

## London looks ready to roll: Vikas

ExCeL, the multi-event arena for 2012 London Olympics, has left the Indian boxers impressed with its readiness to host the events next year.



VIKAS KRISHAN

"London looks ready. We did not get to see all the facilities as only a part of arena was made available to us. But it looks ready to roll," World Championship (Baku, Azarbaijan) bronze medallist Vikas Krishan told.

Vikas returned home on Tuesday with a silver medal at the London Boxing International Invitational tournament, a test event ahead of the Olympics.

"My motto was to check the weather and the competition arena. My target has been achieved. I would have been happier with a gold medal but due to the discomfort in my wrist, I decided to take it easy," the 19-year-old said.

The left wrist has been a matter of concern for Vikas ever since he suffered a hairline fracture during the World Championship in Baku. However, the teenage boxer said he's fit and ready for a hard round of training.

"I will be working with two physiotherapists. Mittal Champions Trust is providing me foreign experts who will help me strengthen my arms to avoid injuries and increase weight," he added.

"Injury is a part of boxing. I took a month's rest after the Worlds and I have recovered fully and will join the camp today (Wednesday)," Vikas said.

Dinesh Kumar, who failed to qualify for the London Games in Baku, won a bronze in the London event. He too walked away impressed with the brand new arena, which he says has motivated him to give his best in the qualifying meet to be held in Astana (Kazakhstan) in March next year.

"Unlike CWG, when everything was done at the last moment, the London arena is almost ready... just some finishing touches are being given. This was a test event to prepare the boxing ring so the whole arena was not open but the facilities are world class. I want to come back and fight here during the Olympics. I feel motivated to qualify for the Games in Astana," Dinesh said.

"I happened to see the stadium where the opening ceremony will take place. Sab tayyaar hai wahan (It's ready)," he added.