



## LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

### RAGHUBIR SINGH BHOLA

Raghubir Singh Bhola was born in Multan (now Pakistan) on Aug 21st 1927. He went to Government Model High School in Khanewal, He developed an aptitude for sports at a very young age. The standard for sports in his school was high. He was selected as part of the Government Model High School Field Hockey team and won the Interschool XI Championship. He learned the value of hard-work at a very young age.

He moved to New Delhi for higher studies pre-partition and represented D.A.V. High School, Paharganj. Being an intelligent student he did Electrical Engineering from the prestigious Delhi College of Engineering (now Delhi Technological University), where he also played hockey for the Brothers Club at the inter-collegiate level.

After completing his Electrical Engineering from DCE, he joined the Indian Air Force in 1952. He was inducted into the Services Hockey team to play in the National Hockey Championship. The Services team won the National Hockey Championship for the first time and this was the beginning of Hockey career at the National Level.

From 1954 to 1960 he captained the Indian Air Force Field Hockey and Services Hockey team and won the Inter Services Hockey Championship three times and the National Hockey Championship twice.

The Indian Hockey Federation selected him to be part of the 1956 Melbourne Olympics Indian Field Hockey squad. The team defeated Afghanistan 14-0, USA 16-0 and Singapore 6-0 in the group games and Germany 1-0 in the Semi Finals. India defeated Pakistan 1-0 in the Finals and won the Gold medal.

In 1959, he was selected to accompany the Indian Field Hockey team on a goodwill tour of Egypt, Italy, Spain and Germany, in preparation for the 1960 Rome Olympics.

For the 1960 Rome Olympics, he was once again selected to represent the Indian Field Hockey team. He scored a total of 6 goals in the tournament. His extra time penalty corner goal against Australia carried India into the semifinal where they beat Great Britain (1-0). India and Pakistan reached the finals again, but this time Pakistan scored a goal in the first 10 minutes of the game. In the last 4 minutes of the game, Bhola got the ball, dodged Right-Half, Right-Front Back, entered the shooting circle and took a full-blooded left hand stroke at the goal, missing the mark by 6 inches. India lost to Pakistan and got a Silver medal.

In 1962, he was selected by the Indian Air Force to undergo a two year post graduation course in Electrical Engineering at the College of Aeronautics, Cranfield University, UK

From 1966 to 1975, he was a member of the selection committee at Indian Hockey Federation.

He was appointed by the IHF as the manager of the Indian Field Hockey team for Rene Frank International Tournament, India 1970, Tour of New Zealand 1975 and Montreal Olympics 1976.

He was awarded the Arjuna Award for life time achievement in Field Hockey in 2000.