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Future cricketer and CA?

by S S Shreekumar

Queen's Road: A budding cricketer and a PUC student of Jain College, R R Naga, Prathyoosha K has had one long journey from being a bowling all-rounder to a wicket keeper to a batswoman.

Her parents introduced her to the sport at a very young age. Playing tennis ball gully-cricket with her friends as a youngster, she only started taking cricket seriously three years ago. It was her coach Chethan who suggested that she should take up wicket-keeping.

Prathyoosha takes her wicket-keeping very seriously and believes that test matches are the ultimate challenges. She enjoys it so much so that she likes it more than batting.

"Wicket-keeping helps my batting because while you are keeping, you must concentrate on each and every ball and it has a reciprocal effect on batting. It will make your batting so much easier as focusing on every ball becomes natural and you are able to judge the line and length of the ball that fraction of a second quicker," says the young girl with confidence.

STAR OF THE WEEK

Prathyoosha K

Prathyoosha represented Karnataka for the first time during the 2013-14 season and has been a part of the national probable trials. She rates her Under-16 display against Tamil Nadu as her best in her fledgling career. "My favourite innings so far is against Tamil Nadu. I helped built the innings for Karnataka and scored my maiden half century. The most satisfying aspect is that it enabled the team win," she explains.

The young cricketer does not think that teh sport is harder for women to take up. "It's not so hard for me. If you have the skills and technique, it's not at all difficult. It's all about hard work which gives results. Many people don't know much about women's cricket as there is not much publicity surrounding the game," she added.

Balancing her studies and cricket is at times a little taxing on Prathyoosha but she has no complaints. "It's quite difficult to manage, but studies are more important. Jain College is also supportive in this regard. My teachers and principal are always there to help me out, whether it is in the case of attendance or a little extra help in my studies. In fact, they have been quite wonderful in their cooperation and encourage my cricketing aspirations," she added.

A state level athlete before she turned her focus solely onto cricket, Prathyoosha loves badminton, cycling, and reading adventure stories. Ajinkya Rahane and Mithali Raj are her favorite cricketers and she hopes to represent India within a span of three years. She also has plans to do CA for her post-graduation. A lot more will be heard about this gritty girl in the near future.