



# THE TIMES OF INDIA

Friday, February 17, 2012



**TRIUMPHANT:** Sri Bhagawan Mahaveer Jain College players with the winners' trophy at the Dr Isaac Abraham memorial hockey tournament in Bangalore on Wednesday. SBMJC defeated Al-Ameen PU College 3-1 in the final

## Naeem gets set for bigger roles

Sunil Subbaiah | TNN

Bangalore: There is no doubt that hockey flows in Mohammad Naeemuddin's veins. Hailing from a hockey playing family, learning the trick of the stick wasn't a tough task at all for this strapping 21-year-old.



Today, Naeemuddin (in pic) is a fierce fighter when he steps onto the pitch, terrorizing rival targets with aplomb in all college and national tournaments.

On Wednesday, Naeemuddin scored a brace to steer Sri Bhagawan Mahaveer Jain College to the Dr Isaac Abraham memorial hockey tournament title while topping the

goal-scorer charts with 18 goals.

Like all youngsters, the lanky striker too nurtures the burning desire to don the national colours. "I want to don the national colours as soon as possible. I want to be in the senior team in the next six months or so. I am confident of a national call-up. I know my good perform-

### >> HOCKEY MD NAEEMUDDIN

ance all these years will hold me in good stead," he pointed.

Naeemuddin, who is contracted with HAL, grew up watching his father Md Naseeruddin, a former HAL forward, play in the local leagues. But he is not ready to end his hockey career playing for the state as his father did. He is determined to go one step further. If inspiration is what Nae-

muddin is after, he needn't look much beyond his family, his grandfather having played in the local leagues and his uncle Jani Mohideen representing India many decades back.

Following a series of good shows, Naeemuddin is not ready to let complacency affect him. "I will work hard to achieve my dream. I do my regular field training at KSHA and in the evening, I focus on my fitness," said Naeemuddin, who started hockey at the age of 10.

The Bangalorean, who has represented Karnataka in several Nationals (junior and senior), also featured among the Indian probables for juniors 2009 (U-18) and 2010 (U-21) respectively. Having failed to make the cut, the mercurial striker is eager to make amends this time around.

**Result: Final: SBMJ College 3 (Charan 17, Naeemuddin 34, 59) bt Al-Ameen PU College 1 (C Suresh 7).**