

Soccer Stories, by Rupantar

A Footnote to the Soccer Match in South Africa

After the match, which Guru watched, he scolded the disciple soccer players for their rough behaviour towards the other team made up of hotel workers. A transcript of Guru's talk scolding the players was prepared and I was required to have each member of the team read Guru's talk and to sign my copy to ensure that they had read the talk. I still have the original talk with the signatures. The following is an excerpt from the talk:

“My only request is to please play fairly and gently; absolutely do not play a rough game or a foul game. If you want to escape, there are many ways you can escape. If somebody on the other team is very aggressive...then just move away.”

UN Meditation-Flames

Although I had no soccer experience, I ended up as the first goalie for the UN Meditation-Flames. We had very few real players, so we were not very good. However, I think it was our second year (1977) and we were playing very well. Each team at the UN was made up of generally a specific ethnic group: the Russian, the Spanish, the Irish. We beat the Russians in the semifinal match and were in the finals against the Spanish team. The Russians played very hard, but fair, and even though they lost to us they were very friendly after the match. In the final match against the Spanish team, which during the season was just mediocre, they proved to be quite a different team. Although some were a little older and quite overweight, their superior skills were apparent, and we got killed! Bipin remembers that Guru was so happy that we beat the Russians, that he did not care that we lost in the finals!

Jamaica Track and Guru



We often practised at the then dirt field at Jamaica High. Guru would often watch and occasionally join in. You could see that in his prime Guru had been a superior player,

with great speed and an awesome right foot.

Sometimes I would play in the field with Guru, but eventually ended up in goal, often facing Guru's shot. We loved it. In the above photo I am in goal.