

A CYCA MAGAZINE

PAVILION PRESS



2025, EDITION 1



**SHIV SHANI & RAHUL BASU IN USA U19 TEAM
AS THEY WIN 2025 CUBS TOURNAMENT TROPHY**

WITH PROUD PARENTS MEHUL SHANI, SHILPI BASU & DEBRAJ BASU



TABLE OF CONTENT

02

EDITORIAL

03

USA U19 TOUR
REPORT

05

DESTINATION OF
THIS EDITION

06

TRIP TO
CARRIBBEAN

07

JUSTIN'S U14
FLORIDA TRIP
REPORT

09

SANDEEP'S U12
FLORIDA TRIP
REPORT

11

QUIZ

12

QUIZ

13

AMLCA
MEMORIAL DAY

LET'S START

We, at Chicago Youth Cricket Academy (CYCA) are thrilled to launch our first magazine, a long-envisioned project to complement our efforts in nurturing young cricketers. While we may face initial challenges, we are committed to improving with each edition. This platform aims to share experiences, stories, and insights beyond coaching sessions and social media, offering content for parents and children to enjoy together.

The first two months of 2025 have already been eventful:

- Two CYCA players helped the USA U19 team win the Cubs Tournament in South Africa.
- We launched our 6th year with the 2025 Winter Programs.
- Our redesigned fast-bowling program, developed with Steffan Jones, will soon roll out.
- CYCA's U12 team won the Presidents' Day Tournament in Florida.
- One of our founders, Mehul Shani was elected Chairman of the ICE Hub, overseeing USA cricket pathways.
- Our Indoor T10 Tapeball tournament entered its third year, fostering competition and fun.

This is just the beginning. We thank our coaches, players, and contributors for making this magazine possible. Here's to many more editions celebrating the spirit of cricket!

-

Nishanth VJ
On Behalf of CYCA Team

2025 Donate Today



zelle®



“

Leverage power of sports to bring joy and unlock the potential of underprivileged children across the globe

SOUTH AFRICA USA U19 TOUR



RAHUL BASU & SHIV SHANI WERE PART OF THE USA U19 TEAM THAT PLAYED IN SOUTH AFRICA EARLIER IN JANUARY. NOTES BY RAHUL

1

Tournament & the team

The USA U19 team participated in the 2025 CUBS tournament in South Africa, which featured eight teams, including six South African “zonal” teams and Namibia U19. During a gala dinner attended by all teams, the South African U19 squad for the tour of England was announced.

Our team came together for the first time just two days before the tournament. Despite limited preparation time, we had a couple of training sessions that helped establish a strong team culture from the outset. The environment was both competitive and encouraging, allowing players to quickly adapt. Coaching input primarily focused on strategies and general match scenarios, while technical adjustments were addressed individually, with players advised to work on them after the tour.

As the tournament progressed, the team continuously improved, even with the rotation of players within our 16-man squad. After losing the first match, we gained a clearer understanding of our strengths and weaknesses and communicated our plans effectively in between games. As the tournament went on, the wickets began to offer more turn, which played to our strengths.



2

Learnings

Adapting quickly to your role in a team environment is crucial. Understanding and communicating what the team needs allows for a more effective contribution

Especially when under pressure the focus should be to make a positive impact with every opportunity rather than playing with the fear of failure.





DESTINATION: TRINIDAD

THE HOT SPOT

TRIP TO CARRIBBEAN

RAHUL BASU & SHIV SHANI HAVE RECENTLY TRAVELLED MULTIPLE TIMES TO TRINIDAD TO PARTICIPATE IN THE LOCAL LEAGUE. NOTES BY RAHUL

1

Format of the matches

Cricket in Trinidad has been an enriching experience, offering exposure to all three formats of the game. The league structure includes two-day and one-day matches, while the T20s are played in a tournament format. Currently, we're halfway through the red-ball two-day season, with one-dayers and T20s lined up on the horizon.

I'm playing in Premier 2, the second division of club cricket here. While the league may not be the most competitive I've encountered—with each team featuring around four strong players—it has been a valuable experience. The varying conditions have posed unique challenges, testing my adaptability and skills.

2

Learnings

The primary goal is to gain match practice. While training is crucial, nothing replicates the pressure and unpredictability of actual games. This opportunity has allowed me to better understand my process, how I perform under pressure, and how to navigate different match situations.

All matches are played on turf wickets, each with its own character. Adjusting to these varying surfaces has been a key part of the learning curve, helping me grow as a player.

These Trips has been a journey of growth, challenges, and invaluable lessons—both on and off the field.

be a sponsor

2025
Fourth season



Chicago's
Minor League team
Inquiries: chicago.tigers.milc@gmail.com



JUSTIN'S REPORT



U14 COACH JUSTIN DILL 2025 PRESIDENT'S DAY TOURNAMENT, FT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA

1

Quality of Opponents

The quality of the opponents in general was very good. Our players were thoroughly tested in all areas of their game and had to play well to compete and try and win against the other teams. The first two games were very competitive and close with us coming out on the losing side but we didn't give up and stayed in the game until the end. The last two games we were able to turn the ship around and win with improvements in our consistency from the first two days against two good opponents.

2

Top performances

We were overall very consistent as a batting unit putting up 180 back to back on



the first two days and chasing a low total very effectively on day 3. Veer Patel walked away with top batsmen of the tournament being our anchor and leader in consistency. The rest of the batters all played their respective roles very well and were able to adapt to different roles, conditions and situations. Kian Dalal had a terrific day with the ball on day 3 taking 5 wickets in 6 overs for only 12 runs as a standout performance during the tournament. The bowlers grew stronger as the tournament progressed with consistency and rhythm becoming better and better. With 10 out of the 12 players being able to bowl, everyone contributed when they got the opportunity to helping the team take wickets or restrict the opposition. Special mention to Snithik Surapaneni who on day 3 was on a hat trick and nearly missed out on this amazing feat.

3

Opportunities

The areas we need to keep working on to improve based on the tournament would be consistency in both bowling and batting. Bowling consecutive good balls for as long as we can would considerably help us to build pressure on the opponents and force them to make mistakes. Therefore limiting extras and bad balls would continue to be a big focus point moving forward. The pursuit to be more consistent with bat in hand will always be there from a player and coach's perspective. Decision making and being aware of the match situation and what the team requires is aspects we can focus on and keep in mind when training in the coming months.



SANDEEP'S REPORT



U12 COACH SANDEEP PALAKKAL 2025 PRESIDENT'S DAY TOURNAMENT, FT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA

1

Quality of Opponents

Our U12 team recently participated in the President Youth National Cup tournament in Fort Lauderdale, where we emerged victorious. The competition was fierce, with strong opponents in our group, particularly NJYCA Apollo and CMCE Falcons.



2

Match Highlights

- Game 1: Dhruv Vaid anchored the innings with 88/82, while Sumant Rawat smashed 84/37, his first half-century. Our bowling unit performed exceptionally, restricting Falcons to 45/10.
- Game 2: Arya Mistry scored an unbeatable 100/76, his maiden century, accompanied by Mithil Patel's 69/45. Mithil also took a hat-trick, finishing with 4 wickets at an economy rate of 3.60.
- Game 3: Against NJYCA Apollo, Mithil Patel played a captain's innings, scoring 54/63 in challenging conditions. He also contributed with the ball, taking 1 wicket at an economy rate of 2.76.
- Game 4 (Finals): Falcons batted first, but our spinners slowed the game down. Dhruv Vaid scored another 50, while the Narsimha brothers, Arjun and Tej, contributed with bat and ball, respectively.

3

Quality of Opponents

- Sumant Rawat (Game 1): 84 runs and 1 wicket with an economy rate of 1.64
- Arya Mistry (Game 2): Maiden century, 100/76
- Mithil Patel (Games 2 and 3): Consistent batting and bowling performances
- Dhruv Vaid (Game 1 and Game 4): Half century in both games with 88/82 in game 1.



4

Opportunities

1. Run-outs: We need to work on reducing run-outs, which made a comeback in this tournament.
2. Catching: While our fielding has improved, we can still work on catching to minimize dropped chances.

5

Plan to address opportunities

We will focus on these areas in our upcoming practice sessions, incorporating drills to improve running between wickets, fielding, and catching. Our Strength and Conditioning training has already shown positive results in endurance and quick reaction times, and we will continue to build on this.

Overall, our team's performance has improved since our last outing, and we're excited to continue working together to address areas for improvement and come back stronger in our next tournament.

EYE FOR DETAILS



HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW OUR BATTING LANES ?

Click link [HERE](#) to submit your your entry. Winners list will be published in our next edition of this magazine



Which is the batting lane number where Coach Mahesh is having this 1:1 coaching session?



Which is the batting lane number where Coach Mahesh is having this Group coaching session?



What are the batting lane numbers where Coach Rana is having this group coaching session?



Which is the batting lane number where Coach VVK is giving throwdowns ?

HOW WELL U FOLLOW US?

LET'S SEE HOW WELL YOU FOLLOW CYCA CURRENT AFFAIRS.

Click link [HERE](#) to submit your your entry. Winners list will be published in our next edition of this magazine



What are the coaches after whom the T10 teams are named after ?



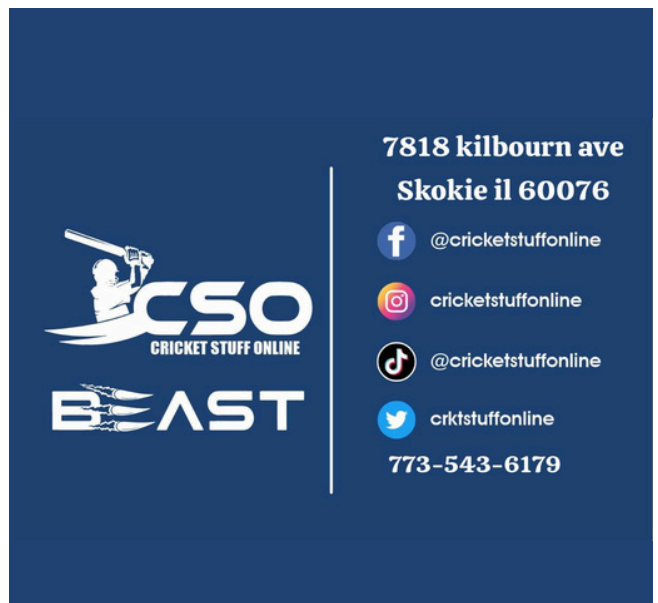
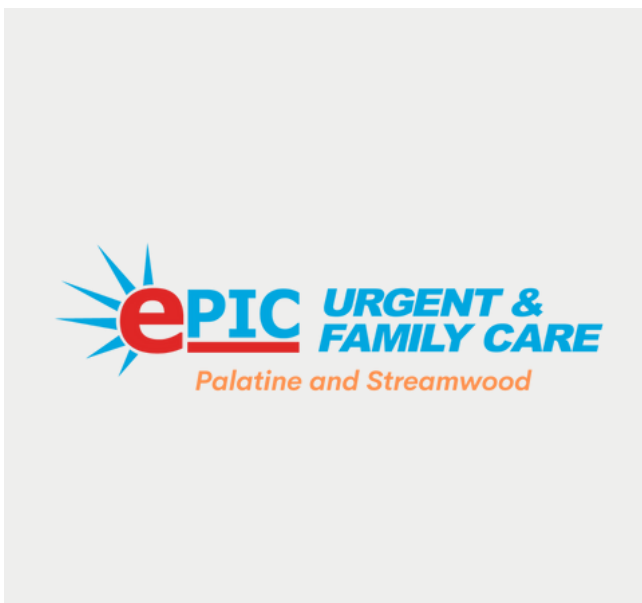
What is this team's name and who is the captain of this team in T10 tournament?



Which are the two kids in the picture and which team they belong to ?

PARTNERS

OUR PARTNERS



PAVILION PRESS

AMLCA MEMORIAL DAY

MAY 23-26, 2025

U11

DIVISION A

NARSI FARMS, ATLANTA

DIVISION B

ST LOUIS

CYCA Cubs are expected to play in Division A in this tournament. Depending on the number of registrations, CYCA may register 2 teams to this tournament.

U13

DIVISION A

ATLANTA CRICKET FIELDS, ATLANTA

DIVISION B

ATLANTA CRICKET FIELDS, ATLANTA

CYCA Bears are expected to play in Division A in this tournament. Depending on the number of registrations, CYCA Grizzlies may also play.

U15

DIVISION A

PARAMVEERS, ATLANTA

DIVISION B

MORRISVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

CYCA Bulls are expected to play in Division A in this tournament. We may have a second team in this age category this year.

U17

DIVISION A

PVCC, HOUSTON

DIVISION B

JBL, KATY, HOUSTON

CYCA Blackhawks are expected to be playing in the Division A in this tournament.

THANK YOU

CONTENT CONTRIBUTORS



RAHUL BASU

PLAYER, CYCA

Rahul is a budding cricketer, who represented USA U19 in the tour to South Africa earlier this year. Rahul plays for Chicago Tigers in Minor League and aspires to be a Professional Cricketer.



JUSTIN DILL

LEVEL 3 COACH, CYCA

Justin is a professional cricketer. Born in South Africa, this Allrounders career highlights include 2014 U19 World Cup win with South Africa and 2024 Major League win with Washington Freedom.



SANDEEP PALAKKAL

LEVEL 3 COACH, CYCA

Sandeep brings his passion for the sport of cricket to his Coaching Techniques. When he is not working as a QA Engineer, he is mostly coaching kids with CYCA. He is a ACF Gold Level 3 Certified Coach.



CONTACT



mailus@cycacademy.org



www.cycacademy.org