

Clocked by a Soccer Ball

by Dhanu, June 16, 2020

I joined the United Nations Meditation-Flames soccer team in the right wing position around the time that Guru formed it, in the autumn of 1976. I wasn't very good, so I was usually kept in reserve on the sidelines during serious games. We had early morning practice at the Jamaica High School track, where Guru would critique our moves with his world-class soccer instinct and yogic inner vision.

One morning I caught a ball with my face at close range; the impact smashed my glasses and knocked me unconscious for a few moments. Guru was standing right there watching. He was no stranger to rough sport, having sustained a broken foot in his youth during an Ashram soccer game.

Later that day, Guru surprised me in a quiet corner of the United Nations before the one o'clock meditation and asked me if I was all right. The next day one of the team captains gave me 20 dollars for new glasses, a very kind gesture.