Sachin finally speaks: All for a good cause

Master Blaster reveals his ‘secret’ charity work and plays ball with underprivileged children

CHANDRESH NARAYANAN
BANGALORE, SEPTEMBER 5

Those talk sessions on media handling and tips on public conduct have already started showing the results. After days of sweating at the gym trying to build their muscles at the pre-season training camp in Bangalore, the Indian cricketers today indulged in some serious image-building.

Sachin Tendulkar, who has been receiving bad press since a certain red car landed in Mumbai, made a conscious effort to change the trend by actions and words. Tendulkar, who had mysteriously skipped the one-to-one with scribes at the camp, finally broke his silence at a collective press meet. And the issue was about charity.

“The public is not aware..." point to speak to every child and asked them to pursue education and lead a disciplined life to achieve success. It was not only a dream occasion for the kids, but proved a great motivation,” she said.

Not just that, The Indian cricketers have also agreed to auction their sentimental possessions. Once again for a good cause. Harbhajan Singh’s hat-trick ball from that famous Kolkata Test, one of Tendulkar’s bat and Rahul Dravid’s keeping gloves used during the World Cup will go under the hammer soon. The proceeds from the event — a charity dinner — would go to a select group of NGOs working on various issues across the country.

With the wicket-keeping debate on, one couldn’t help but ask Dravid: Is there a message behind auctioning his gloves? The genial cricketer dismissed it with a smile. “It’s all for a cause.” Now was there another message in it?