

Young Achiever of the Year- Sports

Mohammad Siraj.....

This name didn't ring a bell till a few months ago... Except his cricketing pals, no one knew who he was.

But today, he is an instant celebrity in the world of cricket.

He stayed focused despite his mother's frequent admonitions over his fetish for the bat and ball.

Even when he went to work as a spray painter to support his auto driver father Ghouse, Siraj never lost sight of his target.

He believed in the game. He believed himself. He toiled hard to prove himself.

He began with tennis ball and a bunch of bylane buddies. Today, he rose to a level where he is auctioned for Rs 2.60 crore in IPL Season 10.

The nation sang paeons to him. But he stayed rooted. When he said that he wants to buy a decent house for his parents with the IPL money, he had won hearts without even bowling a single delivery.

Living in a dusty, narrow lanes of Khaja Nagar near Masab Tank, he dreamt of making it to the ranks of India's top cricketers. Even as an untrained bowler, he sent the batsmen reeling by bowling at 140 km per hour. Coach Adnan spotted his talent quite early and made him play the league matches. He bagged 59 wickets and was soon spotted by HCA selectors. Talent and talent alone helped him rise in the ranks in Hyderabad cricket which is mired in politics and nepotism. He took 29 wickets as a member of Hyderabad under-23 team. That secured him a place in the Ranjis. He stood third with 41 wickets in the last Ranji season. He was chosen for Irani Cup and Indian A team. Then the IPL 1- happened. His incredible rag to riches story was scripted by his determination, dedication, sweat and toil. He is sure to inspire sporting ambitions in countless youths and prod parents to encourage the sporting talent of their wards. For this incredible contribution, Sakshi proudly presents Sakshi Excellence Awards 2016 Young Achiever of the year sports to Mohammad Siraj.