



(Top L-R): Winners of the Holy Angels inter school quiz : Balagopal U., Aravind Sreekumar, Rajath R., Jayavardhan A. Menon, Sachin R.
(Bottom, L-R): Syam Thomas and Sankarankutty fight for the ball with their St. Joseph's counterpart, Abhilash A.E. in the finals of the Loyola tournament; Sankarankutty taking a free-throw, Sankarankutty and Joice Joseph taking the jumpball.

20th Century: Champions!!! 21st Century: Slumdogs ???

Loyola School, Trivandrum. One of the best schools in Trivandrum, famous for its faculty, for its students and for its excellence. But above all, this school is famous for something else; something called...Basketball. Referred to as the Mecca of Basketball in Trivandrum, this school had an era of victory when only Loyola had victory. And this fact can't be denied. The following are the excerpts from LENS, Feb 1997:

'By winning the XIII Loyola Basketball tournament, Loyola has succeeded in completing a hat-trick for the first time in the history of Loyola.'

And the following are excerpts from LENS, Jan 1986:

'The Loyola School Basketball team went to the G.V. Raja Sports School on Friday

the 24th to participate in the inter school basketball matches. The Loyola Team returned the Inter School Champions, the other teams having conceded defeat to them'

And this is what came in LENS, Oct 1987:

'In the first match in the District Inter-School Meet held in Sarvodaya Vidyalaya, Loyola got a walk over from Kendriya Vidyalaya. In the second match, Loyola defeated St. Joseph's School. The score was 26-15. Thus Loyola entered the semi-final. In the semi-finals, Loyola defeated the home team, Sarvodaya Vidyalaya with score 37-26. Loyola faced G.V. Raja in the finals and Loyola returned victorious by defeating G.V. Raja with the score 46-38.'

But since the past decade, Loyola has experienced nothing but failure. Though we reach the finals with 'GREAT' difficulty, we have never ever lifted the trophy, which will be either taken by G.V. Raja or St. Joseph's. In the 2008 Loyola Tournament, Loyola beat St. John's in the first match, Don Bosco, Irinjalakuda in the quarter-finals and Marthoma School in the semi-finals (Please notice that none of these teams are known for basketball). And like every year, Loyola lost to St. Joseph's School with the score 72-28. In the St. Joseph's tournament, Loyola lost the first match to Sarvodaya Vidyalaya. In the St. Thomas tournament, Loyola defeated Oxford school in the first match (again Please notice that *no-one* has heard about Oxford School's skills in basketball). And as per the usual script, Loyola lost the second match to St. Thomas Central School. Recently there was an under-

16 inter school tournament knockout at Central Stadium. And Loyola lost the first match to a government school, a school which is not even known in the field of basketball. Vishwadeepthi Central School, Kattakada beat Loyola School with a margin of 12 points.

This has been the fate of Loyola School lately. Instead of continuing the winning streak, they have been falling down from being the Mecca of Basketball in Trivandrum to being the Trash Can of Basketball in Trivandrum. And it can't be denied that the reasons for this downfall are:

- 1- Improper coaching techniques
 - 2- Lack of commitment to the game
- We hope that the school authorities will take up this issue seriously so that the pride of Loyola doesn't fade away. Let the Loyola Flag fly high in every field it participates.

FOR THE RECORD

- ◆ Akbar Shah (VIII A), Madhav H (VI A) and Harikrishnan A (VI A) represented the Trivandrum U-13 Dist. football team conducted by the Kerala State Championship.
- ◆ Vignesh G (XI A) got 1st place in the short story writing competition conducted by the All India State Govt. Employees Federation 13th Annual Conference.
- ◆ Ashish Thomas Philip (class V) achieved rank 209 and Vishnu Mohan (XI B) achieved rank 158 in the National Science Olympiad and are selected for the second level.
- ◆ Adithya Joseph (VII A) won the consolation prize in the RBI essay writing competition.
- ◆ **Aravind Sreekumar and Balagopal U (VIII A) were the High School Level Champions in the Holy Angels Inter School Quiz.. Jaivardhan A. Menon (VI B), Rajath. R (VI B), and Sachin. R (VI B) were the UP Section Runners-Ups in the same competition.**

Editorial

After the dawn of a new year, LENS is on full throttle to fulfill the reading desires of the common Loyolite. A very positive response has been received for the previous issue and I thank all the readers for their support.

As always, LENS promises to give all that happens on and about the campus and the tradition isn't broken in this issue. This month's issue brings to light, one of the many problems which are taking place at the school. And of course, the January issue of LENS is different from all the issues ever released by LENS.

This month, we are introducing two new sections: 'Know your school' which tests the loyolites on their knowledge about their school and 'For the record' which keeps a timely update on what all is happening in the school.