



## DEMPO ARE I-LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

### From the GS' Desk



Football is all about team work. The manner in which Dempo SC maintained their lead all throughout in the I-League to emerge Champions is commendable indeed -- that too, with a round to spare.

The I-League is the ultimate test for a professional player. The amount of travelling across the length and breadth of the country, adjusting to different food habits, climate and then inspiring himself to play out of his skin, defines a victory. My Heartiest Congratulations to Dempo SC. They are the deserving Champions. This is their 3<sup>rd</sup> I-League crown; not to forget they had won the National Football League twice.

I also congratulate the two qualifiers from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division League – United Sikkim Football Club and ONGC, both of whom booked a berth to next edition's I-League. I welcome both the clubs to the Premier Division.

The month also witnessed the second Workshop for Coaches being organised in New Delhi. The Workshop was conducted by our Technical Director, Mr. Rob Baan and Mr. Scott O'Donnell, Technical Manager, Regional and Elite Academies. AIFF is stressing on Coaches Education and we will be having more such Workshops in the future. An AFC 'C' Certificate Course is also being organised in SAI, Kolkata.

It is with great pleasure that I state that May will witness the launch of the first AIFF Regional Academy at Father Agnel School, Navi Mumbai, which I believe will be a landmark in the history of AIFF. What better time than the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the AIFF to launch the first academy. I am also eagerly awaiting the launch of the other academies in June/July this year.

Warm Regards

*Kushal Das*



Dempo Sports Club, Goa created history when they won the I-League for the fifth time after they held Kingfisher East Bengal to a goalless draw on April 20, 2012 at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Fatorda. The result took the Goan outfit to 54 points from 25 matches - beyond the reach of any other club.

The Goan giants made their intentions clear since the very first match of the League when they beat last edition's Champions Salgaocar SC 1-0. Since then there has been no looking back for Armando Colaco's men. Till the 25<sup>th</sup> round, Dempo scored 56 goals and have conceded only 21.

However, in the mid of the season, Dempo's run for the title hunt received a major setback when Head Coach Armando Colaco suffered a cardiac arrest. But his deputy Mauricio Alfonso didn't let the momentum slip.

Nigerian striker Ranti Martins has been exceptional for Dempo this season. He has pumped in 31 goals for the team (till April 28, 2012) on their way to the ultimate prize. In the last edition too, he remained the top scorer with 30 goals.

The Goan giants would be presented with the I-League Champions Trophy in their last match against Prayag United Sports Club in Kolkata at the Salt Lake Stadium on May 5, 2012.



### PRIZE MONEY OF I-LEAGUE:

- ▶ Champions: Rs. 70 lakh
- ▶ Runners-up: Rs. 40 lakh
- ▶ 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Rs. 25 lakh
- ▶ 4<sup>th</sup> place: Rs. 15 lakh
- ▶ Prize for winning a match (each match): Rs. 35000
- ▶ Man-of-the-Match awards (each match): Rs. 5000

### ROLL OF HONOUR - I-League

Year	Champions	Runners-Up
2007-08	Dempo Club	Churchill Brothers
2008-09	Churchill Brothers	Mohun Bagan
2009-10	Dempo SC	Churchill Brothers
2010-11	Salgaocar Club	East Bengal

### ROLL OF HONOUR - NFL

Year	Champions	Runners-Up
1996-97	JCT	Churchill Brothers
1997-98	Mohun Bagan	East Bengal
1998-99	Salgaocar	East Bengal
1999-00	Mohun Bagan	Churchill Brothers
2000-01	East Bengal	Mohun Bagan
2001-02	Mohun Bagan	Churchill Brothers
2002-03	East Bengal	Salgaocar Club
2003-04	East Bengal	Dempo Club
2004-05	Dempo Club	Sporting Clube
2005-06	Mahindra United	East Bengal
2006-07	Dempo Club	JCT Club

Page 2: Interview with Dempo SC Captain Mahesh Gawli



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# 'It's like climbing Everest for one more time'



Winning an I-League title isn't any new to him. But winning another I-League title, as Gawli puts it, "is like climbing Mount Everest for one more time." Moments after Dempo SC won their fifth League crown, the Dempo skipper spoke at length to [www.the-aiff.com](http://www.the-aiff.com) about his experience of playing in Dempo, the most feared rival striker, Indian football fans, the transfer season and much more.

**EXCERPTS:**

***What is so special about Dempo SC?***

It's a family club and in real sense, the moment one joins the club, he becomes a family member. 'Part of the family' isn't just a phrase at Dempo. There's support for the players. The management stays patient and understands the situation without putting any pressure which allows the players the freedom to play with a free mind. The Chairman (Mr. Srinivas Dempo) is always there to motivate you. All of that that makes us special, I'd say super-special.

***... and Dempo's style of playing?***

We stress on playing possession football. The more you keep the ball, the better. After all, in football it's all about the ball. Keeping possession allows you to be creative and control the pace of the game. That's also Dempo's speciality.

***You have played all over India. Would you rate Dempo as the best club you have played in?***

I've had good phases in all the clubs I've played and the memories will stay with me forever. Dempo certainly stays one of the better clubs. I'd also like to highlight my stay in Mahindra United. The facilities were good and they were a professional club who took care of their footballers. It's unfortunate they closed shop.

Playing for East Bengal was a big honour. It's such a historic club. But in Kolkata the fans stay impatient and come down to personal attacks whenever the team loses.

***We often speak of Player's education. How much important do you feel is Fans' education?***

How do you do that? Invariably when you go to play as a rival team, you are greeted by the choicest of abuses. They hurl personal attacks on your near and dear ones – they don't spare anyone.

To me, that's not passion. Obviously fans need to be passionate. But they need to respect others too. Very often, they don't spare their own coach, players, leave aside the visiting team. You lose a match and your car is damaged, you can't go home on your own.

In the Western World, fans are passionate too. But their players are not subject to such torture; never! Mark my words, the day fans of the club cheer for their players on the field even after a loss, the scenario will change. You shouldn't demean others; you shouldn't pelt stones. That's not football.

***You have played against some of the best foreign recruits in recent times. Who stays the best striker so far?***

At present Ranti Martins stays the best striker. But I have never played against him. A match situation is entirely different from a practice session. In a practice session, you may hold back your tackles in the fear of your teammate getting injured.

Among all those I have played against, Odafa Okolie stays way above the rest. He's lethal.

***At the club level, which has been the most memorable tournament for you so far?***

I'd pick up two moments. -- the ASEAN Cup triumph for East Bengal and Dempo SC qualifying for the AFC Cup semifinal.

***Have you been approached by any other club to play for them next season? What about your Dempo teammates?***

Our Chairman had told us long back that he would be speaking to us about next season's contracts once the I-League ends. Winning another I-League title is like climbing the Mount Everest for one more time. The contracts for the next season can wait. Let's enjoy the moment.





# Coaches Workshop concludes in New Delhi



The three-day Coaches Workshop for Coaches concluded at the Ambedkar Stadium in New Delhi on Sunday (April 15). The Workshop which was conducted by AIFF Technical Director Mr. Rob Baan and Mr. Scott O'Donnell, Technical Manager for Regional and Elite Academies, was attended by 12 Indian Coaches plus a Coach from Australia.

This was the second such Workshop which was organised by the All India Football Federation – the earlier one being held in the Capital from January 13-15, 2012.

The Workshop came in for praise from the participants. Former Team India Assistant Coach Stanley Rozario, who has also coached the Kolkata Big-two, felt the Workshop was a breath of fresh air. "It was nice to refresh myself. Such a Workshop was long due and it was nice to be a part of it. Both Rob and Scott stressed on playing possession football. It was great to interact with them," he said.

Narayana Menon, India's U-23 Assistant Coach at the Pre-Olympic Qualifiers, added: "The focus is now shifting on the juniors. The intention is to create players who will be the flag-bearer for Indian football in the future. My only regret stays that it only lasted three days. It would have been excellent if we could spend more time at the Workshop."

The Workshop had different Theoretical and Practical Sessions – while the Theoretical sessions were held at Clarks Inn at Lajpat Nagar, the practical sessions were conducted at the Ambedkar Stadium.

Arthur Pappas, an Australian Coach who was also at the Workshop said "it was nice to be in India."

"It is very important for Indian football to develop Indian Coaches. The Workshop was very innovative and helpful indeed," he explained.

"This concept was a new one. The Workshop highlighted a style which Rob and Scott believe will take Indian football forward. I thank the All India Football Federation for arranging such a Workshop," Meghalaya's Thangboi Singto, Shillong Lajong's Assistant Coach, commented.

### The list of the participants was as follows:

Thangboi Singto (Meghalaya), Satheevan Balan, Narayana Menon (both Kerala), Stanley Rozario (Karnataka), Subrata Bhattacharya, Satyabrata Bhowmick, Mridul Kanti Bannerjee, Ranjan Bhattacharya (all from Bengal), Anadi Barua (Delhi), Santanu Basu, Bidhan Das (both from Assam) and Keshav Dutt (Haryana).





# USFC, ONGC qualify for I-League



United Sikkim Football Club and ONGC qualified for next edition's I-League by virtue of finishing first and second in the final phase of the 2nd division league which was played in two venues – Siliguri and Gangtok. Both USFC and ONGC finished on 22 points from 12 matches but USFC topped the Group on basis of better result on a Head-to-Head basis.

The joy of the league stayed that the qualifiers weren't decided till the last round. In the last match of the Group standings, both Mohammedan Sporting and United Sikkim stayed in contention to qualify. But a draw saw USFC through to the next edition's I-League.

In the process, USFC became the second club after Shillong Lajong from North East to qualify for the top flight.

Meanwhile, ONGC, bounced straight back into the I-League in their first attempt after being relegated from the elite tier in the 2010-11 season. They assured themselves of a top two finish in the final stage of the qualifiers after a 1-1 draw against Aizawl FC in their last league encounter.

## Team Standing 2nd Division Final Phase

Position	Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	United Sikkim FC	12	6	4	2	22	17	+5	22
2	ONGC	12	6	4	2	20	9	+11	22
3	Mohammedan SC	12	6	3	3	15	11	+4	21
4	Kalighat MS	12	4	4	4	18	15	+3	16
5	Royal Wahingdoh FC	12	5	1	6	14	15	-1	16
6	Vasco SC	12	3	4	5	18	23	-5	13
7	Aizawl FC	12	1	2	9	14	31	-17	5

## AFC 'C' Certificate Course kicks-off in SAI, Kolkata

Twenty three participants including two ladies are enlightening themselves in the ongoing AFC 'C' Coaching Certificate Course at the Sports Authority of India (SAI), Eastern Centre, Kolkata. The Course ends on April 29, 2012. Mr. Parthasarathy Thulasi stays the Course Instructor.

The Course is run with an aim to have an Academical co-operation with the SAI, Kolkata and to integrate the AFC coaching methodology for students specialising in Football. A similar course was earlier conducted in 2011 at NIS, SAI, Patiala in 2011.

The list of participants stay as follows:

Lalsangliana, Lalliantluanga Pachua, Victor Lalbiakmawia, Deepak Boro, Locnan Singh Bagnei, S.Surentnakumar, Alison Caradeen Kharsyntiew, Tsering Dorjee Wangja, Anthony Abraham, Hemam Jembo Singh, Vinay Mohan Goswami, P. Jeyaprakash, Sameer Kumar Naik, Ms.Pooja Bhatt, Ms.Vipul Rani, Nataraj Das, Alauddin Rahaman, Sandip Kr. Maity, Aditya Chatterjee, Subhas Singha Roy, Tarak Basak, Goutam Chanda, Samiran Brahma.



### UPCOMING

- Mumbai Academy launch
- I-League Trophy presentation
- Camp for AFC U-22 Qualifiers
- U-20 League for I-League Teams

(In our next Edition)



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