

TV PICKS

**NBA:** Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD), 9 a.m.  
**New Zealand vs India:** 1st T201, Star Sports 1 & 5S Select 1 (SD & HD), 12.20 p.m.  
**U-19 World Cup:** India vs New Zealand, Star Sports 3, 1.15 p.m.  
**South Africa vs England:** 4th Test, Sony ESPN (SD & HD), 1.30 p.m.  
**BBL:** Sony Ten 3 (SD & HD), 1.30 p.m.  
**PBL:** Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 7 p.m.  
**Sportstar Aces Awards 2:** First repeat: Jan. 27 (Monday), 6 p.m.; Second repeat: Jan. 28 (Tuesday), 7 p.m.

Anand adds to Firouzja's woes

**SPORTS BUREAU**  
WIJK AAN ZEE

Viswanathan Anand punished a passive streak from Alireza Firouzja in 47 moves to complete a hat-trick of defeats for the Iranian youngster in the Tata Steel Masters chess tournament here on Saturday.

**11th round results:** Alireza Firouzja (FIDE, 5.5) lost to Viswanathan Anand (5.5); Vladislav Kovalev (Blr, 3) lost to Fabiano Caruana (USA, 8); Jan-Krzysztof Duda (Pol, 6) drew with Magnus Carlsen (Nor, 7); Wesley So (USA, 6.5) drew with Jeffery Xiong (USA, 5); Vladislav Artemiev (Rus, 5.5) bt Jordan van Foreest (Ned, 6); Anish Giri (Ned, 5.5) drew with Yu Yangi (Chn, 4); Nikita Vitiugov (Rus, 4) drew with Daniil Dubov (Rus, 5.5).

East Bengal stumps Chennai City

Goals from Espada and Santos do the trick for the Kolkata side

I-LEAGUE

**RAYAN ROZARIO**  
COIMBATORE

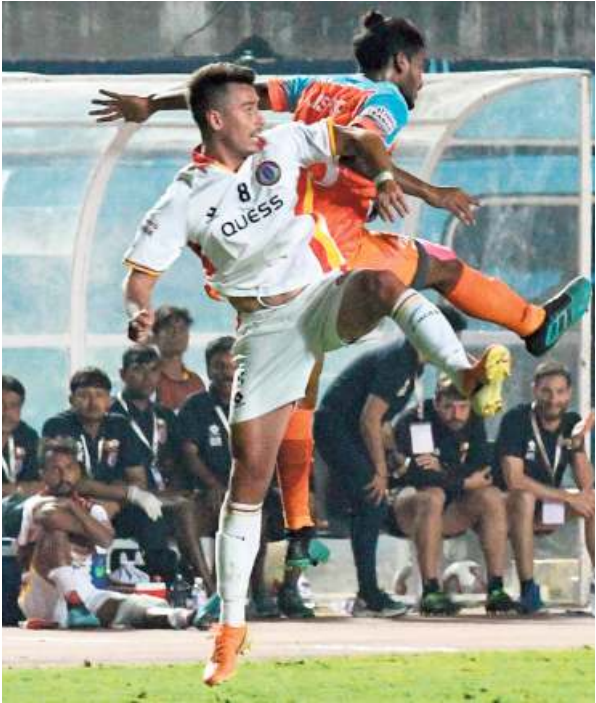
Spaniards Marcos Jimenez Espada scored in the 68th minute and Jaime Santos converted a penalty nine minutes later to seal a 2-0 win for East Bengal over defending champion Chennai City FC in their I-League clash at the Nehru Stadium here on Saturday.

It was the red and gold army that took early control of the game. It marched forward and threatened to bulldoze the otherwise strong Chennai City backline, manned by its ever-reliable captain Roberto Eslava.

The Chennai men looked a bit confused with those speedy runs by the Kolkata side. In the 15th minute, one such fast-paced move earned the visiting side a penalty.

The host tried hard to stop an East Bengal move only to find the ball strike the hand of its defender and the referee was quick to show to the spot.

It broke the hearts of the Chennai fans but not Nauzet Santana, the Chennai City custodian. Santos, who took the shot, hammered it hard but Santana dived full length to his right to effect a smart



**Fighting it out:** Jaime Santos, who scored East Bengal's second goal, tussles for possession with a Chennai City defender. ■ M. PERIASAMY

save. And the crowd roared in delight and the Chennai City men heaved a huge sigh of relief. Jan Muzangu, the 19-year-old loanee from FC Basel, made his debut for the home side in a bid to boost the front-line but he could not do much.

Japanese forward Katsumi Yusa did pull out a few tricks from his bag and, so did

Jordan to host boxing qualifier

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE LAUSANNE

An Olympic boxing qualifier, which was cancelled in China following the outbreak of a deadly virus, will be held instead in Jordan, officials said Friday. The IOC Boxing Task Force (BTF) announced that the Asian/Oceania qualifying event for will be held in Amman from March 3-11.

Saif bests Ahvar

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Mohd. Saif Sheikh was at his fluent best in the final as he beat Ahvar Rizvi 48-43 for the top position in men's trap in the third National shotgun selection trials at the Dr. Karni Singh Range on Saturday. Saif shot the second best score of 118 in qualification, like Ahvar and Namanveer Singh Brar who placed third. In the final, however, he finished fifth.

**The results: Trap: Men:** 1. Mohd. Saif Sheikh 48 (118); 2. Ahvar Rizvi 43 (118); 3. Namanveer Singh Brar 35 (118).

**Junior:** 1. Jungsher Virk 44(1) 119; 2. Shardul Vihan 44(0) 116; 3. Vishavdeep Singh 29 (112).

**Women:** 1. Rajeshwari Kumari 44 (117); 2. Sabeera Haris 43 (112); 3. Seema Tomar 35 (111).

**Junior:** 1. Neeru 45 (115); 2. Preeti Rajak 41 (108); 3. Sovai-ba Bukhari 30 (103).

Goud back to where it began

Former Railways stalwart is now with Karnataka

RANJI TROPHY

UTHRA GANESAN NEW DELHI

For 15 years, Yere Goud made the Karnail Singh Stadium here his home. On Saturday he was back, this time leading Karnataka and trying to plot Railways' – the host and his erstwhile employer – defeat.

Karnataka had a good beginning to the season, winning the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (T20), and Vijay Hazare (one-dayers) and the opening Ranji Trophy fixture before drawing the next two at home. A win and then another draw highlight the team's struggles in finding consistency. Goud, who took charge last season, is hoping to hit the right notes as the competition enters the business end.

"It feels good. Sort of a homecoming for me. More than 100 games for Railways, 15 years on this ground, it is special. Harvinder Singh on the opposite bench makes it more special. We were together when Railways won those two titles and are still part of the Railways veterans group. So it is good to match up on-field," Goud said while overseeing Karnataka's first practice session here.

**Just the same**

Of the 105 Ranji matches Goud played for Railways, 49 were at this ground, with 2654 runs at an average of 42.12. No wonder, he knows every nook and corner of the



**Braintrust:** Karnataka coach Yere Goud, right, feels that S. Arvind joining as a bowling coach is a big asset for the team. ■ FILE PHOTO: G.P. SAMPATH KUMAR

field. How much have things changed? "Well, the pitch has been relaxed and so is expected to be different. But other than that, nothing has changed here since then. It's more or less just the same as I left it," he smiled.

And that, for him, would be an advantage in terms of passing insider information to the youngsters in his side. "Some of the senior players have already faced Railways here. For youngsters like Devdutt (Padikkal) or Shathath Srinivas, I can give some inputs on what can be the scoring areas and the kind of ground and pitch that can be expected at Karnail Singh," he added.

**Helping hand**

Goud, though, understands that things have changed since he last played and so is thankful for the added experience that someone like Sreenath Aravind brings to the side. The medium-pacer called it a day two years ago and immediately joined the side as bowling coach. Goud admitted that the immediacy helps players.

"The nature of the game has changed and so, when you have that recent experience, it helps the players understand better and get immediate results. Aravind has played with Abhimanyu Mithun and Ronit More and so can explain things better. I am glad that, as a medium-pace unit, we are showing the progress we wanted at start of the season," he said.

Railways was bolstered by the return of Mahesh Rawat. The experienced batsman-wicketkeeper, who joined the team for Saturday's practice for the first time this season.

Robin confident of Indian football's growth

VIJAY LOKAPALLY NEW DELHI

Hyderabad FC striker Robin Singh is optimistic of Indian football growing in stature with the help of better infrastructure. "It is something that will always improve, just like electronics will always improve. I think the growth and the up-gradation of infrastructure is very important. It's a matter of time when we will see a lot more infrastructure coming up. There's a lot of room for improvement but you can't take away anything from where it's has come to," he said.

Robin was speaking after conducting a master class to highlight the nuances of the boot and its relevance at an event held by adidas.

Speaking to the young footballers, he wanted them to be prepared for any unfair circumstances in their sporting careers. He said "There will be times when the sport will prove 'unfair' and yet we must overcome these challenges. adidas' 'Unfair Tournament' provides an in-



Robin Singh ■

teresting and unique platform to play with different rules. I am extremely happy to be a part of this transformational culture that challenges mindsets."

**On the rise**

Reflecting on Indian football in general, Robin noted, "It's growing. The team is playing a brand of football that the spectators are liking, whether we're winning or not. Indian football is growing as you can see youngsters stepping up to learn from the foreigners who come to play."

He lamented the slow of death of clubs but welcomes the ISL. "The club culture is dying but to say, Delh

Dynamos or (any city franchise). So the people of Delhi associate with something that says Delhi. Likewise in Bengaluru or Mumbai. When you say club culture is dying, it's a transition phase. ISL has helped Indian football grow. It's helped youngsters come up. Every young boy and young girl now talks about ISL. People feel proud to be a part of that growth."

Robin pleaded with the fans to patient. "Couple of years back we were 167 in the world. We have improved. You can't have growth without failure. It's as simple as that. So if you are growing, you will fail as well. But you learn from that experience and you make sure you don't do that mistake again. I believe in taking a step at a time.

"If you want to be best in the world, you got to be best in Asia first. To be best in Asia first you got to be the best in sub-continent first. You grow through the tactical and technical abilities of players. You grow through infrastructure."

Apurvi wins another gold

SHOOTING

SPORTS BUREAU MUMBAI

It was another golden performance by Apurvi Chandela as she beat Xu Hong of China by 1.8 point in the women's air rifle final of the H&N Cup here on Friday.

Qualifying in fourth place with a high score of 631.2, Apurvi shot 252.5 in the final.

**Further proof**

After two golden efforts in the last competition in Austria, this was further proof of Apurvi sound preparation for the Olympics.

Apurvi was scheduled to shoot one more competition in Munich, but Rakesh Manpat, Apurvi's mentor for some years, has suggested that she rest and recover for the selection trials to be held in Thiruvananthapuram.

Rakesh felt that the purpose of the European trip had been well served and Apurvi needed the rest and recovery to improve on her high scores.

Shriyanka Sadangi, who



**Bull's eye:** Apurvi Chandela pipped Xu Hong of China by 1.8 point in the women's air rifle final of the H&N Cup. ■ FILE PHOTO: KAMESH SRINIVASAN

shot better than Apurvi in qualification for a score of 631.8, finished fourth behind Romane Matte of France.

Qualification topper Maria Martynova (632.1) of Belarus, finished eighth.

In men's air rifle, Divyansh Singh Pawar (628.4) and Deepak Kumar (628.4) were unable to make the final, and finished 24th and 28th respectively, which provided a hint about the high quality competition.

Divyansh had won two competitions like Apurvi in Austria.

**The results: Women's air rifle:** 1. Apurvi Chandela 252.5 (631.2); 2. Xu Hong (Chn) 250.7 (631.0); 3. Romane Matte (Fra) 227.8 (630.7); 4. Shriyanka Sadangi 207.2 (631.8).

PCB refutes boycott reports

SHAYAN ACHARYA MUMBAI

Wasim Khan, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chief executive officer, has rubbished reports claiming that Pakistan won't send its team to India for the 2021 T20 World Cup if the BCCI doesn't allow its team to tour Pakistan in the Asia Cup later this year.

"This has been completely taken out of context. Even though we would still want to host the Asia Cup in Pakistan, the Asian Cricket Council needs to decide on what it will do about the matches involving India," Khan told *The Hindu* from Lahore on Saturday.

Earlier, reports claimed that PCB would skip the World Cup T20 – to be held in India next year – if Indian team didn't travel to Pakistan for the Asia Cup.

"It's absolutely incorrect. What I would like to say is that, we are concerned about security issues and also there could be issues in attaining visas. But we are confident that things will ease out over the period of

time," Khan said, making it clear that there's no question of pulling out from the T20 World Cup, which is an ICC event.

**Neutral venue**

India had hosted the Asia Cup at a neutral venue – in the UAE – in 2018, and this time too, there is uncertainty on whether India would get clearance from the government to travel to Pakistan owing to security issues. That's where there is a possibility of the matches being held at neutral venues. "These are the issues, which the ACC will have to look into and decide accordingly," Khan added.

India has not toured Pakistan since 2008, while it has also not played a full Test bilateral series with the neighbouring country since 2007 due to strained political and diplomatic relations. Pakistan did visit India in 2012 to play a short limited-overs series.

However, the two sides have met in Asia Cup and ICC events over the last few years.

War Hammer may score an encore

**BENGALURU:** War Hammer, who is in rousing form, may score an encore in the Shree Meenakshi Sundereshwara Bangalore Derby (2,400m), the stellar attraction of the races to be held here on Sunday (Jan 26). There will be no false rails.

**1. SADDLE UP CUP** (Div. I), (1,200m), rated 00 to 20, 1:15 pm: 1. Air Force One (7) Darshan 60, 2. Altair (2) Irvan 60, 3. Sun Splash (6) C. Umesh 60, 4. Lovely Sierra (4) Selvaraj 59.5, 5. Sri Lakshmi (3) Md. Asif Khan 59.5, 6. Le Mar (10) Nazim 59.7, Brightside Of Life (1) Arvind Kumar 58.5, 8. Apollo Bay (9) Kiran Rai 58, 9. Bazinga (1) K. Raghu 58, 10. Ruler Of Nation (5) Trevor 58 and 11. Kanthaka (8) R. Anand 57.

**1.1. RULER OF NATION, 2. AIR FORCE ONE, 3. SUN SPLASH.**

**2. TOTALIZATOR CUP** (Div. II), (1,400m), rated 15 to 35, 1:45: 1. Sea Of Cortez (5) Nazerul 60, 2. Augustina (9) C. Umesh 58.5, 3. Chantelle (8) Akshay Kumar 58.5, 4. Star Sapphire (7) Suraj 58, 5. Awesome Girl (6) Antony 57.5, 6. Green Channel (2) T.S. Jodha 57.5, 7. Nostradamus (-) 57.5, 8. Sensational Grey (4) Darshan 57.5, 9. Eco Friendly (1) Shreyas Singh 56.5 and 10. Commandpost (3) Sai Kiran 55.

**1. STAR SAPPHIRE, 2. SEA OF CORTEZ, 3. AUGUSTINA.**

**3. MYSORE RACE CLUB TROPHY** (1,200m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms), 2:15: 1. General Patton (6) Suraj 55, 2. Golden Memory (13) Darshan 55, 3. Handsome Rocky (2) Sai Kiran 55, 4. Little Joe (9) Rayan 55, 5. Longstride (5) Akshay Kumar 55, 6. Smithsonian (3) Chetan C 55, 7. Sporting Memories (1) David Allan 55, 8. Stormy Knight (14) Jagadeesh 55, 9. Caracas (10) Arshad 53.5, 10. Drusilla (7) I. Chisty 53.5, 11. Hitomi Sakuma (12) R. Anand 53.5, 12. Limited Source (11) R. Marshall 53.5,

13. Livisilla (4) T.S. Jodha 53.5 and 14. Ultimate Choice (8) Kiran Rai 53.5.

**1. SPORTING MEMORIES, 2. GENERAL PATTON, 3. LONGSTRIDE.**

**4. TOTALIZATOR CUP** (Div. I), (1,400m), rated 15 to 35, 2:45: 1. Cosmic Feeling (10) A. Imran 60, 2. Legendary Princess (4) David Allan 60, 3. Polar Express (2) I. Chisty 59.5, 4. Custom Cut (7) David Egan 58.5, 5. Red Indian (3) Kiran Rai 58.5, 6. Happy Dancing (-) 57.5, 7. Bahurupah (1) S.K. Paswan 57.5, 8. Definitive (8) S. Shareef 57, 9. Country's Jewel (9) T.S. Jodha 56, 10. Goodwill Warrior (5) Vinod Shinde 56.

**1. COSMIC FEELING, 2. LEGENDARY PRINCESS, 3. COUNTRY'S JEWEL.**

**5. R.W.I.T.C CUP** (1,400m), rated 30 to 50, 3:20: 1. Daring Prince (10) Trevor 60, 2. Knotty Oak (12) Antony 60, 3. Darahasini (9) P. Surya 59.5, 4. Schafenberg (1) R. Marshall 59.5, 5. Indian Democrat (4) David Allan 58.5, 6. On The Trot (11) S. John 58.5, 7. Karadeniz (8) S. Shareef 57, 9. Country's Jewel (9) T.S. Jodha 58.5, 5. Shivailik Show (9) Arshad 58.5, 6. Silent Ruler (5) R. Anand 57, 7. El Matarador (6) A. Vishwanath 56.5, 8. Princess Amu (8) Vinod Shinde 56.5, 9. Phoenix Reached (1) Jagadeesh 56 and 10. Athamitra (7) Irvan 55.5.

**1. SHIVAILIK SHOW, 2. PHOENIX REACHED, 3. BLACKHAWK.**

Day's best: **SPORTING MEMORIES** Double: **COSMIC FEELING – DIAMOND RAYS** Jkt: 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9; Tr (i): 1, 2 and 3; (ii): 4, 5 and 6; (iii): 7, 8 and 9.

**7. SHREE MEENAKSHI SUNDERESHWARA BANGALORE DERBY** (2,400m), 4-y-o, (Terms), 4:30: 1. Alexander Burnes (4) Trevor 57, 2. Here And Now (6) A. Imran 57, 3. Mighty Red (8) Donoghue 57, 4. Roman Senator (5) David Allan 57, 5. Square The Circle (7) Srinath 57, 6. Streaming Gold (-) 57, 7. War Hammer (2) Suraj 57, 8. Anjeze (3) David Egan 55.5 and 9. Speedster (1) Akshay Kumar 55.5.

**1. WAR HAMMER, 2. ANJEZE, 3. HERE AND NOW.**

**8. T.B. HANUMANTHARAJ MEMORIAL TROPHY** (2,000m), rated 30 to 50, 5-y-o & over, 5:10: 1. Grey Channel (4) Trevor 60, 2. Spirit Bruce (5) A. Imran 56.5, 3. Astral Force (6) Antony 56, 4. Marco Polo (8) Srinath 55.5, 5. Fotogenic (10) T.S. Jodha 54.5, 6. Show Girl (2) Vaibhav 54.5, 7. Fictioneer (3) Akshay Kumar 53, 8. Mariachi (9) I. Chisty 52.5, 9. Flirting Eyes (1) Darshan 52 and 10. Incitatus (7) R. Manish 51.5.

**1. GREY CHANNEL, 2. SPIRIT BRUCE, 3. MARCO POLO.**

**9. SADDLE UP CUP** (Div. II), (1,200m), rated 00 to 20, 5:50: 1. Bravado (-) 60, 2. Blackhawk (4) S. John 59.5, 3. Song And Dance (10) A. Imran 59.5, 4. Rancho (3) T.S. Jodha 58.5, 5. Shivailik Show (9) Arshad 58.5, 6. Silent Ruler (5) R. Anand 57, 7. El Matarador (6) A. Vishwanath 56.5, 8. Princess Amu (8) Vinod Shinde 56.5, 9. Phoenix Reached (1) Jagadeesh 56 and 10. Athamitra (7) Irvan 55.5.

**BENGALURU:** Irfan Ghatala trained Watchmyscript (Irvan up) won the Bangalore Race Course 157th Year Commemoration Trophy, the chief event of the races held here on Saturday (Jan 25). The winner is owned by Mr. Marthand Singh Mahindra, Mr. Nitin Kumar Adiga, Mr. Irfan Ghatala and Mr. G. Surendranath. Jockey Akshay Kumar made it treble in today's races.

**THE RESULTS**

**1. PARFAIT AMOUR TROPHY** (Div. II), (1,200m), rated 15 to 35: **KING OF THE SAND** (C. Umesh) 1, Desert Combat (S. John) 2, Super Gladiator (A. Imran) 3 and Up Front (S. Shareef) 4. Not run: Queen Isabella. 2-1/2, Hd and 1-3/4. Im 13.15s. ₹103 (w), 25, 14 and 13 (p), SHP: 39, THP: 37, FP: 310, Q: 77, Trinella: 768 and 371, Exacta: 2,802 and 1,514. Favourite: Desert Combat. Owners: Mr. K.P.G. Appu & Mr. Dilip R Ranka.

**2. RAICHUR TROPHY** (Div. I), (1,400m), rated 15 to 35, 5-y-o & over: **AMAZING ANGEL** (Arshad) 1, Dreams Union (Sai Kumar) 2, Brown Bess (P. Surya) 3 and Agnar (S. John) 4. 1/2, 5-1/2 and 3/4. Im 26.26s. ₹41 (w), 17, 16 and 42 (p), SHP: 49, THP: 84, FP: 246, Q: 146, Trinella: 2,157 and 970, Exacta: 5,153 and 2,209. Favourite: Amazing Angel. Owner: Mr. B.E. Vasanth Kumar. Trainer: Azhar Ali.

**3. PARFAIT AMOUR TROPHY** (Div. II), (1,200m), rated 15 to 35: **SKYFIRE** (Akshay Kumar) 1, Debonair (A. Imran) 2, Genuine Star (Mark) 3 and Estella (I. Chisty) 4. Not run: Queen Of Sands. 4-1/2, 3-3/4 and 1-1/2. Im 12.33s. ₹13 (w), 11, 15 and 22 (p), SHP: 26, THP: 40, FP: 25, Q: 26, Trinella: 77 and 55, Exacta: 226 and 71. Favourite: Skyfire. Owners: Mr. Harakchand C. Gandhi & Mr. B. Prithviraj. Trainer: B. Prithviraj.

**4. SOHNA STUD TROPHY** (1,400m), rated 30 to 50, 6-y-o & over: **OPTIMISTICAPPROACH** (A. Imran) 1, Princeazeem (Akshay Kumar) 2, Morrane Gabriella (Khurshad Alam) 3 and Reccal (S. John) 4. 1, 1-1/2 and 2-1/2. Im 25.53s. ₹17 (w), 12, 28 and 150 (p), SHP: 83, THP: 322, FP: 150, Q: 114, Trinella: 3,329 and 2,695, Exacta: 41,496 and 5,081. Favourite: Optimisticapproach. Owners: Mr. Nitin Himmatmal Jain & Mr. Jatin Laxmikant Trivedi. Trainer: B. Prithviraj.

**5. RAJA WADIYAR MEMORIAL TROPHY** (1,200m), rated 60 & above: **CERISE NOIR** (Akshay Kumar) 1, Kvasir (C. Umesh) 2, Air Command (S. John) 3 and Set To Win (Sai Kumar) 4. 1, 1/2 and 3/4. Im 11.91s. ₹33 (w), 14, 19 and 25 (p), SHP: 53, THP: 57, FP: 181, Q: 124, Trinella: 1,552 and 562, Exacta: 9,223 and 10,870. Favourite: Cerise Noir.

**6. BANGALORE RACE COURSE 157TH YEAR COMMEMORATION TROPHY** (1,600m), 4-y-o & over, (Terms): **WATCHMYSCRIPT** (Irvan) 1, Big Sur (David Allan) 2, Sakura (Akshay Kumar) 3 and Shesmyscript (C. Umesh) 4. 3, 2-1/2 and Lnk. Im 34.97s. ₹97 (w), 38 and 11 (p), SHP: 38, THP: 38, FP: 228, Q: 56, Trinella: 629 and 607, Exacta: 2,083 and 609. Favourite: Big Sur. Owners: Mr. Marthand Singh Mahindra, Mr. Nitin Kumar Adiga, Mr. Irfan Ghatala and Mr. G. Surendranath. Trainer: Irfan Ghatala.

**7. B.N. GUDIYAPPA BANGALORE WINTER MILLION** (1,200m), 3-y-o only, (Terms): **NISUS** (Akshay Kumar) 1, Cavallini (C. Umesh) 2, Anne Boleyn (A. Imran) 3 and Rule Of Engagement (Trevor) 4. 3-

3/4. 4-1/4 and 1-1/4. Im 12.10s. ₹26 (w), 15 and 20 (p), SHP: 42, THP: 31, FP: 172, Q: 99, Trinella: 302 and 103, Exacta: 689 and 568. Favourite: Anne Boleyn. Owner: Mr. Vishal Kamal Doctor. Trainer: Prasanna Kumar.

**8. RAICHUR TROPHY** (Div. II), (1,400m), rated 15 to 35, 5-y-o & over: **WINNING FORCE** (Arshad) 1, King Creole (David Allan) 2, Proudwish (Sai Vamshi) 3 and Admiral One (Jagadeesh) 4. 2-1/2, 2-1/2 and 1/2. Im 27.06s. ₹42 (w), 17, 15 and 26 (p), SHP: 48, THP: 68, FP: 123, Q: 53, Trinella: 805 and 458, Exacta: 5,929 and 3,388. Favourite: King Creole. Owners: Mr. Rienzie M.K. Edwards & Mrs. P.P.M. Edwards. Trainer: Rajesh Narreddu.

Jackpot: ₹19,913 (29 tkts); Runner-up: 1,431 (173 tkts); Treble (i): 65 (343 tkts); (ii): 3,169 (nine tkts).