



# Nurturing Excellence : The Inspiring Journey of Pauras Kulkarni

**B**ehind every young achiever is a story of dedication, resilience, and unyielding support. In the case of Pauras Kulkarni, a badminton prodigy, this story is deeply intertwined with the relentless efforts and vision of his parents, Yogesh Kulkarni and Yogini Kulkarni. Their unwavering commitment to his growth and their decision to invest in his dreams have laid the foundation for his remarkable journey in the world of badminton.

## Planting the Seeds of Passion

Pauras' tryst with badminton began at an early age, nurtured by a home environment that fostered discipline and curiosity. Recognizing his innate talent and drive, Yogesh and Yogini took it upon themselves to provide him with every possible opportunity to hone his skills. Their commitment was not just limited to encouragement; it extended to making bold decisions that would shape Pauras' future.

## Broadening Horizons: The Shrikant Vad Experience

One of the most transformative decisions came when Pauras attended a training camp at Sayyed Modi Badminton academy, at Dadoji Kondev, Thane for 40 days. He was fascinated by the fabulous training schedule and decided to join the academy as a full time player. His decision was whole heartedly supported by his parents. Pauras moved to Thane and was trained at the hands of

Shri. Shrikant Vad, Mayur Ghatnekar Akshay Devalkar etc. He stayed in Thane for 8 years during which he attended the training at P.B. Mutiara Academy, Bandung Indonesia three times renowned globally for its rigorous training programs and competitive spirit.

By immersing Pauras in this environment, they ensured he gained insights into diverse playing techniques, developed mental resilience, and understood the nuances of competing on a global stage.

Pauras Kulkarni's journey is as inspiring to the fact that education and sports can go hand in hand. During his schooling years, he was an external student at Kolhapur Public School. With the unwavering guidance of Shobha Tawde Madam and the dedicated efforts of the entire school staff, Pauras achieved





exceptional academic success. He secured a remarkable percentage in his 10th standard and topped both the school and southern Maharashtra in his 12th standard.

### **A Trail of Achievements**

Pauras' achievements reflect the fruits of this meticulous nurturing. From being ranked India No. 6 in U19 doubles to winning multiple state and inter-district championships, his accolades speak volumes about his talent and hard work. Notable among his accomplishments are:

- Winner of U19 Doubles at the State Badminton Championships (Aurangabad, 2014; Karad, 2015).
- Quarter-finalist at the Sushant Chipalkatti Junior International (2015, 2016).
- Winner of Mixed U19 Team Championships (Aurangabad and Latur, 2014, 2015).

- Men's doubles winner at 7 District Badminton Tournament held in Karad - 2016

Representing Shivaji University and securing medals at the West Zone Championships, qualifying for nationals three times in a row.

### **A Message for Aspiring Parents**

The journey of the Kulkarni family serves as an inspiration for ambitious parents everywhere. It highlights the importance of identifying and nurturing a child's unique abilities, investing in their future, and stepping beyond conventional boundaries to provide them with the best opportunities.

As Pauras continues to soar in his badminton career, the role of his parents' foresight and dedication remains etched as a cornerstone of his success. Yogesh and Yogini Kulkarni's story is not just about parenting; it is about leadership, belief, and the unyielding pursuit of excellence.

