

# Police SC a vintage soccer club

The history of football in the Police Department dates back to over half a century. From the time of IGP Herbert Dowbiggin to the present IGP T. E. Anandarajah, football in the Police Department has been given top priority.

In turn, Police SC had produced a number of national 'stars' to prove that the encouragement and the assistance given by the department has not gone waste.

Police SC entered the local soccer fray during the days of Java Lane, the Harlequins, Nawalanka FC, Badulla YMMA and Price Park who held sway in the sports.

Looking back to the early years, we remember names like A. B. Roy (the man with the longest throw from the sidelines), T. Meedin (that lanky tall player from Badulla, who was dubbed as 'Chandra Babu') goal keeper M. A. Fareed, the slick inside forward, T. S. Amidon, Scott, J. Deen, Kanthi B. Pussella the six-foot custodian, Heren Dias, T. H. Ahmath, Williams, Davidson, Somapala, Dharmaratne, Hussain from Badulla, Rajalingam Devadas, Pingo, 'Nithy', Nicholas, Tuan Naeem, (brother of goal-keeper Hashim Deen) M. Seewa Rathnam all of whom contributed their valuable share to give Police football due recogni-

tion.

Two of those memorable matches in which police figured and this writer had the privilege of witnessing the 1948 FA Cup Final between Police and Sunrise and the 1949 FA Cup Final between Police and Saunders.

## Police lose 2 FA Cup Finals

In the final between Sunrise and Police SC, the former won the coveted cup by two goals to one. The match was played at the Government Services Grounds and attracted a capacity crowd. The 'winner' for Sunrise was scored by Raymond who on receiving a pass from his skipper, T. M. Noor ran solo to beat the Police goal-keeper, Fareed with an angular drive.

That Police team included players like Fareed at goal, Williams, Deen, Roy, Davidson, Somapala, Meedin and Dharmaratne, to name a few.

The 1949 FA Cup final where police meet the mighty Saunders in another final also evoked much interest and was won by the Kehelwatte side.

Incidentally, the year 1949 was a glorious one for Saunders as they won the Manning Shield, Abdul Rahuman Memorial Trophy and also annexed both City FL and Colombo FL trophies.

Police SC not only produced a galaxy of

soccer 'stars', but also gave the game such versatile referees in the calibre of B. H. M. Preena, T. Perimpanyagam, T. B. Bongso, to name a few.

Those were days when our referees had no FIFA or any other foreign qualification, but learning the rules and regulation of the game these men studied the game thoroughly and did their job with perfect precision and authority.

These days the assaults on referees and linesman were not heard off. Sadly, today some of our so-called FIFA qualified referees are beaten and booed in the field of play.

What expense and time one has to spend to get these foreign qualifications, I wonder.

Beside, the referees, Police SC also produced some fine administrators in the sport and top slot goes to the late V. K. Arumugam, who not only developed police football, but was also one of the greatest benefactors of the poor man's game.

He was one of the most successful secretaries the Ceylon FA had at that time.

## DiG Randeni's great promotion

In the past, we saw the Police team strengthened by players like Clement de Silva, Harold Anthony, Tilak Wanigaratne, B. D. Preena and Asoka Naugalgale, all of whom had

donned the national jersey at sometime or other.

In the recent past with the arrival of DIG Gamini Randeni the incumbent president of the FFSLand the 'big boss' of police football had witnessed a rejuvenation of sorts, with many young and talented players been absorbed into the team due to the untiring efforts of DIG Gamini Randeni, S.S.P. Sunil Perera and former national goal-keeper, Harold Anthony.

Here, we must also mention the services rendered to police football by that mercurial Old Ben Tilak Wanigaratne who moulded a good side during his tenure as police coach.

DIG Randeni himself a fine soccerite in his day, had been promoting football where ever he was stationed and had also lent a helping hand for the promotion of women's football in the department.

The signing of P. S. J. Packeer Ally, once a national skipper and better known for his contribution to such Asian teams like, Abhani SC, Mohammedians, Mohan Began on a professional basis as the police coach has been a correct direction to take police football to the top of the local football scene.

Police SC had also been pioneers in setting up the Jaffna FA in 1939, with other members being YMCA, Excise SC, Chundukuli SC, St.

Joseph's Karainagar SC, and Subas SC.

In 1989 Police SC was in the National League (first division). This league also had teams like Sunny Mount, Black Square, Jupiters, Negombo, Air Force "Migs", all top rated clubs at that time.

The young and enterprising Police SC participating in the ongoing Premier League championship- 2003/04, are placed No. 2 next to Army SC. The cops have as at August 18 2003 accumulated 19 points to be in that position along with Blue Star SC and Kalutara.

On their run to second spot, Police has beaten such strong teams like Matara SC 3-0, Victory SC 1-0, Jupiters SC 2-0, Old Bens 1-0, it mention a few.

The present Police squad reads: J. Hashimdeen, A. S. H. Liyanage, M. Galagedera, M. P. D. S. Kumara, P. K. Weeraratne, D. M. Sugath, M. R. S. Miskin, Y. M. P. B. Yapa, H. B. N. Charaka, B. A. R. Jayavilal, M. A. Thazmi, P. G. R. S. Sanjeewa, T. N. C. Perera, M. J. T. Sampath, L. A. Sureda, C. P. K. Thandakkara, A. H. D. Kumara, J. Jesudasan, R. Silva, S. M. Rafeek, L. A. G. J. L. Arachchi, J. P. U. Seneviratne, J. H. P. J. Caldera, A. A. S. P. Kumara and S. Devinda, Manager: Sunil Perera (SSP), (Coach) Packeer Ally. (Colours: Blue & White.

## Celebrations in St Kitts after Collins gold

BASSETERRE, St Kitts and Nevis, Aug 26 (Reuters) - The tiny Caribbean nation of St Kitts and Nevis, population 45,000, was still celebrating on Tuesday after Kim Collins won the country's first gold medal at the world championships in Paris on Monday.

A government spokesman said the cabinet would hold a special session on Wednesday to consider an "appropriate response" to Collins's victory in the 100 metres.

Collins had already been awarded a three-bedroomed house by the government of prime minister Denzil L. Douglas for his achievements in the sport. His portrait features on a set of postage stamps and he has had a local highway named after him.

A local hardware shop rewarded him for the win in Paris with a car and has also offered to redecorate his house.

Joyous supporters left their offices and businesses and took to the streets cheering as soon as Collins won.

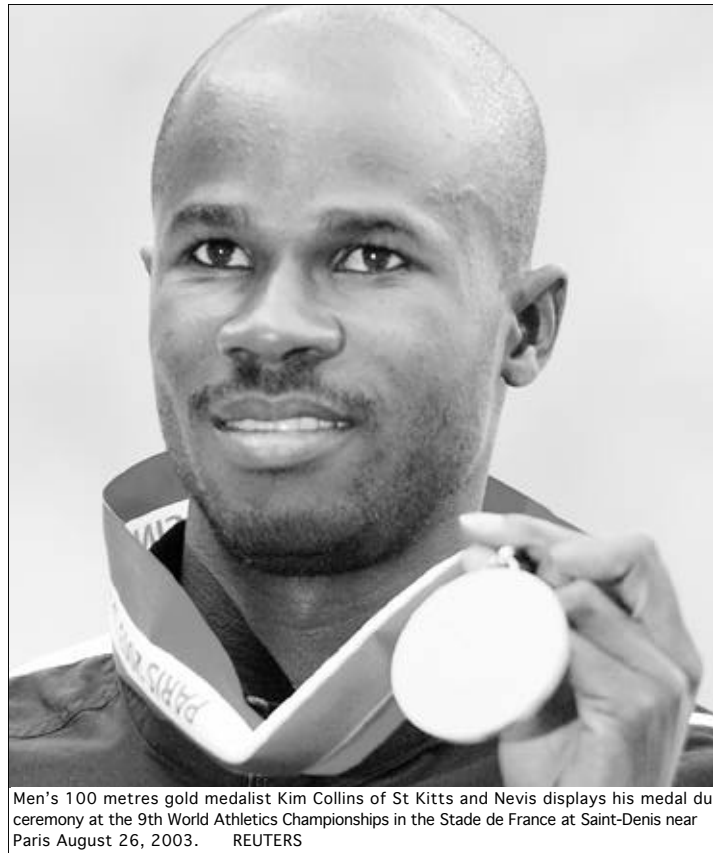
Later, a motorcade rode around the island of St Kitts, where Collins was born and raised, stopping to visit prime minister Douglas at his home where he is recovering from surgery.

Douglas gave his congratulations to Collins's girlfriend and son, who were part of the motorcade.

"This is of enormous significance to the nation of St Kitts and Nevis and...the wider Caribbean," said Lester Blackett, president of the Leeward Islands Athletic Association.

"This obviously is a culmination of years of training, effort and dedication and shows that much can be achieved once one is determined to achieve it."

Blackett said Collins's win would have an immense effect on sport in the country, not only for the athletes, but for the officials,



Men's 100 metres gold medalist Kim Collins of St Kitts and Nevis displays his medal during a ceremony at the 9th World Athletics Championships in the Stade de France at Saint-Denis near Paris August 26, 2003. REUTERS

coaches, government departments such as youth and sports and the ministry of education.

"The benefit to the nation goes beyond

sports and will effect things such as the economy and its standing in the world community," he said.

## Real their own worst enemies going into new season

MADRID, Aug 27 (Reuters) - Real Madrid should be looking forward to a leisurely stroll towards a 30th Spanish league title after adding David Beckham to a lineup already boasting the game's most destructive attacking force.

However, the defending champions have been their own worst enemies in the build-up to the new domestic season and a series of internal squabbles could yet open the door to one of several challengers.

Incredibly, coach Vicente del Bosque and captain Fernando Hierro were both dumped after last season's title win — much to the displeasure of the other senior players — and new Portuguese boss Carlos Queiroz will be glancing nervously over his shoulder unless the team's start is impeccable.

Barcelona have spent heavily to bring in six players, including Brazilian World Cup playmaker Ronaldinho for 30 million euros (\$32.65 million), and there is a renewed sense of optimism under club president Joan Laporta.

Deportivo Coruna and Valencia have not been able to invest on such a scale but will still be dangerous, while Real Sociedad should at least be able to prove that last season's second-place finish was no fluke.

The chances of one of the league's more modest teams bothering the favourites have

receded, with the gap between rich and poor growing ever wider.

While Real Madrid and Barcelona will pocket more than 50 million euros each season from new television rights deals, medium-sized clubs such as Espanyol will have to settle for less than a quarter of that amount.

Eight of the smallest top flight clubs and the 22 second division clubs will be even worse off after finally agreeing to call off a strike threat and accept an offer of 264 million euros between them over three seasons.

Real are in a different financial league to the rest of the country and club president Florentino Perez was able to sign England cap-

## Montgomery leaves world championships early

PARIS, (Reuters) - World 100 metres record holder Tim Montgomery has made a premature exit from the world championships and will not take part in this weekend's 4x100 metres relay.

A spokesman for USA Track & Field said on Tuesday the American sprinter had already left Paris. He said he did not know the reason.

Montgomery finished fifth in Monday's 100 metres final.

tain Beckham for 35 million euros from Manchester United.

Perez then snatched Queiroz from his job as assistant coach at Old Trafford to demonstrate beyond doubt that Real are now the club with the biggest pulling power around.

Beckham has not enjoyed a spectacular pre-season but he will take heart from the fact that Luis Figo, Zinedine Zidane and Ronaldo all needed time to settle after making their own high-profile moves.

A bigger worry will be over influential French midfielder Claude Makelele, who has been in open rebellion over his position as one of the lowest-paid members of the squad.

The defending relay champions have already lost Olympic champion Maurice Greene and former American champion Jon Drummond.

Greene was injured in the semi-finals, while Drummond withdrew from the championships on Tuesday after holding up competition for nearly an hour on Sunday when he was disqualified in the second round of the 100 metres.

## Cricket Umpires seminar in Kalmunai

A seminar for Cricket Umpires was conducted recently in Kalmunai organised by the Kalmunai Cricket Association.

Twenty umpires participated at the seminar,

which was declared open by the Sports Development Board President and Lecturer M. I. M. Mustaffa.

M. A. Sallam, member of the Cricket Umpires Association conducted the seminar. A special book in connection with cricket was

## Eleven Stars SC win all island 6-a-side softball cricket.

Eleven Stars Sports Club, a team from Dehiwela carried away the all-island six-a-side softball cricket trophy with a cash prize of Rs. 20,000/= when they beat Kotikahawatte SC also a team from Colombo in the final, played at the Badulla Cricket grounds.

A total of 31 teams islandwide participated at the tournament which was organised by Jolly Boys Sports Club, Badulla.

The Mayor of Badulla M. D. A. Hemachandra was the chief guest and distributed the awards.

### Result:

Semifinal: Eleven Stars SC beat Bull's SC Badulla and Kotikahawatte SC beat Park Rangers Dehiwela.

Finals: Eleven Stars SC (66) beat Kotikahawatte SC (20)

Best Bowler: Asanka Deepal (Bull's SC Badulla)

Best Batsman: Thusitha Pathum (Henwella SC Badulla)

Man of Match: S. Kanchana (Eleven Stars SC Dehiwela).

## Passara YSC score their first win

Passara Youth Sports Club scored their first win ever by beating Old Duthians Sports Club, Badulla in their Badulla League "A" division football match played at the Vincent Dias Stadium in Badulla.

Passara Youth who led 1-0 at the half time scored two more goals in the last stages of the

game to win 3-0.

Referee: Anura de Silva

In the "B" division match played on the same day at the same venue Dharmadutha SC beat Al Adhan SC by 3 goals to one.

Ajith Ebert Silva refereed.

## Comrades SC win 4-1

Reigning Badulla league football champions - Comrades Sports Club beat Uva Transport Board SC by 4 goals 1 in their 2003 Badulla Football League curtain raiser encounter played at the Vincent Dias Stadium. At half time the winners led by 1-0.

The game turned rough during the second half when Comrades custodian was sent off of the field for using abusive language. Eight more players from both side were also shown yellow cards.

M. Rizmee, S. Naushard and M. L. Nazari

scored the goals for Comrades while opponent B. U. Uvais added one more to the score when he headed the ball into his own goal. Chaminda Abeysekera scored the only goal for the Transport Board off a free kick.

Referee: Ajith Ebert Silva

In the "B" division encounter played at the same day at the same venue, newcomers Same Blood Sports Club beat Nawakatharu SC Hali Ela 1-0. Jayantha Ratnayake was the scorer.

S. Sanjeewa refereed.

## Moneragala SOS Children's Home win netball title

Moneragala S.O.S Children's Home excelled at the first ever Uva Province inter-children's home sports festival conducted at the Vincent Dias Stadium in Badulla.

Udaya Children's Home Badulla, St. Ursula's Children's Home Badulla Ambegoda Children's Home Bandarawela, Methodist Children's Home Badulla, S.O.S. Children's Home Moneragala, Certified School Keppetipola, Government and Children's Home "Sujatha Sevana" Bandarawela participated in the festival organised by the Uva Province Probation and Child Care Department.

Uva Province Co-operative, Cultural, Women's Affairs, Probation and Child Care Minister Katugaha Ratnayake was the chief

guest.

Athletics for boys and girls Under 11, 13, 15 and 18, netball and volleyball were also conducted. The winners of the meet are expected to participate in the all-Island inter-children's home sports festival later this year in Colombo.

Moneragala S.O.S. Children's Home won the netball title beating Udaya Children's Home Badulla.

Ambegoda Children's Home won the boys volleyball title beating Certified School Keppetipola by 2 sets to nil.

Methodist Children's Home won the girls volleyball title beating Udaya children's Home Badulla by 2-0.

## Half a million dollars on offer in Moscow

PARIS, (Reuters) - Half a million dollars will be on offer for the winner of the men's 100 metres at the Moscow Challenge meeting on September 20.

At a news conference on Tuesday organisers said \$2.4 million prize money would be up

for grabs.

The highest prize will be \$500,000 for the winner of the men's 100 and the lowest will be \$75,000. Gold medalists at the current world championships earn \$60,000.