

HIGH ACHIEVER

Hooked to the game

For many, paintball is only a sport to unwind. The fun of triggering paint at others is hardly understood in words.

However, for Melwin, a first-year MBA student from CMS Business School, Jain University, the sport is a serious affair.

He, along with another player, will represent India at the Paintball World Cup Asia (WCA) 2013, which will be held in Malaysia from November 14 to 17.

Melwin explains how the game grew on him. "It all started about a year ago when I used to play the game for fun. Later on, I fell in love with the game as it is addictive and I wanted to take it to the next level," he says, and continues, "I was so hooked to learning the game that I undertook a short-term summer training in paintball."

He jokes, "I used to prac-

tice outside my house to perfect my shots."

Passion has won him accolades. Melwin has competed in three India International paintball leagues so far and has emerged as a runner-up in two.

He has also taken part in two domestic tournaments and has managed to win one of them.

Quiz him about the game affecting his studies and he says, "I try to balance both but everything depends on the commitment and passion towards the game. Also, my studies are not affected much as I practice during weekends. Even if I have to miss classes, it is only for half-day."

The trophies add to his soaring spirits and increase the confidence of his family members in his skills.

He says, "My parents have been extremely supportive. Initially, they may have



PASSIONATE Melwin

thought that I am playing only for fun and it will fade away some day. But my passion did not end with just playing. The moment I reached home, I used to start my research and learn more about paintball. That's how they knew the sport is here to stay with me."

Having said that, Melwin also tries to encourage others to play the sport.

He reveals, "Recently, we had to go on a team outing from college and about 30 of us went to play paintball. When we returned, about ten of them were considering to take up the sport profession-

ally." Though he feels that paintball is still not considered as a serious sport in India and most people don't even have a clear idea about how the game is played, he is passionate to promote the game.

Melwin adds, "There is a lot of potential for the game in our country. Since many international tournaments have taken place here and many players have come to India, the popularity of the game can be widespread. The sport is still in the early stages and I am sure it has a long way to go."

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