBI. Nevertheless, The Andhra Pradesh High court revoked the ban placed on him in 2012. He was the first player to be banned by the BCCI and the ICC for such fixing.

Nevertheless, what remains important to note is the fact that such dishonesty with and disrespect of sportsmanship is detrimental to the future of sports. If such practises in the industry further exist, the true spirit of sports would simply nullify to winning and losing, and not excellence in the respective fields.

IMPORTANCE OF SCHOOL GAMES

By: Aryan Battacharjee

In a world of fierce competition, it is no longer unnatural to see stressed teenagers glued to their desks. The idea of looking forward to the pleasure of sportsmanship grows extinct in most of the country. In School however, the 'Public School' milieu has not waned and sports are an integral, even essential part of a Dosco's schedule. To most of us, the bond we share with a sport is cemented quite firmly to our deep affection for the House. This is often because most of us don't get to represent the School at a sport and the House transforms into a sanctuary of our physical development. Moreover, the glory attached to representing the House acts as an incentive for many of us to get acquainted with a sport.

The concept of 'School games', while quite sound in its philosophy of breaking the barriers of Houses and developing as sportsmen independently, doesn't work because of the lack of incentive presented by it. Also, to most the fear of running a change-in-break for bunking House practices far supersedes the consequence of getting a late mark. This lack of enforcing agents for school games contribute greatly in its failure, to my mind. Another factor that causes this is the reluctance felt by most of us for sacrificing a session of House practices with our teams because of School games. Adding to that, school games don't play any significant role in the advancement of our prowess in a particular sport. This may be the case due to the lack of incentive for the masters as well in correcting us, as opposed to House games where the Captain holds it a priority to win the cup.

There is also, at some level, a need to contribute to the House for all of us which acts as a strong force in driving us towards the field. To some, every-

thing that sports mean to them is an expression of gratitude for the House by contributing to it. Another direct consequence of school games is a decrease in the level at which sports are played at the Inter-House level. According to quite a few sportsmen in school, the level of hockey was superior to football due to the absence of school games which take away valuable practice time for House teams. Apart from the decrease in sportsmanship, it also induces a sense of hierarchy amongst form-mates due to the arbitrary system of arranging students into advanced or basic groups. This may often become a cause for a decrease in self-confidence on the field and perhaps even other venues.

It also promotes a sense of being ranked according to face-value, without any meritocratic tryout to support a placement into a certain group. Most aspiring sportsmen who haven't cemented themselves in the sport yet, tend to get demoralised because they see no clear path to success.

In short, while the intentions behind school games are noble, they simply have too many cons to be manifested. In my opinion, sports in school would flourish much more if the organic process of development with the houses is allowed to take place.

LEGENDS OF THE PAST

By: Aditya Oberai

BY BEING A RACING DRIVER YOU ARE UNDER RISK ALL THE TIME. BY BEING A RACING DRIVER MEANS YOU ARE RACING WITH OTHER PEOPLE. AND IF YOU NO LONGER GO FOR A CAP THAT EXISTS, YOU ARE NO LONGER A RACING DRIVER BECAUSE WE ARE COMPETING, WE ARE COMPETING TO WIN. AND THE MAIN MOTIVATION TO ALL OF US IS TO COMPETE FOR VICTORY, IT'S NOT TO COME 3RD, 4TH, 5TH OR 6TH. I RACE TO WIN AS LONG AS I FEEL IT'S POSSIBLE. SOMETIMES YOU GET IT WRONG? SURE, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO GET IT RIGHT ALL THE TIME. BUT I RACE DESIGNED TO WIN, AS LONG AS I FEEL I'M DOING IT RIGHT.

— Ayrton Senna



When debating about who was the greatest driver to ever grace Formula One, it is hard to argue against the man who won three world titles, 41 races and 65 pole positions. Ayrton Senna could divide opinion as a man, but unite it as a driver.

Senna developed an obsession for go karts at a very young age of 4 and won his first race at the age of 13. He won the South American Karting Championship at the age of 17 and had also competed in the World Karting Championship in 1981. After that he went on to UK, winning a Formula Ford Championship and the 1983 British Formula 3 Championship, earning tests with the McLaren, Williams, Brabham and Toleman Formula One teams.

In 1984, he moved into F1 with Toleman. He achieved his first podium in Monaco where he finished second with conditions so bad that the race had to be stopped before the 75% mark. It was enough time to highlight the phenomenal talent though, and he went on to achieve two podiums out of his three finishes that season. Senna, however, bought out his contract and moved to Lotus in 1985 because he felt that Toleman could not fulfill his ambitions. It didn't take him long to secure his debut victory, taking pole position at the second race of the season in Portugal and excelling in torrential conditions once again to win by over a minute. A late season run of five consecutive podiums, including a win at Belgium, helped Senna to fourth in the championship, but it was his tally of seven pole positions that marked him out as the quickest man on the grid. Over the next two seasons with Lotus he took another four wins, but his title challenge faded towards the end of 1987. After finishing third in the championship, he made what was to prove a highly successful move to McLaren. His debut with the team brought pole position but he was disqualified halfway through the race. He soon made amends though, winning eight of the remaining 15 races to take the 1988 World Championship ahead of his team-mate Alain Prost, who won seven. It was the start of one of the greatest rivalries in the history of F1. The following year, Prost and Senna contended for the title again, but this time Prost had the edge and turned in on Senna, causing a collision at the chicane in the Suzuka Circuit in Japan. Prost's car stalled and Senna restarted his, pitted his car to change the front wing and went on to finish first. He ended up being disqualified, however, for using the chicane's escape road

to reenter the track, thus handing over the championship to Prost. Prost then moved to Ferrari and Senna entered into a war of words with the then FIA president Jean-Maire Balestre, which came to a head in Japan again twelve months later. Senna qualified on pole, but claimed that Balestre blocked a move to switch the grid slot to the cleaner side of the grid. Prost got the better position on the grid but Senna made his statement by driving him off the track at turn one, sealing his second world title. He secured his third title in 1991 but had to endure a very frustrating season in 1992, finishing fourth in the championship due to a highly unreliable car.

Senna moved to Williams in 1994, and Prost promptly retired. His new car was fast but difficult to drive because of the ban of all electronic aids such as traction control, active suspensions and ABS and a change in the tyre regulation requiring them to be narrower. Despite putting it on pole at each of the first two races, he failed to finish while Michael Schumacher took maximum points in his Benetton. Then, at Imola in the San Marino Grand Prix, Senna led Schumacher after an early safety car period, pushed hard after the restart, and as he took the Tamburello corner on the second lap, his car veered right and hit a concrete wall.

"We lifted him from the cockpit and laid him on the ground. As we did, he sighed and, although I am not religious, I felt his spirit depart at that moment." – Sid Watkins, head of the F1 on-track medical team

The world watched as the car came to rest. Senna moved slightly, then sat peacefully, as the fastest F1 driver to have ever lived died doing what he did best.



RETURN OF THE KINGS

By: Shourya Mann



The world will change, wars may be fought order might be destroyed but the legend of two men will remain the same.

Before 6th July 2008, the best played match was the Wimbledon final in 1980 between John McEnroe and Bjorn Borg, the greatest rivals of the twentieth century. However, at about 2 pm in England, that was changed, Rafael Nadal had defeated world number one Roger Federer to claim his first Wimbledon title. Ever since Pete Sampras and Andre Agassi retired, there was no existing rivalry to fuel the game. Only one name dominated the tennis world, Roger Federer. He won his first Wimbledon in 2003 at an age 21 and then followed that up with what came to be known as the “Federer Slam” by winning the

Australian Open, Wimbledon, and US Open in the same calendar year in 2004. He repeated the feat in 2006 and 2007, with a loss at the 2005 Australian Open semis as the only thing keeping him from achieving the three-fourths Slam, four years in a row.

The one thing that even he could not achieve was the Rolland Garros . Between him and the title stood a young player, Rafael Nadal, who topped Federer in 2005 in the semi finals. He defeated Federer in French open finals in 2006,2007 and 2008.

The stage was set, it was the ultimate showdown between the world champion and his toughest opponent. In a match that lasted four hours and forty eight minutes. Thirty one aces were shared



and a hundred and forty nine winners were hit. At the end of it all there only one name could be heard from the crowd, RAFA. Nadal had bested Roger in his own court after being denied twice before. It was a victory that marked the start of an era, an era dominated by two men standing at the center court and shaking hands with each other.

Following the Wimbledon final Rafa and Federer won a total of fifteen grand slams (Nadal:9,Federer:6) and played against each other in another sixteen matches. Many had already decided that the era would be theirs for the taking, until their fall in 2015.

Since the 2008 Wimbledon final, no one seemed to be able to pose a threat to the legacy of the two tennis geniuses, not even 12 time grand slam winner Novak Djokovic. But all seemed to change in the season of 2015. Nadal was defeated by Andy Murray in the French open and he could not make it to the second round in Wimbledon. Federer was ousted by Milos Raonic in the semi finals. Both the players suffered from injuries and decided to stay out of the US open. The new year dawned upon the tennis world, it seemed to be a shot at redemption for the two fallen maestros. Unfortunately for them, they failed yet again. Nadal couldn't go beyond the fourth round in any grand slam and Federer was denied in the semi finals of the two he participated. Both players had further aggravated their injuries, coincidentally both

had a broken wrist.

Their fall seemed to be a permanent one. Many believed that the era of Nadal and Federer was truly over. Both the players had fallen so low that it seemed to be impossible for them to make a comeback, after all Andy Murray and Djokovic were playing the best of their game during this time.

All hope seemed lost for the two players, but like the story of almost every legend, the two thirty year old magicians pulled off a miraculous. They somehow managed to bring back their old selves onto the court in Melbourne where they met for the finals of the Australian open.

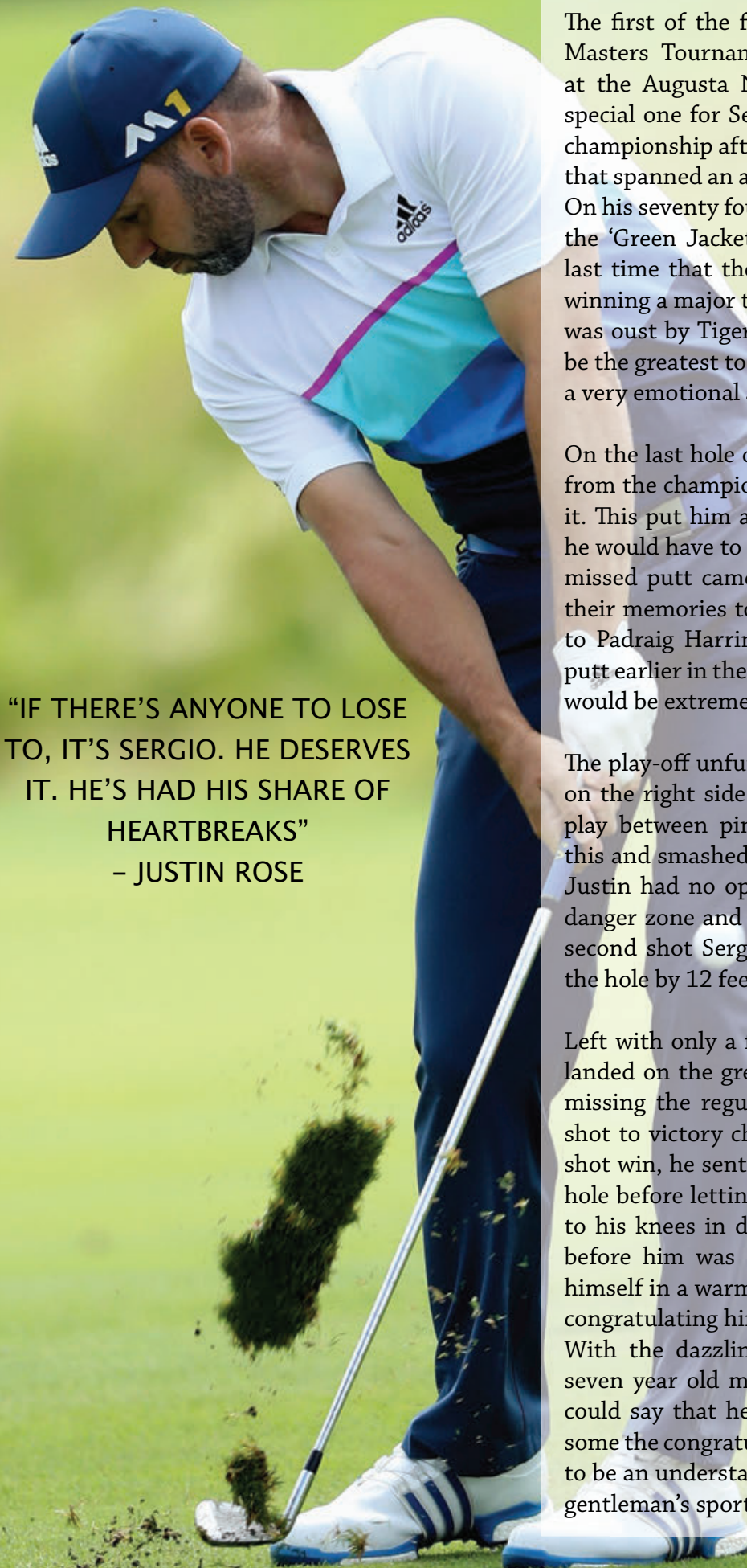
The two did not stop there, Nadal claimed the throne that was rightfully his as the king of clay won his La Decima. Federer went on to set a record breaking performance at the Wimbledon final and won his long awaited title. Nadal leapt from world number nine to number one in the ATP rankings and Federer jumped from seventeen to world number three, only five hundred points behind Nadal. One could say that they came back with a bang, because they did.

Once again, the stage has been set and the two men with a history of thirty seven matches between them will engage in battle once again to claim the title of world number ONE. Who will win is not certain but one thing that is; This era belongs to none other than Federer and Nadal.



Play

By ARYA GUPTA



“IF THERE’S ANYONE TO LOSE
TO, IT’S SERGIO. HE DESERVES
IT. HE’S HAD HIS SHARE OF
HEARTBREAKS”
– JUSTIN ROSE

The first of the four major championships in golf, the Masters Tournament, was held in the April of 2017 at the Augusta National Golf Club. This event was a special one for Sergio Garcia, as he finally won a major championship after seventy three unsuccessful attempts that spanned an astounding time span of eighteen years. On his seventy fourth attempt he broke the jinx and won the ‘Green Jacket’ with a play of unmatched skill. The last time that the thirty seven year old came close to winning a major tournament was back in 1999 where he was ousted by Tiger Woods, widely considered to perhaps be the greatest to have ever graced the game. Thus it was a very emotional and dramatic victory for the magician.

On the last hole of the final day, all that stopped Sergio from the championship was a 7 foot putt, but he spilled it. This put him at par with Justin Rose, against whom he would have to win in a play-off to claim the title. The missed putt came to the spectators as déjà vu, stirred their memories to the 2007 British Open where he lost to Padraig Harrington in the play-offs after missing a putt earlier in the game. Like every play-off ever this one would be extremely pressuring for both the players.

The play-off unfurled by Rose sending his drive into the on the right side only to see the ball bounce back into play between pine needles. Garcia took advantage of this and smashed his drive 300 yards down the fairway. Justin had no option but to punch his way out of the danger zone and get back into the competition. On his second shot Sergio approached the green only to miss the hole by 12 feet.

Left with only a few rays of hope, the Englishman also landed on the green 15 feet away on his third shot. By missing the regulation putt he left Sergio with a two shot to victory chance. Encouraged by this almost sure shot win, he sent the ball circling around the cup of the hole before letting it sink inside. Sergio Garcia dropped to his knees in disbelief as if whatever was happening before him was an unrealistic dream. He next found himself in a warm embrace by Justin Rose who was also congratulating him.

With the dazzling performance put up by the thirty seven year old magician, There is perhaps no one who could say that he did not deserve the title enough. To some the congratulations given by Rose might even seem to be an understatement for this conjurer of style in the gentleman’s sport.

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