

Angelo Mathews: A phenomenal inspiration!

by Rochelle Palipane Gunaratne

Angelo Mathews, the youngest all rounder in the Sri Lanka cricket team is an inspiration to our youth. At 22, the talented youngster excels in batting, bowling and fielding often giving us cause to "whoop," with his acrobatic displays in fielding.

Born on June 2, 1987, Angelo attended St. Joseph's College and took to cricket akin to a 'duck to water,' as the epithet goes proving his mettle in every game. His skills were primarily honed at home and school, never having gone to any private institutions for specialized training. He captained the school U-13, U-15, U-16 and U-19 cricket teams, thereby earning the honour as the 'Most Outstanding Cricketer.'

He received the 2006 Prince of Wales Trophy by Dominic Chilcott, the erstwhile British High Commissioner, who said: "He is clearly going places and before long will be a household name throughout the cricketing world!"

Subsequently, Angelo captained the Sri Lanka Under-19 team, the Sri Lanka Development squad team and thereafter secured a spot in the National team and continues to hold forte as a formidable player.

'The Island': Is it tough being the youngest player in the team?

Angelo: No, as I am treated as an equal by the others. There is no favouritism. It is a team effort and each player is required to play their role effectively, irrespective of age or seniority levels.

'The Island': How do you handle criticism?

Angelo: Positively! Any criticism is constructive and I strive to improve but if its mere gossip, I ignore it.

'The Island': What is your career aspiration?

Angelo: To be The Best All Rounder in the cricketing sphere and play as much cricket as I could muster.

'The Island': Who are your role models?

Angelo: Andrew Flintoff for his exemplary levels of performance as an all rounder and Kumar Sangakkara for his excellence in batting.

'The island': A memorable moment as a National team player?

Angelo: Preventing...from scoring a six at the T20 by pushing the ball forward, going over the line, getting back and catching it again! It was instinctive and thrilling!

'The Island': What's your modus operandi?

Angelo: To keep practicing all year through, irrespective of it being in or off season.

Through that I strive to be consistent in the game.

To the query about his support network, Angelo refers to his father, Tyrone Mathews as his tower of strength. "It was my father who played a mammoth role in my cricketing life, backing me at every opportunity, accompanying me to practices at school etc. I am also grateful to my mother Monica, who is equally supportive, my first coach Kapila Manohara, coach Jerome Jayaratne and other coaches who have and continue to mould me, Fr. Rector and the teachers of S.J.C. I am also grateful to my present coach, the players in the National team and a host of others."

'The Island': What is your message to youngsters who wish to tread a similar path?

Angelo: In order to excel in any sphere, one must sacrifice a great deal and have a sense of purpose. It is essential to focus on the path one wishes to tread without being distracted.



Angelo Mathews

Peterites All Island Overall tennis champions



St. Peter's College, Colombo All Island Inter-School Tennis Over-All tennis champion team

Standing third row from left to right: Ashfaq Ahmad, Aaron Assauw, Senal Rohana, Shavith Fernando, T. Dineshkanthan, Kevin Markandarajah, Kanishka Herath, Musthaq Mukhtar, Amith Weerasinghe, Dumindu Dilum, Mohamed Shaik, Chinthaka Shaveen, Haneef Zaroook, Amantha Weerasinghe and Hemdan Othman. Standing second row from left to right: Naved Nazeel, U. Dilshanth, R. Krishanthan, Demintha Fonseka, Kanishka Rajapakse, Chohan Fernando, N. Nishangan, Ravindu Athukorale, Arvind Anderson, R. Rajeevan, Nafess Sabri, Kalana Wijeratna, Radley Perumal, Shanitha Perera, Shashanka Gomez, Ramin Dharmaratne, Nisheth Mendis and Davishka Ranasinghe. Seated from left to right: Nabeel Sabri (Captain - Under 13), Bernard Jesuthasan (Master-in-Charge) Aritha Weerasinghe (Captain - Under-15) Rev. Fr. Shamira Nirosh Cooray (Sports Co-ordinator), Rev. Fr. Travis Gabriel (Rector), K. D. Y. Pathiraja (Coach) Danutha Fernando (Captain - Under-19) and Thilip Ravindran (Captain - Under-17).



The Under-19 team

Standing from left to right: Shavith Fernando, Chinthaka Shaveen, Musthaq Mukhtar, Kevin Markandarajah, T. Dineshkanthan, Dumindu Dilum and Mohamed Shaik. Seated from left to right: Amith Weerasinghe, Bernard Jesuthasan (Master-in-Charge), Rev. Fr. Shamira Nirosh Cooray (Sports Co-ordinator), Rev. Fr. Travis Gabriel (Rector), Danutha Fernando (Captain), K. D. Y. Pathiraja (Coach) and Kanishka Herath. Absent: Stephan Martin.

At the recently worked out All Island Inter School Tennis Championships conducted by the Sri Lanka Schools Tennis Association at the Sri Lanka Tennis Association courts, the Peterite tennis players reigned supreme by capturing the championship trophies in the Under-13, the Under-15 and the Under-19 age groups.

By virtue of this superlative achievement, the Peterites, for the third consecutive year and for the fourth time in five years clinched the most prestigious Overall Championship Trophy at the All Island Inter School Tennis Championships worked out for the calendar year 2009.

In their road to glory the Peterite Under-13 team beat Nalanda College 35 to nil, Isipatana College 35 nil, D. S. Senanayake College 30 to 5 and S. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia, 30-5.

In the semi finals they created a major upset by beating the much fancied

Colombo International School side 3 nil. The One of the Peterite players turned tables upside down when he beat a CIS player ranked Sri Lanka No. 2 in the first singles in straight sets. In the finals, the Petes beat registered a convincing 3-0 nil victory over Royal College, Colombo. They won the first single 6/0, 6/0, the second 8/0, 8/0 and the third 6-0, 6-1.

The Under-15 team, in their march to winning the championship beat S. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia, 35 to nil, Maliyadeva College 35 nil, St. Michael's College, Batticaloa, 35 to nil, Karadeniya Central College 35 nil and St. Joseph's College 35 nil.

In the semis they effortlessly beat Royal College 3 nil and Ananda College, Colombo, by the same margin in the final.

The Under-19 team, in the group stage, beat Nalanda College 35 nil, St. Benedict's College 35 nil, Trinity College 35 nil, St. Sebastian's College 35 nil, and S. Thomas' College Mount Lavinia, 35 nil.

They created a major upset when they beat the much favoured Ananda College team in the semis 3-0.

In the finals there was a massive upset as they beat unbeaten Royal College 3-2 to clinch the Under 19 All Island Inter School Tennis Championship Trophy.

This particular Under-19 Peterite Tennis team has played together for 10 years from Under-10 onwards, since 2001 and has won the All Island Inter School Tennis Championships for nine years; eight of this has been in a row.

This definitely is a mammoth, momentous and unparalleled achievement. Further, this is the third consecutive year that the Peterites have won the Under-19 All Island Inter School Tennis Championship.

The Peterites are coached by K. D. Y. Pathiraja, who has been with St. Peter's College for more than a decade and is chiefly responsible for the Peterite success story.

Close race among World Rally Championship leaders

SYDNEY (AP) - Rally Australia moves to a new part of the country - the roads and forests of northern New South Wales state - but two of the drivers at the top of the world championship standings after nine rounds are familiar faces.

Finland's Mikko Hirvonen has a three-point lead over five-time world champion Sebastien Loeb in a points race that looked for a while like it would be no contest.

Citroen driver Loeb, 35, appeared certain to take a sixth straight title after he won the first five legs of the 12-event Rally World Championship series. But the Frenchman has been outscored 38-15 over the last four events by Ford's Hirvonen, who won each of the last three rallies.

Only three rounds of the competition remain with all drivers heading into the unknown as they enter a region never before used for a WRC event. The last Rally Australia was held in 2006 around Perth in Western Australia state, 4,000 kilometers (2,500 miles) away.

Competitors in the rally beginning Thursday will face hard-packed gravel stages around the rural communities of Kyogle, Murwillumbah and Mullumbimby just south of the Queensland state border.

Hirvonen said there was no pressure on him going into the race.

"Well no, I'm the one who is leading, so I think it should be the (other) guys, who have the pressure," Hirvonen told Australian Associated Press on Monday.

"Obviously it's never going to be easy against Sebastien, but people were saying the same thing to me (before the event) in Finland, but I was really relaxed. I'm quite easy-going anyway. I just don't take any pressure."

Harcourts donates fitness supplements to Moors Sports Club

Text and pic by M. Farook Lantra

Harcourts (Pvt) Limited, one of the largest groups in healthcare, recently donated a large quantity of utility drugs and stamina building vitamins to Moors Sports Club.

Harcourts have been active in the sports arena, sponsoring sports events at school and club level.

Many junior level sports events were sponsored as an encouragement for spotting and developing talent from the grassroots level.

'Multifitt' and 'Manoll' will be the initial offerings from Harcourts for the fitness conscious and the sporty folk of Sri Lanka. Many more highly specialized products are under development for future launch.



Ahamed Rheyas (Chairman, Harcourts Pvt Ltd.) right, hands over a sample of 'Multifitt' to M. J. M. Muzammil (President, Moors Sports Club, left). Also in the picture are: M. Mubarak, M. Rizmi (Treasurer), Sanjith Madugalle (Business Head Harcourts Sigma Div), M. Zaroook (Secretary), M. Aroos (General Secretary, Moors SC) and Shuraim Moulana (Product Manager, Harcourts Sigma)