

2007 ASIA CUP GOLD WINNERS

PLAYER PROFILES

Adrian D'Souza
Goalkeeper
March 24, 1984
Matches: 89
Asia Cup: Debut



'Bandra Boy' Adrian D'Souza shot into fame when he emerged victorious in the tie-breaker against South Korea in the 2004 Asia Cup semis. India won the Cup ultimately at Karachi, Pakistan. Made junior debut in 2003 (Akber el Yom Cup, Cairo) and the senior debut next year in Kuala Lumpur at the 13th Sultan Azlan Shah Cup. A product of New Delhi-based Air India Hockey Academy pipped Kamaldeep Singh and Bharat Chetri in the race for the Athens Olympics slot and did well when the experienced Devesh Chauhan struggled to strike rhythm. Since then he has been a regular in the team. As captain, he gave a good account of himself at the 2005 Junior World Cup. Missed many tours due to indifferent health. Won the silver at the 2008 Sultan Azlan Shah Cup. Plays for Bharat Petroleum in the domestic circuit and Maratha Warriors in the Premier Hockey League.

Shivender Singh
Midfielder
June 9, 1983
Matches: 40
Goals: 19



The youngster from Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh is an exciting forward. A product of Bombay SAI Sports Hostel, Shivender Singh was trained by coach S.P. Singh and then by Gurbux Singh in the Western Railways. Represented the city in the 1998 Sub-Jr. Nationals. Joined Western Railways five years later. The best player of both 2003 and 2005 Bombay Gold Cup, he was in the training camp for the 2003 Jr. Challenge Cup, Poznan, Poland, but was not selected. An extraordinary show of talent in the second PHL, where he was among the goals for Maratha Warriors, he forced his way to the national side. Made his senior appearance in 2006 in the Pakistan series, which followed that year's premier Hockey League. The scoring prowess of this late-comer to the Indian side at the 2006 Sultan Azlan Cup came in for praise by all. Since debut, he has been a fixture in all the Indian assignments.

Note: Records (Matches, goals and other details) as of Nov. 2008.

Gurbaj Singh
Midfielder
August 9, 1988
Caps: 31
Goals: 1



Gurbaj Singh is a gifted midfielder, who can change the course of any match on his day. A product of now defunct Kirloskar Hockey Academy (Jalandhar). Usually plays at the right-half position and sets up attacks for others with clever run downs and precise crosses. Made his senior international debut at the Doha Asian Games and since then has been a fixture in the all India's assignments. Won a bronze (2007) and a silver (2008) in the Azlan Shah Cup and gold at the 2007 Asia Cup. He led India to victory at the Hyderabad Junior Asia Cup.

V. Raghunath
Defender
November 1, 1988
Matches: 50
Goals: 40



Another gem of a player to emerge from the never-ending stable of Coorg in Karnataka. The burly defender was part of the silver-winning SAF Games team and also won bronze and silver in 2007 and 2008 editions of Sultan Azlan Shah Cup. An Asia Cup gold medalist. Raghunath scored 17 goals in May, 2008 alone. Raghunath is a good drag-flicker, scored many beautiful goals for India in crucial moments. He came into national mainline news when he was selected for the 2006 Senior World Cup when Sandeep Singh was accidentally injured before the tournament. He was played by the coach V. Baskaran in the latter part of the World Cup, where he did a decent job despite being a colt pitted against the world's best. Raghunath's first foray into the national side was the Sub-Junior Asia Cup, Dhaka, which India won. He made his senior international debut against Pakistan in the bi-lateral series in 2005.

SV Sunil
Forward
May 6, 1989
Matches: 20
Goals: 6



SV Sunil is a talented forward. Blessed with an athletic body, the Coorg player sets up goals for others besides scoring in opportune moments. He played his first senior international in Chennai in the 2007 Asia