



Rama (left),
Nara & Shankar

HE DARED TO DREAM

● **BY SHANKAR RAMU**
(HOCKEY OLYMPIAN)

TO the hockey fraternity, he was R.Rama Krishnan. I always called him Ramu Mama(uncle).

He was the quiet one in our family circle. He sat on the sidelines of the town field watching the older siblings, cousins and friends play hockey.

None of those playing social hockey then had any inkling that this little boy would one day be on hockey's world stage.

He turned out to be one of Malaysia's finest half line players. He possessed an effortless style coupled with extraordinary vision and reading of the game.

He didn't just play hockey, he understood it from a different level. Quite brilliant I would say.

When he donned the No. 9 jersey for Malaysia in the 1975 Hockey World Cup, it wasn't just a number. He wore it as a statement.

And when I had the same jersey number when I appeared for Malaysia in the 90s, it wasn't coincidental. It was like the No 9 was meant for me and I played with this number for nine years. I tried to emulate my Uncle but I couldn't do it.

As a four year old in 1974, I was already trying

to showcase my talent after my Uncle....my hockey idol.

Every time he returned home to Teluk Intan (Teluk Anson), every step he took, I watched him with awe and admiration.

Fifty years have gone by but I still remember so vividly, he carrying a blue Adidas bag and the Adidas slippers.

He had utmost respect for the elders in the family. Never had spoken about his achievements, his selection to the Asian All-Stars or being the skipper of the Malaysian team.

Whenever hockey enthusiasts told me that I reminded them of Rama Krishnan, a player from the past, I was floating in the air.

It was the greatest compliment that I could ever have. I never ever mentioned that he was my Uncle.

Today, we recollect and admire a great Malaysian hockey player who inspired many.... especially me.

Every youngster who dares to dream beyond the sidelines, it will be because of Rama Krishnan's legacy that he has left behind.