Sarah Romert and Her Gang of Girls Tackle Tough and Score Easy

The finalists — Modern High School for Girls and German Football Academy — with Sarah Romert and the organizers, at the end of the 2-aside Women’s Football Carnival at The Newtown School on July 22. The carnival saw 12 participating teams including La Martiniere for Girls, GEMS Almatania International School and Julian Day 12 participating teams including La Martiniere for Girls, GEMS Almatania International School and Julian Day. With German Football Academy emerging winners, beating Modern High School for Girls 4-0 in the final. "We are thinking long term. India’s football culture is growing fast, and we want to bring in professionals from abroad to help us improve," said Krish Roy (far left), co-founder of German Football Academy. "I want to show the girls they have a future in sports. They can become pros just like me," said Sarah Romert (standing, right), a former Bayern Munich Women’s footballer. In Caletta for a week promoting women’s football and training kids at the German Football Academy. Highlights from a day-long tourney.

Sarah was spotted chilling on the sidelines. "I always wanted to give something back to football. Flying to India was so sudden but now I am here and it seems like something that I would want to keep doing," smiled Sarah.

"Keep the ball moving," was Sarah’s message to the girls from Tochon India Group Public School. Ariadha, during a pass-and-move training session. "She is really nice. She taught us really easy techniques that we could grasp quickly. It also improved our old techniques. It is our first time in a tournament like this and even though we lost our matches, we had a lot of fun," said captain Aditi Roy (not in picture).

Rhea Rao, one of the coaches at the German Football Academy with mother Kavita. "My daughter started playing football at the age of seven and there were a lot of questions about the future of her as a girl in football. But now she is affiliated to GFA and she can prove to people that there is a career in football. Parents should encourage their daughters to play football."

Jessica Broughton (in yellow) of Julian Day School showed some serious footwork. "I started playing football five years ago. I am interested in all sports but football is something else," said the midfielder. "Who’s her favourite? 'I love both Messi and Ronaldo!'"

Garima Manglam (sitting, second from left) led a bunch of youngsters from GEMS Almatania International School. "I love football and it brings out the best in me. I really fell in love with the sport. As a team, this is our first time here and we are really improving," said the Class X student.

Naya Khanna, the captain of Modern High School for Girls, led from the front, finishing with seven goals. "There is no better feeling than scoring a goal and watching all the supporters and the coaches go crazy. It’s tough with a lot of pressure but the constant support of the team helped," said the Class XII student.

Rumita Gosh Duttagur, Indian football legend, was felicitated by Sarah at the prize distribution ceremony.

Text: Tish De and Thomas Widrow
Picture: Shab Roy and Rohan Roy

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Bend it like Sarah! The midfielder had a kick in the grass with the girls.