

## The Starting Point

A. Answer the questions.

1. What is Milkha Singh best remembered for?

Answer: Milkha Singh is best remembered for his fourth-place finish in the 400 metres final at the 1960 Olympic Games.

2. What did the announcement after the morning roll-call say?

Answer: The announcement said that a six-mile race was to be held the next day and the top ten

would be exempted from fatigue duty and given a glass of milk during the training period. 3. What was the reaction when Milkha Singh's name was announced as one of the ten qualifiers

Answer: Friends, even strangers, wildly applauded and thumped Milkha Singh on the back, shouting 'Shabhash!'

What happened at the cross-country race?

Answer: Milkha Singh who was only twenty two years came second in the cross country while Gurudev came first. This made him the cynosure of all eyes.

5. Who were the star athletes in the Brigade Meet?

Answer: The national champion, Sohan Singh of the Sikh Regiment and Pritam Singh, who had represented India in events abroad were the star athletes in the Brigade Meet.

B. Explain with reference to the given context.

| His tough exterior hid his softer, gentler side

a. Who is being spoken about here? Answer: Milkha's instructor, Havaldar Gurudev Singh.

b. What tough side did he project?

Answer: He was a strict trainer and made them run six miles a day, running along and prodding them with a danda.

c. What was his gentler side?

Answer: He motivated them with encouraging words and saw to it that they got their promised glass of milk.

2. They seemed to have an air of power and prestige about them.

a. Who is being spoken about?

Answer: The athletes who had represented India in international sporting events. b. What is their significance in this story?

Answer: They were instrumental in inspiring Milkha Singh to become a star athlete like them.

3. "Why are you on the grounds at this hour?"

a. Who asked these words and to whom?

Answer: Brigadier SP Vohra to Milkha Singh.

b. When was this question asked?

Answer. When he saw Milkha Singh practising in the ground at night after dinner time.

c. What happened after this?

Answer: SP Vohra ordered more practice time for Milkha Singh and he was also relieved of fatigue duty. Besides this, he was given better facilities, a nutritious diet and special attention was paid to his grooming.

C. Match the words in column A with those in column B.

B

a. a person who exercises authority

b. silent and reserved

c. something that attracts strongly

d. a person who has recently joined

e. when someone is free from taking part

1. recruit

2. exempted

3. commander

4. taciturn

5. cynosure

Ans 1d 2e 3 a 4b 5 c