

Hat-trick of International Badminton Titles for Indian pair Chirag Sen & Satwik Sairaj

Suhas Nayse | TNN | Dec 10, 2016,

NAGPUR: Three Titles in three International Tournaments in as many weeks. It doesn't happen often in Indian Badminton particularly in the Men's Doubles. But Chirag Shetty and Satwik Sairaj Rankireddy completed a rare hat-trick by emerging triumphant in the Bangladesh International Series in Colombo on Saturday.

Earlier in the previous two weeks, the teenage pair of Chirag (19) and Satwik (17) had emerged Men's Doubles winners at India International Series in Hyderabad and Tata Open International Challenge in Mumbai.

In the All-India final on Saturday, third seeds Chirag and Satwik shocked second seeds M Anilkumar Raju and Venkat Gaurav Prasad 17-21, 21-7, 21-8 to clinch their third crown in as many weeks.

Overall it was their fourth International Title. Ranked 93rd in the World now, the duo of Chirag and Satwik, both over 6 feet tall, is dubbed as the future doubles Champions of India, who can challenge the best in the world in the years to come.

India's specialist Doubles Coach Tan Kim Her is pleased with the performance of Chirag of Mumbai and Andhra Pradesh's Satwik.

"It is a very good start from both of them. One thing good about them is that they combine well on court and off the court as well. Understanding and support towards each other are very important. They do have a potential to do really well at the top level along with the other upcoming juniors as well," said Tan.

The Malaysian is also happy with the progress other juniors are making after he took over the charge of doubles coach around a year ago.

"Besides Chirag-Satwik we have some good promising juniors moving up as well. I am happy to see our juniors are moving up and showing encouraging results for the last one year," said Tan.

Former Junior National Champion Chirag is delighted to win three Titles in a row.

"We started by winning the Mauritius International and then an All India Title and then three together now. It feels great. This is our first year as a pair and it's been an eventful year for us. We started the year with disappointing results but gradually the pairing has proved fruitful," said the Mumbai-based youngster.

Both Chirag and Satwik think this is just the beginning and best is yet to come.

"We can be the best pair in India. But before becoming that we feel we need to be the give our best on the international circuit. It's the international players we need to beat. That's the aim. So automatically we can become India's top pair," said the duo, who now trains at the Pullela Gopichand Badminton Academy in Hyderabad under the watchful eyes of Indian Doubles Coach Tan Kim Her.