CHAPTER – V
SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

Summary

The purpose of the present case study was to highlight the achievements and contributions of Arjuna Awardee Zafar Iqbal for the promotion of sports in general and hockey in particular in the country. Secondly to underscore his important personality traits and philosophy with regard to the skills as a sports administrator, coach and his professional leadership qualities. The problem therefore was stated as “Arjuna Awardee Zafar Iqbal “Legendary Hockey Player” A Case Study”. A case has been designed wherein historical, biographical, analytical, and interpretive methods have been employed to systematically pursue the work.

Data for this investigation was derived from the primary and secondary sources. To get first hand information, the investigator visited office where Zafar Iqbal has been working for a long period and also went through official records like reports of committees and meetings, annual reports and published material. Personal record of Zafar Iqbal was also investigated and desired informations and facts were collected. The investigator personally contacted Zafar Iqbal and conducted his interview using a structured interview schedule. Various pictorial records of Zafar Iqbal were also investigated. Some of the photographs relevant of different occasions were chosen as documents for this study. Published materials on Zafar Iqbal such as books, pamphlets and newspapers were also studied.

Survey technique was also used to obtain responses and reactions from 95 selected eminent sports persons and physical educationists from all over the country, majority of them were personally contacted by the
investigator. Self constructed Opinion rating questionnaire on Zafar Iqbal was also used for the purpose of the study.

Some psychological tests were also administered on Zafar Iqbal to acquire information on his training, motivation, competition strategy, anxiety, personality traits and social qualities that influenced his performance.

The obtained data thus collected both from primary and secondary sources were analysed qualitatively through internal and external criticism. Quantitative analysis was also undertaken to the obtained data on opinion rating questionnaire for drawing statistical inferences.

It has been revealed that Zafar Iqbal was born on 12th June, 1956 in Harganwa, District Bihar Shareef, Bihar. As he hailed from a literate family and his father was a professor at the Aligarh Muslim University, therefore just after his birth Zafar Iqbal was brought to Aligarh and he was raised up in this city of Uttar Pradesh. His father was Late Prof. M. Shahabuddin Ahmad and his mother’s name is Mrs. Najmun Nisha. Among the siblings he has two brothers and two sisters and Zafar Iqbal is the third one.

Zafar Iqbal was enrolled right from the 1st Standard in S.T.S. High School, one of the schools of the Aligarh Muslim University, which is also known as Minto Circle. He started playing hockey when he was a student of this school.

Although the family members of Zafar Iqbal were against sports, but right from childhood Zafar Iqbal possessed a peculiar desire and love for hockey and he considered hockey everything. Although there was tremendous pressure from home for concentrating on studies, whatever time would remain after his studies, he would utilize it in practicing the skills of hockey outside the hockey ground of the university, roads and even on the roof of his own house. This hard work carried him a long way
forward. After graduating in Civil Engineering from the world famous Aligarh Muslim University in 1978, he was also selected for the combined universities hockey team in the same year and on the basis of his performance in Nehru Cup, he was selected for the India camp in the left out position. After this there was no turning back for him. There was no other left out of his caliber in the country neither there is any till now. He is known as the “father of the reverse hit”; he used to apply reverse hit on a fast moving ball with précised accuracy and thus scoring number of goals from acute angles. He made valuable contribution for winning the last gold medal for India in the 1980 Moscow Olympics. He lead the Indian team as a captain in various international events, prominent among them were Asian Games in 1982, Champions trophy, 1983, and 1984 Los Angeles Olympics. He had the honour of carrying the Indian flag at the youth festival held in Moscow, and later at the opening ceremony of the Los Angeles Olympics. He also received the prestigious Arjuna Award in 1983, the highest award given to a sports personality in India. It was under his coaching that India played for the Asian Games held in Korea and due to his tireless efforts India won Silver Medal at the tournament after a long void. From early 1993 to October 1994 he served as the coach of the Indian Hockey team. He also served in the capacity of chief national coach of the Indian hockey team. After the dissolution of the Indian Hockey Federation (IHF), he was appointed one of the members of Hockey India a committee formed by the Govt. of India to look after the promotion and administration of Indian Hockey in the absence of Indian Hockey Federation. Besides, he also served with distinction to Indian hockey in various capacities including member of selection committees, observer and member of technical committee of Commonwealth Games 2010 etc.
The eminent sports personalities have given their opinion about Zafar Iqbal that he had been a hockey player of very high repute, a great administrator, efficient coach and a dedicated hard worker. He has been proved to be an efficient coach and a great sports promoter of all times. All of them considered him a man of such high character who bears the qualities of a good friend, a kind human being and a dedicated sportsperson.

Zafar Iqbal had made a mark as a successful sports promoter. He is receptive to new ideas and is very good in providing motivation to upcoming young sports persons. He is very knowledgeable, honest and sincere to his assignments.

Result of opinion rating survey indicates that Zafar Iqbal bears a very pleasant personality. He is health conscious, religious and regular in his daily exercise. He had a good athletic physique. He never loses his cool and has a lot of patience and perseverance. He has tremendous ability to overcome obstacles and his attitude towards others is very friendly and co-operative.

He is role model for others and give due regards and inspiration to upcoming players. He is very straightforward in nature and has a good sense of humour. He does not compromise with his principles and maintains very good public relations. He is very popular among his colleagues and team mates owing to these merits.

Technically as a player he had been very sound grappler and had capacity to maintain his performance for a long duration. He is among the best hockey players India has ever produced. He believes that sports is a major tool in developing the total personality of players. Punctuality and discipline is the part of his life.

Apart from his sport endeavours, he has been serving Air India on the prestigious post of Manager (civil) with utmost efficiency and
commitment. He has proved to be an excellent administrator. He maintained up to date records and is very prompt in replying to letters. He has never let himself down at the time of failure and his administrative approach is democratic in nature. He gives due recognitions and status to the sports persons who perform well. He often visits schools, sports colleges and stadiums to motivate players.

Results of psychological tests clearly suggest that Zafar Iqbal scored average on neuroticism, extraversion and openness facets, low on agreeableness and high on conscientiousness. According to the results of the adjustment inventory, Zafar Iqbal has excellent adjustment in two areas i.e. home and health, while average adjustment on social and emotional dimension and good on educational adjustment. In total the above results clearly advocated him as a well adjusted person of the society. He had high level of Sports Achievement Motivation together with high competitiveness, win orientation and goal orientation according to the obtained results.

Conclusions

Based on the results obtained from the study, the following significant conclusions may be drawn:

1. Zafar Iqbal is one of the best hockey players, India has ever produced.
2. He is one of the prominent hockey players of the country who have a very long playing career.
3. Zafar Iqbal has contributed for the upliftment of the game of hockey in numerous capacities including coach, observer, selector, as well as policy maker.
4. He is thoroughly committed professional.
5. Besides hockey, he has been a pioneer in creating sporting environment in the country through his gestures and tireless efforts.

6. Zafar Iqbal is bestowed with all the required intellectual abilities that immensely contributed and lead him both towards academics and sports excellence.

7. Zafar Iqbal has proved that both academic and sports may go hand in hand and one can excel in both with required commitment and dedicated efforts.

8. He is an efficient, honest, dedicated and austere administrator.

9. He has contributed a lot for promotion of sports, especially hockey in India.

10. He is a role model for other hockey players both within the country and abroad.

11. He is very hard working, disciplined and industrious by nature.

12. He is very friendly, co-operative and has a lot of patience and perseverance.

13. Zafar Iqbal remarkable possesses all the personality traits of elite sportspersons including high extraversion, adjustment and achievement motivation.

The above mentioned significant conclusions clearly advocate that Zafar Iqbal is a living legend who has immensely contributed to the cause of upliftment of national game of hockey and thus played a pivotal role in reviving the glorious past of hockey in the country once again. Being a role model, he is being religiously emulated by the younger generation both for sports as well as academics.

Recognising the everlasting efforts and valuable services rendered to sports by Zafar Iqbal, the Government of India has recently conferred on him the prestigious “Padmashree Award” on April 4, 2012 at Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi.
Suggestions

1. It is proven fact that the elite sports persons are greatly admired by the young generations as compared to other distinguished personalities. Hence the findings of the present investigation may be made public for the benefit of masses of the country in general and youth in particular to draw inspiration from Zafar Iqbal.

2. It is suggested that similar case studies on other outstanding hockey players who have brought laurels to the country may also be conducted.

3. Similar case studies in disciplines wherein India has excelled at international arena should also be carried out both on male and female athletes.

4. Findings of the present study may be incorporated in the curriculum of physical education and sports at various levels in the educational institutions of the country.

5. The Indian Hockey Federation should come forward to publish the text of the thesis for wide publicity to generate interest among the common man for national game of hockey.

6. The Sports Authority of India and the premier coaching institutes of the country should adopt the coaching philosophy and the important coaching tips suggested in the study by the subject.

7. Parents of young children should be apprised with the academic and sports achievements of Zafar Iqbal so that they encourage their wards to take up the game and sport along with the studies with greater attention and commitment.