

Press Release

Dreams Do Come True

Bangalore, March 14: Dev Alimchandani, a Cricket Education Program participant from Cathedral & John Connon School in Mumbai had the experience of a lifetime on the weekend by spending time with Cricket Education Program Ambassador Brett Lee as well as some of India's finest at the National Cricket Academy.

Dev, a Level One participant who receives his training at PJ Hindu Gymkhana in Mumbai's South was flown to Bangalore to watch the Australia v Kenya World Cup match at Chinnaswamy Stadium before his day with the stars on Monday.

During the match, the young pace bowler met one of India's 1983 World Cup heroes Roger Binny and ex-India skipper Anil Kumble with umpire Billy Bowden also spending a few priceless moments to pass on some words of advice.

However, it was the next day which will surely live long in the young man's memory. The day began with a visit to, and tour of, the National Cricket Academy with another of India's past World Cup heroes Sandeep Patil. With Rahul Dravid, VVS Laxman and Praveen Kumar all taking time out from their training sessions, Dev was able to receive some words of encouragement as well as get a better understanding of what he needs to do to be successful in the big time.

After a trip out onto the playing arena to get a player's view of the impressive stadium, the afternoon then belonged to the Australians. With a scheduled session with Brett Lee the main focus, Dev sat and chatted for over an hour on cricket, training, technique and tactics.

"He taught me about how to catch ball softly like you catch an egg, how to bowl yorkers at the batsman's shoes and how to bowl the slow bouncer" announced an excited Dev after the session "I want to learn to bowl as fast as him and his tips will help me improve my cricket."

"Cricket Education Program provides a quality cricket coaching program for participants and at Cricket India Academy, we strive to provide value add opportunities for budding young cricketers to role model elite cricketers and learn from the very best" reinforced Martin Gleeson, Sports Education Development India's Chief Executive Officer. "Brett is the perfect Ambassador for CEP, not only for his on field performance but also his training ethic and demeanor and attitude towards the game."

Dev's parents were also over the moon at their son's opportunity. "This is a dream come true for Dev" concluded his mother Vasudha, "he has a great passion for cricket and Cricket India Academy is really helping to develop that. He loves the sessions, has got himself some bowling rhythm and is learning from his friends, many of whom also seem to be quite skilled." Dev can now visualize his dream, his task is to go out and fulfill it.

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Background

Cricket Education Program is delivered in India by Cricket India Academy under the flagship of Sports Education Development India Ltd (SEDIL), a joint partnership between Kohinoor Group and Podar Enterprise.

Cricket Education Program has been specially developed by Cricket Australia drawing on the experience of running school level and age-specific development programs across Australia. The program has a foundation of competency based training and engages children in cricket development activities and learning, in addition to their regular schooling.

Students receive a certificate at the satisfactory completion of each year culminating in the Diploma of Cricket after Level 6.

The initial training and assessment of coaches is conducted by Cricket Australia to build upon local knowledge and coaching experience. Cricket Australia also underwrites the global accreditation awarded to qualified coaches with an ongoing professional development program also in place. In his role as Coach Director, ex-Indian international cricketer and leading Mumbai coach Pravin Amre is also involved in the selection, training and development of the coaches.