

Angels aiming for the Arsenal way
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Angels aiming for the Arsenal way

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BANGALORE: Football, like most other sports in the country, is a victim of India's notorious triad - ignorance, neglect and corruption. In fact, these words are bandied about by the media and critics following every major disaster that highlights the plight of a particular sport. But as though to disprove all this, a group of young boys from Angel's High School in the city are giving up academics to pursue their passion, football.

Angel's High School represented Bangalore in the Tata Tea Soccer Stars National Tournament which gives budding talent a chance to display their foot-

ball skills at the grassroots level, get noticed by reputed football coaches and snatch a once-in-a-lifetime offer to train and develop skills at the prestigious English club Arsenal's development programme called The Arsenal Way.

A total of 16 teams took part in the national level tournament with Angel's High School from Bangalore finishing second losing to St Britto's High School of Goa in the final. Thirty players from different teams have been selected to attend a camp in Kolkata and 15 among them will go to England to undergo specialised training at the Arsenal Way. From Bangalore, Kiran Kumar and Deepak, both from Angel's

have been picked for the camp in Kolkata.

Ironically, the support these boys are getting is minimal. "We have no support from any of the KSFA officials or the AIFF. It is only Mr Balu, secretary of the BDF, who is offering help, apart from the school management who are very supportive," said Manas, coach of the Angel's team. One can get a taste of things on entering the KSFA stadium - the atmosphere is almost sombre and the players are hardly fired up. But these young players are not losing heart. Taking advantage of whatever is on offer, they continue to train hard, dreaming of giving the beautiful game a fresh lease of life in India.



Angels High School finished second in the tournament

