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Jain University cricketers bask in glory of T20 win

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Bangalore: Cheered on by a packed hall full of students, teachers and family alike, Jain University's cricket team basked in the glory of being the country's finest University-level cricketers at a felicitation organized by their Alma Mater here on Wednesday.

Jain University's enviable rich sporting legacy has stood testimony to several great achievements and milestones. From producing Olympians to champion sports persons acro-

CRICKET

ss several disciplines such as tennis, cue sports, swimming, badminton among others, their latest feather in the cap is a triumph par excellence.

Having already established their supremacy winning the Rohinton Baria inter-zone university cricket tournament in January, Jain went for the grand double by annexing the all-India University T20 Championship held recently.

"It's one of the proudest moments for our college, and



CHAMPS: Jain University cricket team during its felicitation function in Bangalore on Wednesday

more importantly for Karnataka," Jain University Trust president Dr. Chenraj Roychand told TOI.

"This is no overnight success, the boys have worked hard and they truly deserve the exposure they are going to get from this victory," added Chenraj, who handed mementos to each player and also announced a Singapore-Mal-

aysia holiday trip as reward for the 20-member team. Jain University, who defeated Jamia Millia, Delhi by two runs in a nerve-racking final, also won Rs 5 lakh as tournament cash award from the organizers.

Blinded by shutterbugs, the young lads posed and smiled sheepishly, soaking in the adulation of their newfound success, which is sure

to propel their career towards the higher levels of the game in India. "We are stars now," quipped Shreyas Gopal, whose all-round effort in the final was the catalyst for Bangalore's victory. "I played my part but overall, it was team effort. Even when the pressure mounted in the final, we never lost our focus," said the India Under-19 spinner.

The ceremony missed the presence of HS Sharath, Sushith Jagadeesh, KL Rahul and skipper Kaunain Abbas, who are plying their trade at the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy T20 Zonal Tournament in Shimoga. Abbas was the cynosure of the tournament, emerging the highest scorer with 313 runs and posting the highest individual score of 128, laurels which won him the Man of the Series award.

"Our momentum was high after we won the Rohinton Baria title and this T20 win is the icing on the cake," Abbas told TOI from Shimoga. "Live coverage was something previously unheard of for university cricket and now people even from the remotest parts of Karnataka recognize me. I'm sure by next year, the standard of the Rohinton Baria competition will get tougher with everyone eyeing a qualifying berth for the T20 tournament," said the 22-year-old, who is shaping up well to earn a place in the Karnataka Ranji Trophy squad.

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