



## “This is the biggest award a sportsman can get”

**VIJAY LOKAPALLY**

**C**AN you judge a man without meeting him? Some people have made their fancy assessments of Kapil Dev without even once speaking to him. He is very different from what has been perceived by arm-chair critics the world over. For, many have not really understood the man at all.

Every meeting with this legendary cricketer reveals more about the man. He becomes emotional because he is a sportsman. And, hidden behind those emotions is pain

which he shares with you only if you know him, and meet him.

Much was written about Kapil when he came under the cloud of match-fixing. Much is being written now after the latest recognition that he is the best Indian cricketer ever. Well, that shall remain debatable because every cricketer would have made his own impact in his era. Kapil too realises it and in private does not appreciate such comparisons but then it is not his fault if he has been adjudged the

best ever by a panel which included former Test cricketers, some of whom had even played with him.

He looks quite relaxed now; indulges in long conversations on cricket, unlike the recent past when he would not discuss the game at all. That was before he was cleared of the match-fixing charges. Gradually he has involved himself with the game and today does not mind a greater role than being just the advisor to the Board on bowling.