

Things one should learn from golf

In the past, when Team India travelled to Australia or New Zealand it used to be a big thing for the fans. Fans used to wake up in the wee hours to watch their heroes in action and remained glued to the television sets. Everyone was aware of India's poor overseas record but nobody bothered, and religiously sat in front of the sets with the sole hope that India will win. Men in Blue seemed to be on the war front and the whole nation was with them.

Those were the days when cricket matches were not like daily soaps, appearing on every sports channel, every now and then. Cricket was seasonal not 24x7. Unfortunately, that excitement,

enthusiasm has vanished. After the way MS Dhoni and his boys played in New Zealand last month, fans have shunned the live telecast and shifted to their handsets just to keep a tab on the scores. Because cricket runs in our blood, we can't ignore it.

As a reporter it becomes all the more boring to follow such disastrous tours. India's performance in New Zealand was so poor that one of my fellow reporters questioned captain Dhoni's position, saying that India should play only Bangladesh et al.

And so, a golfing event in the city was very refreshing. It's not that golf was being played for the first time in Ahmedabad. But



WILD CARD
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the solace it provided was very much at par with the situation when you find someone new after being ditched by a girlfriend or boyfriend! It was truly a learning experience.

Golf certainly has all the ingredients required for a networking game. Unlike in any

other sport, not only the golfers but also the officials backed each other. It was a very special feeling when I came across Kensville Golf course caddies, whose services were availed by Kalhaar Blues and Greens – the hosts of the PGTI event.

Not to forget KBG had export-

ed club cars when Kensville entertained European Challenge tour players. Even the most of the officials (not from PGTI) were businessmen who gave honorary services. They had taken off from their respective routine to be present at the venue.

Golfers play in group of three, but their game is individual. They need to be focused on their respective game, as best scorer wins. There is no enmity. A golfer is pitted against none other than himself. He is his own rival. If a golfer plays well, his group members do acknowledge it.

Consequently, the atmosphere is sporting and healthy, something that is absent in other sports. Politeness and knowledge among the spectators reminded me about the famous Lord's fans, who irrespective of

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the team, a player is applauded for his performance.

The 18-hole-game teaches discipline and temperament. But not all are able to grasp it. There were golfers who were down to earth and polite, like the eventual winner Anirban Lahiri. The Bangalorean had no air or attitude. Unlike cricketers, he signed autographs, and willingly posed for photos when requested. You

also had veteran golfer Ashok Kumar, whose animated gesture after scoring a birdie on the last hole of the fourth round, entertained the crowd. Such sporting nature among the athletes is need of the hour.

Equally mesmerising were the caddies. They not only carried the kit but also guided their respective golfers well. On the greens, they acted as coaches and guided respective golfers, when in 'bunker'. Of course, there were some exceptions too.

Couple of players screamed at their caddies after having bad day at the office. But you find such

kind of people in every sector of the society. We need to search for positivity. Golf imbibed a lot of positivity in me.

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