



VOL. 2, ISSUE 1, JANUARY 2026

THE TOSS

— SPIN THE WHEEL —

MICHAEL JORDAN

HOW SETBACKS SHAPED A SENSATION



Highlights

Campus Feed | Monthly Motivation |
Cover Story – Michael Jordan | Fun Zone



Director's Message

As we step into a new year, I extend my heartfelt wishes to every student, coach, parent, and member of the IIG Sports Academy family. January not only marks the beginning of a calendar year, but it is also a time for introspection of the past year and making fresh resolutions for the year ahead. Consider this as a

fresh opportunity to set higher goals, embrace discipline, and strive for excellence—on the field and beyond.

At IIG Sports Academy, we believe that sports shape character, build resilience, and teach the power of perseverance. This year, our vision is to nurture not only stronger athletes but confident individuals who understand the value of teamwork, integrity, and continuous improvement. Every training session, every match, and every challenge is a step toward becoming your best self.

Let us commit to working harder, supporting one another, and celebrating both effort and achievement. Remember, true success lies not only in winning medals but in developing the mindset of a champion.

Wishing you all a year filled with energy, growth, and outstanding performances. Let us make 2026 a year of determination, discipline, and decisive victories.

Warm regards,
Prasanta Puan
Director, IIG Sports Academy

Campus Feed



Thrilling Victory for KT Global in Inter-school Cricket Tournament

KT Global School's cricket team registered a thrilling victory over KIIT International School at the 22nd Bhubaneswar Inter School Cricket Tournament 2026. Chasing a challenging target, the team displayed remarkable composure and determination to win the match by 2 wickets. Padmalochan Mohanta of Grade VI was named Man of the Match for his outstanding performance with 3 overs, 5 runs, and 4 wickets. IIG Sports Academy congratulates the entire team on this well-earned win.



All Odisha U-12 and U-14 (Boys) Tennis Tournament at KT Global School

The tennis courts at the KT Global School campus were charged with action as the 1st KT Global School All Odisha U-12 and U-14 (Boys) Tennis Tournament was underway on 3rd and 4th January 2026. 28 young players from across the state participated in this tournament, displaying their skills and competitive spirit.

Yuvraj Muduli emerged champion with a commanding 6-1, 6-1 victory in the final of the U-12 category, while Aditya Narayan Sahu finished as runner-up. The U-14 title was claimed by Siddhanta Das after a closely contested 6-4, 6-4 win, with Divyesh Barik securing the runner-up position.

OSAFII Premier League 2026



IIG Sports Academy hosted the OSAFII Premier League 2026 on 10–11 January at the KT Global School campus. This 2-day event, organised by the Odisha State Association of Financial Inclusion Institutions (OSAFII), featured exciting matches in Cricket and Badminton, along with fun-filled activities like Rope Skipping, Musical Chair, and Lemon Spoon. The Premier League was a beautiful showcase of collaboration, teamwork, sportsmanship, and joy, both on and off the field.

1st TITE Inter College Volleyball Tournament



IIG Sports Academy successfully hosted the 1st TITE Inter College Volleyball Tournament at KT Global School on 17th and 18th January 2026. The tournament brought together 14 competitive teams who actively participated and played high-energy matches over the 2 days. IIG Sports Academy volleyball team emerged as the champions, while Pragati Club (Jajpur) secured the Runners-up position. The event was marked by discipline, enthusiasm, and true sportsmanship.

Breaking Barriers on the Cricket Field



IIG Sports Academy proudly hosted the 6th IndusInd Bank National T20 Women's Blind Cricket Tournament at KT Global School. This event stood as a powerful celebration of courage, inclusivity, and determination, showcasing women athletes who proved that passion and not vision define their game.

Celebrating Inclusivity Through Chess



The 25th Odisha State Deaf Chess Championship, organized by the Odisha Sports Council of the Deaf, was hosted by IIG Sports Academy at KT Global School on 11–12 January 2026. Deaf chess players from across the state showcased their talent, remarkable skill, strategy, and sportsmanship, making the event a true celebration of inclusion and empowerment through the timeless game of chess.

Special Olympics Selection Camp for Hockey & Athletics



IIG Sports Academy proudly hosted and smoothly conducted a 2-day State Selection Camp for Athletics and Hockey at KT Global School. This selection camp, held under the aegis of Special Olympics Bharat – Odisha, attracted 200 athletes, showcasing their skills, determination, teamwork, and belief to put their best performance forward. This event, filled with energy and vibrant moments, proved that every athlete has the potential to shine.

Monthly Motivation

Armless, But Not Aimless

Some stories don't begin with opportunity—they begin with courage. This is one such remarkable story of a girl who changed her destiny with her courage, determination, and belief in possibilities. This is the inspiring journey of Sheetal Devi— a compound para-archer and one of India's youngest paralympic medalist.

Born on 10 January 2007 in Loidhar, Kishtwar (Jammu & Kashmir) with phocomelia—a rare congenital condition that left her without arms—Sheetal could have easily been defined by limitations. Instead, she chose to define herself by her abilities and ambition.

Her talent was first recognised in 2019 when the Indian Army's Rashtriya Rifles noticed her

athletic potential at a youth event, and soon she came under the guidance of coaches Abhilasha Chaudhary and Kuldeep Baidwan. They innovated her training using ideas from archer Matt Stutzman, who also competes without arms, helping Sheetal develop a unique shooting style using her legs, shoulders, and jaw to draw and release the bow.

Sheetal rose rapidly on the international stage, winning multiple medals and becoming the world's top-ranked para archer. At the Paris Paralympics, she became one of India's youngest medalists in archery, proving that pressure could not silence her purpose. Her defining moment came

when she won gold at the World Para Archery Championships, becoming the first armless woman world champion—a victory that echoed far beyond the shooting range.

What makes Sheetal truly inspiring is not just her medals, but her mindset. She trains with focus, faces challenges with courage, and believes without conditions. Her journey reminds every young athlete that strength is not measured by what we have, but by what we overcome.

Sheetal Devi teaches us that when courage becomes an aim, nothing is out of reach.

Sheetal Devi



Michael Jordan: How Setbacks Shaped a Sensation

"Failure makes me work even harder."

These are not merely the words of Michael Jordan, the greatest basketball player of all time, but a philosophy Jordan has devoutly followed throughout his life. Long before Jordan rose to fame and left the world mesmerized by his gravity-defying dunks, athletic excellence, and streak of victories, he had tasted failure. But that didn't deter or weaken his resolve; rather taught him an important lesson that failure is not an enemy but a teacher. Jordan's story is not just about the rise of a champion; it is about getting up stronger after every fall and forging a mindset that refuses to quit.

Michael Jordan, known by his initials as MJ, was born as the

fourth of five children to Delores and James Jordan of Brooklyn, New York, on February 17, 1963. His father worked at an electric plant, and his mother worked at a bank. MJ's family moved to Wilmington, North Carolina, when he was just a toddler. Jordan grew up in a loving family where he learnt the value of hard work and resilience.

As a boy, Jordan was athletic and curious, but nothing foreshadowed the global legend he would

eventually become. He attended the Emsley A. Laney High School in Wilmington, where he played baseball, basketball, and football. The turning point in his life came during his sophomore year when MJ tried out for the basketball varsity team but didn't make the cut. With a height of 5 feet 11 inches (1.80 m), he was deemed too short and was rejected. MJ was deeply shaken by this rejection. However, instead of brooding over it, he took it as a challenge and an opportunity to prove his worth. He trained tirelessly — every day, before and after regular practice — working on his skills, technique, and mental toughness with an unparalleled intensity.



Between the 10th and 11th grades, Jordan grew from 5'11" to 6'3", and because his game improved, he made it to the varsity team the following year. Jordan later said that the rejection was one of the best things that could have happened to him because it forced him to confront his limitations and commit to improvement. His approach to setbacks became a defining theme throughout his career. In MJ's words, "I can accept failure, everyone fails at something. But I can't accept not trying," and that's what he did; he came back stronger after each failure.

Jordan became the star of Laney's junior varsity team and tallied some 40-point games. By the time Jordan finished his senior year, he had grown to 6'5" and attained a basketball scholarship from the University of North Carolina. Jordan's ever-growing popularity began at UNC, where he made a last-minute game-winning shot in the 1984 NCAA championship game.

In 1984, the Chicago Bulls drafted him, and Jordan began his first professional NBA season.

What followed reshaped basketball forever. Jordan's acrobatic moves and hang time earned him the famous nickname "Air Jordan" and a reference as 'His Airness'. His basketball skills and allure made him the perfect key figure to market both Nike products and the NBA. MJ's brilliance led his team to six NBA championships and five Most Valuable Player (MVP) awards, catapulting him into a realm of sporting immortality. But his story isn't just about trophies; it's about how he responded when life handed him a setback. Jordan's life story teaches us that failure is not a roadblock but a

stepping stone to success if we treat it right. He stood strong and resilient in the face of every failure. Whether it was not making the varsity team, missing crucial shots, or facing public scrutiny, MJ never let failure dictate his narrative.

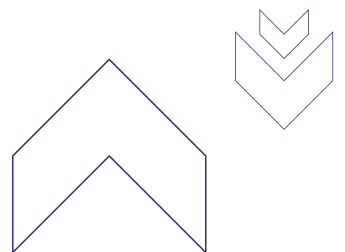


Instead, he used every challenge to sharpen his resolve and elevate his

The performance. most profound lesson to learn from Jordan's journey, especially for young students, is not his success despite failure, but his attitude because of failure. His words resonate deeply: "If you quit once, it becomes a habit. Never quit."

For students navigating their own challenges — academic exams, sporting setbacks, or personal doubts — Jordan's journey is a powerful reminder: Champions are not those who never fail, but those who rise every time they fall.

As we step into this New Year, let the legend Michael Jordan's story inspire you to embrace setbacks, channel them into strength, and prove your worth — not by avoiding challenges, but by rising stronger after each one.



AIR JORDAN





Sports Word Scramble

1. mmgsiwn
2. suabc viidng
3. laebt eitnsn
4. giikns

5. iurnsfg
6. irunnng
7. ckor lnibgmic
8. ecphasrok giindr

9. estdgbnorakia
10. lvbaelyoll
11. mitndaobn
12. yciglc

Solution to the sports crossword puzzle of the October issue.

Down

2 BAT

4 GOLF

6 WRESTLING

7 COACH

9 STADIUM

10 RUGBY

Across

1 CRICKET

3 SKATEBOARD

5 FOOTBALL

8 BOXING

CONTACT US

Address : IIG Sports Academy, F/12, IID Centre, Barunei Temple Road, Bhubaneswar, Odisha - 752057
Phone: +91 890-888-0555, Email: info@iigsports.in, admission@iigsports.in