Flame institute has a lot to offer to its students, other than academics

Tushar Dutt

In a cricket loving country like India, where sports does not start from the grass-root level, it becomes difficult for the other sports to grow. Keeping that factor in mind, Foundation for Liberal And Management Education (Flame) Institute, a Pune-based institute, which offers under-graduate and post-graduate courses, has made sports compulsory for all their students. The institute is located at the hills in Lavale village, near Pashan.

And it is not just about making sports compulsory; the institute is providing some world class sporting facilities to its students. The campus has a lush green football field, two hard tennis courts, basketball court, badminton court, table tennis room, along with snooker and pool tables. To add to the facilities, they also have a 25 metre swimming pool, space for horse riding and a small cricket ground with flood lights.

Russell Haworth, sports head of the institute, feels sports is as important as academics for the students.

"It is not just that we want the students to take up sports, we also make sure that they follow the game of their choice and bring the sportsmen spirit in them. We give them chance to enhance their leadership skills, by allowing them to captain their respective teams on a rotation policy."

Though, the students volunteer to participate in more and more games, they still have not participated in the tournaments outside the campus. "The students train in the institute campus itself, as we have some world class facilities. Ours is a residential campus so the academics schedule for the students has been kept according to that," he said, adding, "The campus being far from the city, it is not possible for the students to take time out from their busy schedule. May be from the next academic year, we will plan our schedule in a way that it will allow them (students) to take part in the tournaments outside the campus," said Haworth, while talking to DNA.

And how about organising tournaments in their campus, so that even other sportspersons can also take the advantage of the facilities? "This is our second year, slowly and gradually, we will start with inter-college tournaments, and may be we will invite the corporates to our campus for sports events," he said.

Along with the facilities, the students also have good trainers; most of them are retired trainers from the National Defence Academy. "As of now, we have five trainers in the institute, and we will be getting a few more in the coming days," are the promising words Haworth has to say before signing off.