

# OLDEST LIVING OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALLIST BELONGS TO FIELD HOCKEY - LIVING AT KARACHI, FERAZ KHAN CELEBRATES 100TH BIRTHDAY ON 9 SEPTEMBER 2004



*Interview by Syed Akber Ali Wahidi*



1928 Olympic Squad, Feroz Khan is standing third from left.

Eleven medals, including eight gold, in hockey and three other individual medals is India's tally in the 108-year history of the Olympic Games. In individual event, Indian shooter Rajyavardhan Singh RATHORE clinch Silver while two bronzes were won by Khashaba Dadasaheb JADHAV (Wrestling) and Leander PAES (Tennis).

The 1928 Olympic Games at Amsterdam were a turning point in India's sporting history. For, in that year, India made its debut in international hockey and won the Olympic title in a blaze of glory. The 1928 British Indian team had three Muslims in Feroz KHAN, Syed Muhammad YOUSUF and Shaukat ALI which showed that the Muslims were a big force in the sub-continent hockey at that time. Shortly-built striker Feroz was very fast and clever with his stick work who could play in any spot as front-runner.

Feroz will celebrate his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on Thursday, 9 September 2004. He becomes the oldest living Olympic Gold medallist after the death of James Stillman ROCKEFELLER on 10 August 2004 at Greenwich, Connecticut (USA). Born on 8 June 1902, James was the captain of Yale University's eight-man rowing team with coxswain that won gold for USA at the 1924 Paris Olympics - beating the Canadian team by less than 16 seconds.

I met Feroz KHAN at his late son-in-law M.E.Z. GHAZALI'S residence at Karachi's Khayaban Toheed,

Defence Housing Authority. Former Wing Commander GHAZALI, died on 26 April last year, was an off-spinning all-rounder who played two Cricket Tests on Pakistan's tour of England in 1954. During two-hour talk, I presented the great man, famous as Daddy in Pakistan's hockey circle, the book *Atif - The Living Legend of Hockey*, authored by Sardar KHAN and myself.

Inside-forward Feroz KHAN, who belongs to "Khans", a famous clan of Pathans of Jalandhar, emerged on the Punjab hockey scene as hockey power. He became the first member of this KHAN clan to play for India in the 1928 Olympic Games. He got five goals including hat trick in 9-0 win over Belgium in that Olympiad. He was one of those players who set the standards for India's Olympic exploits of the future. He left India after Pakistan was created and served as selector for nine years for *Pakistan Hockey Federation* (PHF).

He was also among five-member inquiry committee headed by Mian Riazuddin AHMED formed in December 1952. The mandate of this probe body was to analyze the causes of the failures of Pakistan in the Olympics 1948 and 1952 and, if possible, to suggest ways and means to improve the game and bring it up to the required international standard. His 1928 team colleague S.M. YOUSUF and other Pre-War Hockey Gold medallists Ali Iqtidar Shah DARA and Mir Muhammad HUSSAIN were also members of the Committee.

PHF, on 29 April 2004, honored Feroz KHAN at a concluding ceremony of the Fifth Junior Asia Cup held at *Hockey Club of Pakistan*, Karachi. PHF has planned a grand program to pay glowing tributes to superstars of yester years.

Feroz KHAN, on wheel-chair, was presented memento and the crowd gave him standing ovation when he arrived at the pitch and informed about his achievements and status at the international level. He was asked to present the winning trophy to Indian trainer Harendra SINGH and Captain Sandeep MICHAEL. AHF President Sultan Azlan SHAH, Vice President M. UEDA, Secretary General P. ALAGENDRA, Sindh Governor Dr. ISHRAT ul Ibad, PHF President General Muhammad Aziz KHAN and Secretary Musarrat Ullah KHAN were also present on this occasion.

Feroz is father of two daughters (Afroze, Perveen) and two sons (Farooq, Pervez). Retired Air Chief Marshal Farooq Feroz KHAN, former Chairman of Joint Chief of Army Staff Committee, was Pakistan Air Force Chief from 9 March 1991 to 8 November 1994. Farooq was also PHF President from 2 January 1990 to 8 March 1991 and under him, PHF organized the 7<sup>th</sup> World Cup at Lahore in fine style. He was also Managing Director and Chairman of PIA, besides being President Pakistan Squash Federation.

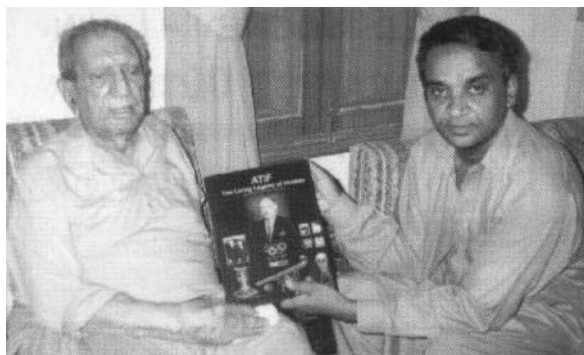
Feroz was born at Basti Daneshmandan, Jalandhar (city in northwestern India, in Punjab State), on 9 September 1904: the year that saw the inception of *Federation of International Football Associations* (FIFA), and the year sandwiched between the WRIGHT Brothers' first flight in 1903 and Albert EINSTEIN'S publication of the theory of relativity in 1905. The other events influencing Feroz's life are two World Wars (1914-18, 1939-45), birth of FIH (1924), emergence of Pakistan (1947), Pakistan's first-ever gold in Olympics (1960) etc.

Here how he described his unforgettable moments of hockey.

Q : *When did you start hockey?*

A : *I began playing hockey in childhood. I had speed and guile because I used to play with the branch of a tree but a bitter challenge by a school teacher Swami Jagannath spurred me to make a name in hockey. His view was that I was wasting time in hockey. I was then around 13 and it was the challenge from my teacher. Later on, I also represented Aligarh University, Bombay Customs after a learning a lot about hockey at Lahore's Forman Christian College. Formed by Charles William Forman in 1865, it was very influential in developing the educational system of Punjab.*

Q : *Who founded the Afghan Club?*



A : *It was me who laid the foundation of this club at Jalandhar, which developed a strong rivalry with the Sansarpur's Sikh Club, headed by 1932 LA Olympic Gold Medallist Gurmeet Singh. The matches between the two clubs used to be great crowd-pullers. The ferocity with which Sikhs and the Pathans fought for supremacy in hockey often resulted in rough and violent play.*

Q : *Who brought hockey to sub-continent?*

A : *Hockey became popular in India when the British Regiments played the game in India and introduced it in the British Indian Regiments who quickly picked up the game. The first hockey club was formed in Calcutta (now Kolkata) in 1885-86 followed by Bombay (now Mumbai) and Punjab. Organizations came up to give the sport right direction. The Bengal Hockey Association was the first such body to come up in 1908. With the popularity of the game, associations were formed in different states like Bombay, Bihar, Orissa and Delhi. The Indian Hockey Federation (IHF), however, came into being only in 1925.*

Q : *From where you used to get the sticks and other hockey accessories in those days?*

A : *We used to get the hockey sticks from the sports goods industry of Sialkot, important industrial city of Pakistan, which has over a century old history. Later on, Uberoi Limited, running by two Uberoi brothers, Ganda Singh and Jhanda Singh, became the official suppliers of sticks. Oberoi Ltd. used to manufacture quality hockey sticks.*

Q : *How about 9<sup>th</sup> Olympiad at the Dutch soil?*

A : *Firstly, it will be remembered for the debut of Olympic torch or Olympic Flame in quadrennial Games. There was no torch relay in the ancient Olympic Games. In 1928 Games, Forty-six nations put 3014 athletes in 14 sports (109 events).*

*Since hockey was held before the rest of the Olympic events, we couldn't see much of other sports, but that Games were dry as compared to the fanfare we have now in the Olympics. The actual Olympic ceremony and other sporting events took place two months after completion of hockey event. As a result, we did not have the*

good fortune of enjoying the Olympic atmosphere, the solemn rituals of the opening ceremony and the subsequent thrills and excitement. Amsterdam Games made possible thanks to public support as the Queen of the Netherlands Wilhelmine was against the event. Considering it a "demonstration of paganism", she refused to attend the opening ceremony. The Olympiad was noted not only for the appearance of the Olympic flame, but for the appearance of women in athletics events! – despite recommendations to the contrary by Olympic founder Baron de Coubertin.

Q : What were the elements behind getting gold in Olympics 1928?

A : Discipline and accepting the challenge earned me top step of ladder in the Olympiad 76 years ago. No sportsmen can win highest award without these golden rules. I have lived this long because of discipline in my life. To be an Olympic Champion is a great honor. I felt honored when the International Olympic Committee (IOC) sent me greetings on my 99<sup>th</sup> birthday last year. I am thankful to IOC President Jacques Rogge for remembering my display way back in 1928.

Q : How the Olympic hockey squad of British India was selected in 1928?

A : Calcutta Football Club (CFC), set up in 1872, got the privilege of holding First National Championship which was contested on knockout basis. That event was vital for selection process. I caught the eye of selectors by scoring two goals in the semi-final. When we came to Calcutta for the five-team event, we were told that it would be run on a league basis, but later the IHF decided other way. This was because the CFC ground would not have lasted for about ten/eleven matches if played on a league basis. I was representing Punjab as spearhead and we were given a bye and directly faced, on 14 February 1928, the strong United Provinces (UP), having services of Dhyan Chand, in the semis. It was a memorable match which locked 3-3. The way Punjab staged recovery was a grand last-gasp action. And I was instrumental in it. The UP team was 3-1 up and there was only five minutes left for play. Hopeless as the situation looked, Punjab never gave up trying, and I scored a goal to reduce the arrears. Indeed, there did not seem to be time for leveler. But myself shot away for the UP goal straight from the bully-off, hoodwinked many tacklers and fired the ball in before anyone quite realized what was happening. Replay was ordered and we lost it 1-2. UP maintained supremacy and become first National Champion of India on 16 February by beating Rajputana 3-1.

Q : What send-off accorded to Indian team?

A : We sailed from Bombay on 10 March 1928 on Kaiser-i-Hind of Peninsular and Oriental Steamship Company (P&O). Sadly, only three persons - IHF President Major Burn-Murdoch, Vice-president C. E. Newham, reporter S. Bhattacharjee - were present at Ballard Pier Mole to say goodbye to us. For years, Ballard Pier was the centre of business activity not just for Bombay, but, for the whole of India. The 13 players in the ship were myself, Broome Eric Pinniger, Shaukat Ali, Richard J. Allen, Dhyan Chand, Maurice A. Gateley William James Goodsir-Cullen, Leslie C. Hammond, George E. Marthins, Rex A. O. Norris, Michael E. Rocque, Frederick S. Seaman and Kher Singh.

Q : Was there some court case filed in England as the Indians and Anglo-Indian had some dispute?

A : No. There was no case. However, some Indians believed that the British Indian team should be comprised mainly of Indian players and if they would fine interference from British ruling management then they will knock the door of court. But they dropped the idea and it was a wise thing as no one can deny the battery of fine sportsmen emerged from Anglo-Indians. The Anglo-Indians are one of India's constitutionally recognized minorities, a microscopic community of combined South Asian and European ancestry that emerged after the arrival of the Portuguese and other Europeans on the subcontinent.

In those days, hit-and-run game was Order of the Day until the Anglo-Indians Smith brothers (A left-in and a goal-keeper) started the concept of short passes in hockey. Smith, who used to play as inside left, explained the idea of short passes before World War I. Without doubt, Anglo Indians did a fine work for hockey and they deserve to be in the Olympics squad. Nine of them were in the 1928 Olympic team and all of them deserved to be in the side.

Q : Who are Anglo-Indians?

A : An Anglo-Indian means a person whose father or any of whose other male progenitors in the male line is or was of European descent, but who is domiciled within the territory of India and is or was born within such territory of parents habitually resident therein and not established there for temporary purposes only. Political upheaval and social dislocation at that time forced heavy Anglo Indian migration. Many moved to India.

Q : Was there any revolution when British Indian team participated in 1928 Olympics?



*A : The Amsterdam Games was when Muslims and Hindus players hockey shot into international limelight. That team enthralled the hockey spectators to an exhibition of sheer virtuosity. The British Indian team brought a new brand of hockey. It raised the parameters of hockey skill to a level not seen before.*

*It also started a new era of total Indian dominance which lasted nearly three decades. During this period, the Indians made hockey a sublime art, dribbling a magic and their short, fluid passes a treat to watch. They dazzled the entire hockey world with their superb artistry and pleasing display. India had become synonymous with hockey. No country had ever ruled an Olympic event with such absolute dominance as India had done in Olympic hockey.*

*Q : What fans and other country players felt of 1928 Indian team?*

*We were an unknown quantity in Amsterdam, as British India did not participated in the hockey event of London 1908 and Antwerp 1920 Games, the only time hockey was played as a competitive sport in the Olympics, prior to Amsterdam.*

*The visit of an Indian Army team to New Zealand in 1926 was the beginning of international hockey for India and that too paved the way for India to earn berth in 1928 Olympics. In that Oceania tour, we played 21 matches including three tests. We won 18 of them and lost one. Goal counts in favor of India were 192-24.*

*Q : How about your visit to UK in 1928 before Olympics?*

*A : The English media hardly took any notice of us when we reached at the Tilbury Docks (now the London International Cruise Terminal). However, some famous personalities were at the Docks to welcome us, that includes representatives of the Hockey Associations of England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland, and Stanley*

*Shoveller (1882-1959), the first Olympic hockey hero, known as the prince of centre forwards, he dominated England's gold medal strolls in 1908 and 1920.*

*We opened our itinerary in UK with frustration when we suffered 1-2 reverse at the hands of Combined Services team in rain-hit game at Aldershot, Hampshire on 31 March 1928. Foot-wear was a problem for us in rainy UK tour. There were no field hockey shoes in those days and we had to wear either football boots or rubber shoes. It is very difficult to play with rubber shoes on slippery, soggy fields.*

*But after that defeat we never looked back and we routed Hockey Association XI 4-0 at Folkestone, ten days later. It was healthy win for us as the opposing team had the services of more than eight English internationals. The playing surface in most matches was very disturbing for us because rainy season played havoc with the field.*

*We were in the news after that 4-0 win. We recorded nine wins in eleven matches at England while one ended in draw. The short news of our hockey team continued to publish in Media as we also visited Netherlands, Germany and Belgium prior to the Olympics. The trips to these four countries enabled us to get acclimatized to European conditions.*

*India's performance in those four-nation tour and 1928 Olympic Games was magnificent and it opened a new chapter in the sports history.*

*Q : How many exhibition matches India played before Olympics 1928 ?*

*A : Indian team played as many as 18 matches in England, Netherlands, Germany and Belgium. The team won 16 of them and drew another. The team scored a total of 135 goals and conceded just 24. I scored 23 goals while leading marksman was Dhyani Chand with 61 goals.*

We played four matches in Netherlands, two in Germany and one in Belgium before we actually made our debut in the Olympic Stadium on 17 May 1928.

We opened Dutch tour on 26 April with a scorching 15-2 win over Amsterdam XI. We then thrashed Arnheim 8-0. KNHB fielded Olympic A team on 2 May in Amsterdam, which also we won by a similar margin of 8 -0. Later we visited The Hague to meet the Dutch Olympic team and won this match also comfortably with a score of 8 8-1. We played our first match in Germany at Hanover on 7 May, beating a home team by ten clear goals. Next day, we defeated Berlin Eleven 5-1 at Berlin. From Germany we crossed over to Belgium for 13 May fixtures and outplayed Brussels 10-2.

Q : Why Nawab of Pataudi withdrew from Amsterdam Olympics?

A : When the 1928 Olympic squad was selected after trials at Calcutta, it was decided that four players, who were then in England, would be asked to join the squad. Of these four, Jaipal Singh and S.M.Yousuf (Cambridge) were able to join us but others two failed to arrive. Iftikhar Ali Khan, Eighth Nawab of Pataudi from 1917-1952, was one of them while L.C.Carberry, who used to play for St. Xavier's College, Calcutta could not be traced.

Like Jaipal Singh, Iftikhar was Oxford Blue - the university's highest sporting accolade. The term Oxford Blue - which derives from the university's navy blue sporting colour - is given to anyone who competes against Cambridge in major sports.

Iftikhar was with us during five matches at Merton Abbey London and same number of matches at a Festival at Cheriton Road Sports Ground from April 2-21. The International Easter Hockey Festival, held annually at Folkerstone, Kent, enters its 100th year in 2006. It was first held in 1906. Iftikhar enjoyed those ten hockey matches with us, but, mentally he was not prepared to go to Amsterdam.

Iftikhar, who celebrated his 18th birthday when we were on the way to UK, was concentrating hard on education and was not much interested in hockey and his only real love, was cricket.

A fluent stroke player, Iftikhar, four years later, in December 1932 at Sydney Cricket Ground, became one of the 15 batsman (78 in all) representing England to score a Test debut century. He is the only Test cricketer to have played for both England and India.

Iftikhar Ali and Mansur Ali are the only

instance in cricket where father and son have captained India.

Q : Why skipper Jaipal Singh walked away midway through the Olympics?

A : Although, Oxford winning "blue" for hockey, Jaipal Singh, born at Jharkhand (formerly Khooty) was simply not better than those left full backs of five provincial teams that participated in First National Championship (then known as Inter Provincial Championship) at CFC Ground in 1928. The selection of the Amsterdam-bound team was to be based on the performance of the players in that tournament. But the man who was not seen in the five-province show was made the captain.

The British influence was felt both on and off the field and British management was of the view that an Oxford-educated hockey captain would be better than any one in India. Since Jaipal was representing Oxford, the much better players were devalued as IHF President Major Burn-Murdoch, Vice-President Charles Newham and Col. GPW.Hill, who selected the 1928 team with Murdoch, put their vote on Jaipal for skipper slot.

Jaipal, after completing his school education, went to England for further study and it was there only he could polish his skill and technique and earn a name for himself in the English hockey circle. He, too, felt that he was fortunate to become skipper of such a strong British India team. Surprisingly, he joined us very late and missed the league matches against Austria and Switzerland as well as the final of 9th Olympic Games. He partnered right-full Michael Rocque; opening the exit door for left-full Leslie Hammond in only two league outings he played against Belgium and Denmark. It was bad luck to Hammond who won the National Championship with goalkeeper P. C. Bannerjee-led UP on 16 Feb 1928. During his stay with us, Jaipal failed to adjust himself with players of much better skills who appeared in that tough, action-packed First National Championship 1932. He also failed to develop good relations with manager A.B. Rosser, Secretary of the Bengal Hockey Association, who was the brain behind the success of National Championship that was a financial success, but for which India would not have visited Netherlands.

During the course of the tournament, Jaipal kept the habit of going back to England in between matches. At village, he mostly kept himself aloof from the players, and joined us only at dining table.

Before the match against Swiss team, with final slated to run after three day's rest, he went back to England on his routine and did not



The  
victorious  
team from  
British India.

report for the final against the Netherlands. It was irresponsible act as India had only 10 fit players on the eve of the 1928 Olympic hockey final. Myself, Shaukat Ali and Kher Singh were on the sick list, and to complete the line-up, Dhyan Chand, was asked to enter the field despite flu. Shortage of players, forced us to put midfielder Goodsir-Cullen at left-wing spot.

Q : How many matches you played in Olympics?

A : Nine teams were split into two groups. I was not among playing eleven when India thrashed Austria 6-0 to make impressive debut in the Olympic Games hockey. I struck five goals when we cut Belgium to size in 9-0 win. I also played in 5-0 win over Denmark, but due to injury I missed the next two outings. India outplayed Switzerland 6-0 to top Pool A and won the final against the Netherlands 3-0.

The 26 May final saw 24,000 fans (then record attendance for a hockey match).

Q : Whose anthem was played during Victory Stand ceremony?

A : The prize distribution ceremony was held at the Olympic Stadium on 29 May 1928. Since we represented British India, our flag was the Union Jack, with the Star of India embossed on it. We, flanked by the Dutch on the right and bronze-medallist Germans on the left, lined up in the centre of the field. The English, Dutch and German National Anthems were played by the band amidst rousing cheers from capacity crowd. The three teams then entered the Royal tribune to get the medals and the congratulations from the officials of Netherlands's Olympic Committee. That marked the first time that a team from Asia had won any medal in the Olympics. Japanese Mikio Oda became Asia's first Olympic champion in an individual event when he won the triple

jump at the same Olympiad. Oda died on 2 December 1998 at the age of 93 and was voted the Male Asian Athlete of the Century.

Q : Was the event held at famous Amstelveen's Wagener Stadium that hosted the World Cup once and Champions Trophy four times ?

A : No. It was hosted at Amsterdam's Olympic Stadium. The stadium still stands to this day, and is now used for cultural and sports events. It was built especially for this event. Architect Jan Wils designed the building. Popular Dutch club Ajax used to

play their big matches in this Stadium. The 35,000 – capacity stadium opened 17 days before the opening ceremony. The Olympic Stadium was build for all sports; nicknamed 'Temple of Sports'.

Q : What are your views about pivot Broome Pinniger who led India in the final ?

A : Although Broome Eric Pinniger was deputy to Jaipal Singh in 1928 Olympics, he captained India in the two league matches and final. He was a class pivot throughout his illustrious international career. His clean tackling, sensible game play and well-directed hits were the hallmarks of his game.

Broome led Punjab in First National championship 1928 and he, along me and Kher Singh, were selected for 1928 Olympiad from Punjab team. Broome was pilot in real sense. His distribution of ball to his forwards was very precise and very deceptive for his opponents. Similarly in defence, his anticipation was tremendous. His ability to fall back to help the defence was also immense. He showed such dexterity and skill at his position that he was rightly acclaimed as the world's best centre half before World War II.

He was expected to be chosen as captain in 1928 but Jaipal was given the skipper job. In the same way, he was well poised for captaincy in 1932. But once again luck eluded him. When Broome came to know that Lal Shah Bokhari was made the captain he had declined to make the LA trip. But former IHF Vice President and journalist Charles Newham persuaded Broome to change his mind.

He played in all seven matches of his two gold-medals campaign (five in 1928 and two in 1932 Olympics). At 34, he was fit to play in 1936 Berlin Olympics but he had a leave problem as in

those days players were not entitled to unlimited Casual leave to play for the nation.

Q : What were other feats of Indian team?

A : The great Dhyan Chand registered 14 of India's 29 goals in Amsterdam, including four in opener game against Austrian outfit. Goalkeeper Richard Allen, went through the entire tournament without conceding a goal. He was only custodian in Indian team and in case of emergency, utility Bengal's midfielder Shaukat Ali would have been asked to take his place.

Q : Did Head of State send congratulatory message?

A : Yes, it was Viceroy of India. The Viceroy of India was the highest position in the Indian administration during the British Raj. It was considered one of the most powerful offices in the world. The British Raj is an informal term for the period of British rule of the Indian sub-continent, or present-day India, Pakistan and Bangladesh. It lasted from 1858, when the rule of the British East India Company was transferred to the Crown, until 1947, when the independence of India and Pakistan was granted. The Congratulatory mail was sent by Lord Irwin, the Viceroy of India from 1926 to 1931, who on 1 April 1926 succeeded Lord Reading as Viceroy. Lord Irwin had hereditary connections with India. His grandfather had served in India and had been secretary of State for India. Irwin was also a very religious man.

Q : What was public response on return from Amsterdam?

A : Bombay made amends for earlier lapse (with three persons saying good bye to us) and gave us a reception befitting Olympic Champions.

Q : How long you keep correspondence with team mates?

A : It was difficult to communicate with teammates regularly as teams gathered only for Olympics after four years. The National Championships were also very far and few in those days as from 1928 to 1938 (my retiring year) only five such editions, four of them in Calcutta, were held. Tournaments like Beighton Cup, Agha Khan Cup, Obaidulah Khan, Scindia Gold Cup etc were the other occasions which were our source to meet each other.

Q : Why you played only one Olympic hockey event?

A : I have the privilege to play with along with Dhyan Chand, and many a time played against him. During the 1928 Olympics win, Dhyan Chand won the hearts of hockey world. He never faced selection trials again.

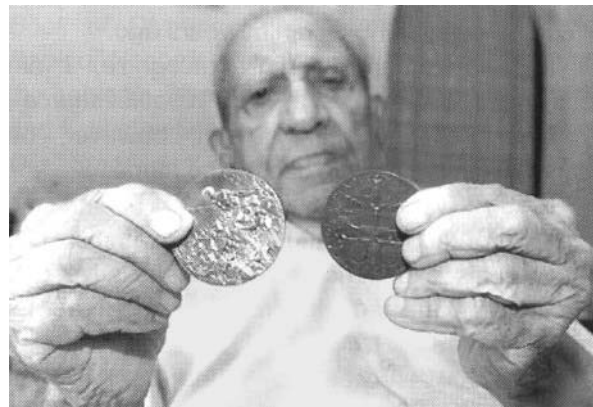
IHF was in two minds regarding participating in the 1932 Olympic Games. Los Angeles was

more than twice the distance from India as compare to Amsterdam, and naturally, expenses would be much greater. Two years previously, during first World Cup Soccer, many European countries were invited and expected to go to Uruguay but due to the economic situation in Europe and the long sea crossing only a small number committed.

IHF thought whether it was wise going all the way to Los Angeles to play very weak sides like USA and Japan. But in order to save the game of hockey, India's participation in LA was justified. Hockey became Olympic event in 1908, then it was abandoned twice and subsequently re-introduced in 1928. Therefore, if India had not entered in the 1932 Olympic hockey competition, hockey might have been scrapped once again as problems were created by the unwillingness of all European teams to travel at sea for many weeks in order to attend the LA hockey show.

When it looked hockey will be erased from Olympics altogether FIH, formed only eight years earlier, some how managed to put Japan in to make it three-nation show.

Dhyan Chand was not expected to play at USA as Army authorities decided not to release him for the third National Championship 1932 at Calcutta. However, Army authorities were assured that he should be included in the Olympic squad without the formality of any trial. Dhyan disliked such non-trial selection as many



Feroz Khan shows his gold and his commemorative medal from Amsterdam.

of stars of 1928 Gold Winners were fighting for a place in the team. He was not interested in going to LA, and since it was decided that only the player of original position will get selection, I was favorite for USA trip. In 1928, I went to Amsterdam as right-in on the request of selectors Major Burn-Murdoch and Col. G.P.W.Hill, but this time IHF decided not to change the position of a player. A. I. S. Dara, who was then Lieutenant in battalions of the Punjab regiment, was also among the gutsy centre-forwards in the trials. The induction of Dhyan in 15-players LA bound squad ended chances of myself and Dara.