

Jubilant Indians does it in 'Lagaan' style!

(By- Pradeep kumar Senapati)

Jubilant Indians a **Team Yet To Face A Defeat** has proved a never ending patience, coordination, high determination, discipline, classic plan, hard effort, quality leadership, self confidence and expectation never go un-rewarded. The team smashed the opinion poll and presumption/mindset of our prospective predictors with their BBB (Ball by Ball) strategy.

As per the critics the team had been considered as One/Two Ma(e)n Army. But in course of tournament it showed that each individual of their team had to contribute something to grab this joy.

Initially when the team was formed, only six (Tapan, Karthik, Senapati, Uma, Bharat and Subrata) members were fixed and rest three was to be searched. Then Ravikanth, Srinath were included in the team. Still there was requirement of one more player. Ganesh was the last one to discover. These nine were the official players on behalf of Jubilant Indians.

The day came when Jubilant Indians had to play the inaugural match against Bulandi. It was a nice morning, players were getting excited to show their full potential and captain were busy informing their players. But the captain of Jubilant Indians was bit tensed counting his finger tips again and again as two of his players (Bharat and Srinath) were out of station since last 2 days. Some how he could able to manage one player in the form of Bhusan. Team reached the field with 8 members in the list. Tapan was still busy on his cell phone putting spectators in doubt (call from Bookies) to find 9th player for the team. Uma reached field with his ex-room mate Vinod. The first word he had to face from his captain was "Is your friend playing in any team". The answer "NO" from Uma helped the captain to take the first comfortable breath of the day. So Vinod was the last and most important discover for the Jubilant Indians. Vinod's roommate Rammuthy became the reserve player.

Tapan: The captain of the Champion of the Champions is a very determined and cool guy with his quality to bat only in crisis and a part time spin bowler a good motivator and friendly, helped the whole team to play to their full potential and grab the trophy.

Subrata: Bengal Tiger (Backbone of Jubilant Indians) with his classic calculated shots from his bat and balls from his magic hand attracted the public. He is the highest individual scorer in a match and in the whole tournament. His presence in the field was an entertainment for the spectators, a terror to the opponent and a relief for the Jubilant Indians.

Karthik: The pace spearhead of the team with his consistent and effective bowling performance didn't allow the captain to think much on the weak fourth bowler in the team. Karthik showed his fearsome bowling in the final, by bowling the '**spell of the tournament**' by taking 3 Indian senior's wickets in one over. Also contributed good run from his bat with 1s and 2s in all the matches.

Uma: The in-form **Manoj Prabhkar** of Jubilant Indians A classic stroke player and excellent bowler who never hesitate whenever asked to open the innings either with ball or bat. A Classic all-rounder and a sharp and dynamic player in the field too.

Senapati: Player always in field, always in action, everywhere in action except in the pitch. He didn't depend only on his bat to stop the ball hitting stump but the whole body. A classic fielder (2 catches and two run outs in semifinal) and was a part time bowler, but interestingly turned out to be a deadly pace bowler during the tournament.

Ravikanth: When team was running short of a wicket keeper he took the responsibility on his shoulder and was part of many dismissal in the whole tournament and was a good encourager.

Vinod: Master blaster of the team whose bat talks only in 4s and 6s but showed a great piece of patience in final when the team was struggling at 29/4 in 9 overs to reach the target of 44. He also improved in the bowling and fills the place of 4th bowler of the team in semifinal and final.

Ganesh: Very shy and cool guy shown his classic batting style with couple of stroke from his bat and was a very good asset for the captain for batting bowling and fielding.

Bhusan: In the two matches he played, he didn't get opportunities to show his talent but his very slow and perfect bowling style helped the team in getting crucial wicket in the inaugural match.

Rammuthy: The reserve player also didn't get opportunity but was very active and friendly in the field to encourage and support other players. His presence in the field was unforgettable.

First League Match: JI (Jubilant Indians) started its journey just like a true champion in the inauguration match against a well equipped team Bulandi under the captaincy of Sathya Das. Tapan won the toss and elected to bat as per the unanimous decision of the team. Subrata and Vinod blasted the confident bowling lineup of Bulandi all over the ground to reach a massive total of 84 for 6 in 12 overs. Front line bowlers Uma, Karthik and Subrata did a splendid job with their balls to make the Bulandi all out in 61 runs. The fun part of the match was, Senapati thought he will be given only one over, but he wanted to bowl more than that and bowled 15 ball's in a over to finish his quota.

Second League match: After wining the first league match the roaring captain of JI again own the toss and elected to bat in the second match against Ball Breakers. This was the match, which set all the records in the tournament. **Highest ever score of a team in the tournament, 106 runs. Highest individual score in a match by Subrata, 45 runs.** Heavy rain could not resist these highly sports spirited folks to stop, rather they played with more enthusiasm when bat was slipping out of the hand for each and every shots they played. Fortunately none got injured as a result. The interesting thing came in the next morning when both the teams went into the field as early as 8:30 a.m.in the morning to finish the 2nd innings. It was really amazing which also proves the true spirit of both teams. Bowlers repeated the same story and bowled out the Ball Breakers for 69 runs.

Semifinal: Time came to stream line the BBB plan for the semi final against the most favorite team Baltown Eagles (BE). Tapan was lucky to get batting even after loosing the toss. It was hard time for the batsman to face good pace line up of BE. As the tournament entered into knock out stage JI has to come with something new, as a result of which a new opening pair went into the field to face the storm of BE. Partnership of Uma and Ganesh gave a solid foundation to build good score for JI. But some splendid bowling from Ravi, Venky caused severe damage to JI. The JI batsman was coming in the pitch and going back to the pavilion on a regular basis. But the Star of the tournament Subrata was just looking for a solid partner, eventually he found him in form of Vinod and then Karthik. Their sensible play with Subrata helped JI to reach a respectable score of 72 for 7 in 12 overs. JI bowlers were fired up. The champion's got the ideal start they wanted when they got wicket in the very first ball. An excellent over from Uma saw 2 BE. batsman back in the pavilion. The experimented bowler Vinod also bowled very economically. As a result, the opposition was at 9 for 3 after 3 overs. A good and sensible partnership between Ravi and Venky took the game almost in their favor. But as usual a good partnership always gets broken in form of a run out and that's what happened. Ravi just flicked the ball to onside and ever alert Senapati was there in the flash and found Ravi well short of the ground in non-striker end. Situation came when 9 runs were needed in 2 overs with 4 wickets in hand. The pace spearhead Subrata has finished his quota of 3 overs, the ground was full of tension and pain in Uma's shoulder. Still Uma came up with the over of the match when he took 2 wickets including knocking Venky's middle

stump out of the ground. In the last over 6 needed and 2 wickets in hand, ball was in Karthik's hand and he bowled like a man in process. The fielders were charged up and saw a run out in the very 2nd ball of the over. 4 needed from 3 balls, the batsman flicked the ball onside, ever alert Senapati threw the ball in non striker's end and Subrata was there in a flash collected the ball and hit the stump like Jonty. Match was over and JI stormed into the final where Indian Senior's were waiting for the 'Clash of the Titan's'.

Final: It was the day to fight for the cup against the most popular and strong team the Indian Seniors. Morally boosted by the opinion poll with 60% vote in favor and only 20% against Indian Seniors were at ground in time with their supporters. JI. as usual were very cool and calm came to the field one after another. Weather was also very soft with pleasant sunrays on the field. Umpires Muthu and Ravi were all set for toss. This time Tapan was fortunate enough to lose the toss and being asked for bowling. Here the game started with Uma bowling to Raghu. Then Karthik the man of the match ruined the Indian Senior's innings taking 3 wickets in one over. This was not only the time for the JI. to celebrate but the nature also celebrated with a furious lightening hurting many of the spectators and players following a mild rain fall. Game resumed after rain and the same story went on repeated and Indian Senior collapsed with a total run of 44 on the board. Over confident JI. started batting with Karthik and Uma against the fast and tricky bowling of Gurjeet and Bishwanath. Uma, star batsman Subrata and Senapati got out very cheaply. Karthik played very sensibly getting 1s and 2s and was unfortunate to get run out. Now the Indian Seniors were celebrating their virtual win when Tapan the captain of the champions came for rescue and played a captain's innings with Vinod and reached very close to the target score. Still coin was revolving with probability of 50 and 50. The hard heater of JI. Vinod showed a perfect example of patience and cool to hit the winning shot with Bhushan at the non-striker end.

'**Lagaan**' the imposed defeat by the result of the opinion poll was released from the shoulder of the JI. while all the champions were running in the field with joy being congratulated by the spectators, players and organizers.

Records of the Tournament Set by JI

- Highest Score in the innings (106)
- Highest Individual Score in one innings (45 by Subrat)
- Never allout in whole Tournament
- 3 wickets in a over (By Karthik)
- Bowled out the opponents in all their matches