Chapter – V

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

Summary:-

Sports are no more leisure time, pleasure seeking entertainment activities. It is now a highly competitive and complex profession. The importance given to sports can be judged from the billion of dollars being paid to sportsman all over the world. It is only the sports like Tennis, cricket, Soccer, Basketball, Rugby, Ice- hockey etc. where sports persons are carving big money every year. The global importance given to sports is also tagged with the national prestige of a nation. Even the small nations like Cuba, Germany, Ethiopia, Kenya compete very well with the mighty nations of the world.

India and hockey are two synonymous names in the sports world. India’s contribution to the game of hockey is immeasurable. During the last couple of decades, new power equations have emerged and the game itself has undergone a tremendous transformation, thanks to the high degree of sophistication and systematisation, but India’s role in every facet of this can not be underrated. It is a historic fact that India had ruled the world of hockey for decades but interpretive methods were used.
Data/information for this study/investigation were derived from the primary and secondary sources. The investigator personally contacted S. Balbir Singh and conducted interview. Some of the published material in the newspaper was noted and some photographs were taken. The information was retained as documents for the investigation.

Interviews with daughter of Balbir Singh were conducted to gain more personal information regarding him.

Opinion Rating Questionnaire on Balbir Singh, which was constructed with the help of experts has been used for this purpose.

Data/information collected through primary and secondary sources were analysed quantitative analysis was also done of the data collected through the opinion rating questionnaire for statistical inferences.

S. Balbir Singh was born on 10th Oct, 1924 at Haripur near Phillaur (Pb.) His mother's name was Karam Kaur and father S. Dalip Singh was a freedom fighter and afterwards a teacher. His wife’s name was Sushil. He has one daughter and three sons.

Sportsmen are the pillars of success in a particular society, when they are recognised by the society. It is an established fact that society has
influenced them in the pursuit of excellence in sports and in turn they have contributed their bit towards creating a conducive culture and atmosphere for sports promotion.

The purpose of the study is to highlight the contributions and achievements of Balbir Singh towards Indian Hockey. Secondly to study his philosophy with regard to Indian hockey and professional leadership qualities. The problem was stated as “BALBIR SINGH – LEGENDARY HOCKEY PLAYER – A CASE STUDY.”

Balbir Singh got his school education from Dev Samaj School, Moga and Bachelor of Arts Degree from Khalsa College, Amritsar.

His early sports career started at the age of seven only, when he had shifted from his village to Moga.

S. Harbail Singh was his Coach, his guru, his philosopher and also his guide under whose guidance he represented Panjab University, played Lahore Hot-Weather Trophy, Scindia Gold Cup, Paraders Cup, Coronation shield, Gokal Chand Cup and several other tournaments. He was the member of 1946, 1947 winner Pb. State team. He was labelled as the “further hopes of India”. He was the national champion of 1949, 1950, 1951 (A hat trick)
Balbir was the member of winning 1948 (London), 1952 (Helsinki) and 1956 (Melbourne) Indian Olympic team. He was the captain of the Indian team at Melbourne. In this way he has the golden hat trick in his hockey career.

Balbir joined Central P.W.D. in 1945 at Delhi which was the start of his professional career. But soon left it and joined police department where he served upto Oct, 1961. In Nov., 1961 he was inducted in Sports Deptt. Punjab on deputation as Deputy Director on deputation and was promoted as Director sports in 1975.

Balbir suggested certain guide lines for the coaches.

a) A coach should keep himself in touch with the latest trends and developments in the game throughout the world.

b) Training schedule should be chalked out in black and white.

c) Physical Fitness training programme of the players should be handled by the experts only.

d) Yogic exercises must be introduced in physical fitness programme

e) Off season conditioning training camps are must.

f) Entertainment, recreation of the players during camps should not be ignored.

g) Proper food according to the venue and climate of the competition should be provided during camps.
h) Lectures on national spirit by eminent speakers should be arranged during camps.

i) Emphasis should be more on youth and speed of the individuals while selecting a team.

During his tenure as Director of Sports he recruited top class sportsmen and players in the sports department to uplift the standard of sports in the state. He devoted full attention for the promotion of sports at school, college, university, state and at national level. He stressed upon the sports in rural areas.

He was also an architect in promoting sports in the women sector.

He proved to be a good administrator. He built the sports deptt. from the scratch and made it a full fledged deptt. He got huge funds allocated to run various schemes of the department.

He retired from the sports department as Director Sports in the year 1982.

Balbir Singh was appointed national coach for 1962 Ahmedabad International hockey and got the team a gold medal.

He went as manager of the Indian Hockey team to Asian Games Bangkok, 1970, and brought home a silver medal.
S. Balbir Singh was appointed manager of the 1st World Cup Hockey team in 1971 in which Indian team got Bronze medal.

Balbir had the opportunity to be appointed as the chief coach cum-manager of the Indian Hockey squad for the 1975 World Cup held at Kuala Lumpur here India won gold.

Balbir was appointed manager of the Indian hockey for the Amsterdam Champion’s trophy 1982 where India won a Bronze medal.

He was again given the responsibility of the manager of the Indian team for the Esanda Cup 1982 played at Melbourne where we won a silver medal.

S Balbir Singh has won several awards and distinction in his life.

i) He received national award Padmashree in 1957


iii) His eight of the nine goals - all three in the semi-final and five of the six in the finals, at Helsinki Olympics has been a World Record since 1952

iv) Was the flag Bearer of the Indian Contingent at 1952 (Helsinki and 1956 (Melbourne) Olympics.

vi) Lit the sacred Flame at the opening ceremony of New Delhi Asian Games 1982.

vii) Winner of Bharat Rattan Award given by the association of NRIS

viii) Guest of honour at the Shaheedi Sports Festival held on 17, 18 July, 1999 organised by Shaheedi Sports Council, Bedford (U.K.)

ix) Was honoured by the Punjab Govt. on the 300th birth celebration of Khalsa Panth at Anandpur Sahib.

He was an excellent administrator, good planner, had excellent communicative skills. He had the qualities of never say die spirit and selfless devotion, which made him a successful man.

He was a strict disciplinarian and was always open minded.

According to S. Balbir Singh our hockey standard is declining due to the following season:-

1. Our youth in losing interest in the game. There is no hockey climate in the country.

2. Lack of long term and short term training programmes.

3. Lack of synthetic surfaces

4. Players do not adopt the policy of first time passes.
5. Lack of accurate agile and forceful hitters who can convert penalty corners.
6. Penalty stroke experts are rare
7. Lack of positive role of print and electronic media.
8. Frequent changes of coaches and trainers.
9. Lack of up to date technology
10. Poor qualities of coaches
11. Scarcity of funds
12. Corruption
13. Talent hunt programmes are not there
14. Rural youth is neglected.
15. Lack of hard work.

On the request of the research scholar the following eminent personalities in the field of sports have given their opinions about S. Balbir Singh.

1. Col. Balbir Singh VSM, Arjuna Awardee
2. Dr. Ajmer Singh Arjuna Awardee, Director Sports, Panjab University Chandigarh.
3. Ajinder Kaur Arjuna Awardee ex-Captain Indian Women Hockey Team for World Cup 1974.
4. Rupa Saini Olympian, Arjuna Awardee ex-Captain Indian Women Hockey Team.
5. S. Sardul Singh Deputy Director Development (Retd.)
Results of opinion rating survey indicated that Balbir Singh possesses a charming and very pleasant personality. He was health conscious, religious, friendly and co-operative. He has a good physique and is very regular in his daily exercises. He was not a stubborn. He never looses his cool and his attitude towards others is always humane.

He is a role model for others and believed in learning by doing. He is among the best hockey players India has even produced.

Being a good administrator, he maintained all the records up to date and was very prompt in replying letters. He could have overcome obstacles easily and got the work done from his colleagues in a right way. He was sincere and honest to his job. Balbir had the quality to inspire and trust others. He always believed his colleagues and accepted new ideas given by others.
He was a strict disciplinarian and was a man of principles. He had strict supervision over his subordinates but he treated all his colleagues equally. He had the quality to differentiate between hard workers and shirkers. He gave recognition and appreciation to the people doing well in their assignments.

Results of opinion rating of S. Balbir Singh as a coach and manager show that he was a knowledgeable person, a committed profession and very hard worker. He had the natural ability of spotting talent and his approach towards sports is most scientific. He was very keen to make hockey popular in the country for which he is contributing even after his retirement.

Conclusions:-

On the basis of the findings/information of the present study the following conclusions may be drawn:-

1. S. Balbir Singh is the best hockey player India has produced after independence.

2. He was a thoroughly committed professional

3. His work was a religion for him

4. He was very efficient, honest and dedicated administrator

5. There are only few parallels to him so for honesty and transparency are concerned.
Suggestions:-

1. It is suggested that similar case study is may be conducted on other eminent sports personalities.

2. Studies on the contributions of the institutions like (L.N.I.P.E. Gwalior, N. S. N.I.S. Patiala, Sports college Jalandhar, Khalsa College Amritsar may be conducted.

3. Contribution of Patiala House, Mr. G.D. Sondhi, Mr. Tata etc. can also be studied.

4. Comparative studies of distinguished hockey players, athletes, footballers etc. also should be taken up.