

A Canadian Sikh Woman footballer

RANVEER CHANDY

ANOOP KAUR JOSAN's rise on the Canadian footballing circuit last year brought pride to her family and the Sikh community across the world. she has passed the final roster cuts for Canada's U-20 women's soccer team.

Anoop has showcased her talents in the grandest and most prestigious tournament held in the world: The FIFA Women's World Cup, held in Chile.

Born in 1988 to a proud Punjabi Sikh family of Parmjit and Darshan Singh Joshan in Edmonton, Canada, Anoop has an elder sister, Karen and brother, Bickramjit Singh. Anoop took to the world of soccer at the age of 5 and has never looked back ever since. She has always been one of the star players in all the soccer teams she ever played with.

A humble person, but determined in nature, she thanks God and her family for all her achievements. She has worked extremely hard and dedicated herself to achieving the dream of playing for the women's soccer World Cup. Anoop is no stranger to the international stage of success. Having trained at the national training centre she was a member of the Canadian Olympic Development Team that won the 2007 International Soccer Festival.

She also competed at the 2005 Adidas Cup as a member of the U-18 National Team and for the U-17 Development Team. Anoop has won Silver and Bronze medals as Captain of Alberta women's soccer team in consecutive Canadian National events. She has also won a Gold Medal as the captain of Sherwood Park Rangers.

Anoop has been a pre-nursing major at the University of Texas El Paso, USA, and is a key player for UTEP Miners women's soccer Team. She is the first player in school history to receive recognition from three separate national organisations after being tabbed to soccer America's, *Soccer Buzz's* and *Soccer Times'* National Teams of the Week following her outstanding performances and was also named the freshman All-American by Soccer Buzz.

Anoop is an inspiration for all women who aspire to succeed in the world of sports and has brought Punjabi players around the world into the limelight on the grand world stage of sports.



[Courtesy: *The Tribune* & Sr. Tarlochan Singh, MP]