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Headline:Second Time Lucky

CAMPUS BUZZ

Second *time* lucky

Having lost the mega finals last year on a tie-breaker, I had a lot to live up to this year in the TCS IT Wiz 2014, the most keenly contested quiz programme across India and UAE for schools. The competition keeps getting tougher each year, and I didn't know whether I could perform as well as I did last year. Finishing second at India's biggest inter-school quiz competition was not a small feat. To aim higher this year would mean nothing less than becoming the champions.

I had to start from scratch again this year. No team in the history of this competition had won the Chennai regional round twice in a row. So, winning the regional round again would make me the first person to do so. It seemed like the odds were against us, but we remained optimistic and decided to enjoy the quiz and leave the hall without any regrets.

My teammate Arjun Aravind and I went through the familiar process of the written prelims and the regional finals. We were elated when we came to know we cleared the preliminary round, and even more when we emerged the Chennai-regional champions. The pressure was more this year, but we remained calm.

The next stop was the nationals, at Taj Lands End, Bandra, Mumbai. Fourteen of the best teams from India, and the best team from UAE were the finalists. We decided to enjoy our stay there as much as we could and gain the most out of this experience. We were roaming around the day before the quiz and interacted with all the other teams. The quiz was to take place the next day. There were two semi-finals comprising seven teams, three teams qualifying from each. 15 questions on the buzzers. It was quick and we could feel the tension in the air. There were a lot of teams that were brilliant, but didn't make it to the finals as they were anxious and got a lot of negatives on the buzzer. Our strategy was to maintain our composure and wait for the right opportunity to strike. We cleared the semi-finals and made it into the mega-finals, comprising six teams from India and one from the UAE.

The mega-finals was a whole new ball game. The stakes were high, but higher

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for us. The hall was filled with VIPs such as the CEO/MD of TCS N. Chandrasekaran. We were excited before the quiz, but once the quiz began, our entire focus was only on the quiz, the questions, and nothing else.

The format was a bit different this time. At every stage in the quiz, we had to recalibrate ourselves based on our relative position, and decide, in a jiffy, what course of action would be best suited for us. The first two rounds went well for everyone as no team was lagging behind. The next three rounds were on the buzzer, and the excitement

increased. At the end of the first three rounds, we were in the top three.

The fourth round was the one that sealed the deal for us. This gave us a solid lead and after that point it was just a question of maintaining our lead. The final round did not make much of a difference. By then, we knew we had won the quiz. It was a battle for the second place. Throughout the quiz, we maintained our composure and kept adapting ourselves. That was perhaps our greatest strength. The feeling was amazing. I have no words to describe how elated I felt. The entire crowd was cheering for us, and we were on cloud nine. It felt like a dream. The euphoria

is still sinking in. The MacBook Air we received as prizes only adds to it.

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Do you have any experiences or anecdotes to share with us? Send your contributions with your name, college and year to Campus Buzz, You, The Telegraph, 6 Prafulla Sarkar Street, Calcutta-700001 or email them to telegraphyou@gmail.com