

Lighting the flame

February 7,2011- It is amazing really, how almost every movie feeds us to believe in the beauty of wishful thinking. Though our cynicism often gets the better of us sometimes, all it requires is a little bit of chance or destiny for fortunes to shine their light through.

Recently, young Cricket Education Program participant and precocious lass Shweta Hariharan was given an opportunity that many cricket loving youngsters hope for, a rare opportunity to spend time with the Indian Women's Cricket Team.

As I telephoned Shweta to tell her of this exciting opportunity her parents were over bridled with joy. At the time, they were not currently within the realms of the city but refused to let this pass them by and stated categorically "we will be there!". After receiving Shweta's greeting of high pitched excitement, I was told in a rapidly ascending vocal register "thank you, I am coming".

As scheduled, the young girl and her father arrived at the MCA Recreation Centre at BKC right on time and awaited the arrival of the army of talent that is the Indian Women's Cricket Team. On meeting the players, it took merely moments for the initially in awe Shweta to shine her own light right back onto the team members who were both entertained and doting of this little whirlwind of infectious energy.

The conversation often digressed from cricket to girly talk and back with the players giving Shweta both invaluable pointers on the game and telling her to always enjoy the sport and love to practice. They assured her that with talent and commitment then they have no doubt that she could one day join the team on its travels as a player herself. As the session came towards its close, Shweta sealed this moment in time with a series of pictures with her idols, who kindly obliged.

Post the meeting with the team Shweta was beaming but at the same time had a calm and collected look upon her face, stating "I'll be there someday, I can go the distance". In that moment I could not doubt her one bit.

At the close of the day she offered her heartfelt thanks to Cricket India Academy for this rare opportunity saying, "this will inspire me and help me grow tremendously".

This may not yet offer a motion picture ending, however the flame has been lit and through her Cricket Education Program training and her own commitment to excellence young Shweta's dream of representing her country may become reality.



Shweta with Indian Women's Captain Jhulan Goswami



Shweta with Mithal Raj



Shweta with Rumeli Dhar