

CRICKET

Growing up in India where cricket is considered a religion, it became a big part of my childhood and life. Some of my fondest memories are me playing cricket in my backyard or representing my school team or watching important games with the whole family. It was only natural for me to join the cricket team at UWC in grade 9. Being a right arm- fast bowler and a handy late order batsman, my UWC cricket experience has proved to be both exciting and challenging. One of the most important qualities I have learned is the importance of teamwork. Cricket is inherently a very team centric sport, in almost all points of the game you have a partner, for eg when you are batting there is always a teammate on the non striker's end. Playing numerous games has made me realise that you cannot rely on a one man show. My proudest moment this year was in a game against Raffles Institution, where I managed to pick up 3 crucial wickets in helping the team secure a good victory. It is good to take into account the immense amount of hard work and hours that goes into performing in that match. I still remember that I picked up the second wicket using a type of delivery that I had been practicing for the last 6-7 sessions. I had spent a large number of hours in the nets with the guidance of my coach practicing how to bowl an ideal in-swing. To see my hard work come to fruition in the game gave me an intense sense of satisfaction as well as motivation to work harder.

ii) Cricket is also a game of patience. Initially, I had no composure of patience when I came onto bat, I would simply try to slog every ball and hit it out of the park. This worked maybe for a ball or two but would eventually serve as a weakness and cause me to get out. Hence, my coach and I took the initiative to work on improving my technique and composure in batting. This included a lot of batting drills, numerous hours with the bowling machine and drills that seemed extremely boring and not useful at the time. However after a month or two of this, my debut in a practice game at school proved it was all worth it. I played composed shots and learnt the art of patience in order to slowly develop my innings instead of going for it all at once. Due to the situation with COVID-19 I have been unable to play cricket for a while but I continue to carry on with drills at home like shadow batting and can't wait to get back on the pitch.

Here is a video of me practicing in the nets.