ST ANN'S, PARIKRMA IN LAST FOUR

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A brace from Sunil P Desai powered St Ann's, Goa past Inventure Academy and into the semifinal of the Parikrama Champions League inter-school football tournament with a 3-0 verdict at the Bangalore Football Stadium on Friday.
Sunil settled nerves in the team by striking early — in the sixth minute — and he scored again in the 27th. Dipesh D Naik completed the rout with a goal in the 40th minute. In the last four, St Ann’s will take on Indira International, who ousted Greenwood High School 5-4 via a penalty shootout.

Scores remained barren at the end of regulation time, forcing the teams into a shootout. While Kevin Baba Cherwel, Adrien Lee, Ghulam Halim, Shahid Poddar and Parishith Ramesh Babu converted from the spot, Siddharth Barge, Naman, AKS and Suman S Dev scored for Greenwood.

In the other semifinal on Saturday will be contested between Farook Higher Secondary School, Kerala and hosts Parikrma.

Farook got past St Loyola 2-0, while Parikrma defeated DPS, North by a similar margin to advance. Akhil K and Fawad K scored in the third and the 54th minutes respectively for Farook, while Hafla Bashir inadvertently booted into his own net and Nandha Kumar (56th minute) left no doubt for Parikrma.

Friday’s events also featured an exhibition match between a mixed ball boys/girls team from Parikrma and St Joseph’s High School. The match was in pursuit of gender equality and had four girls in the Parikrma team. St Joseph’s won 3-0. The highlight though was a goal from Sporti, a 7th standard student. “Our girls are as talented as the boys and we wanted to prove it on field,” said Shakil Bose, CEO, Parikrma Humanity Foundation.