

UMS qualify for football quarter-finals

BP 13/7/2011 A20

By Arfandi Jaafar

KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) secured their place in the quarter-finals after defeating Universiti Malaya (UM) in football at the ongoing Public Higher Learning Institution (IPTA) Staff National Sports Championship at Universiti Teknikal Melaka, yesterday.

UMS began their group stage on a low note when they lost 2-0 to Universiti Sains Malaysia in their opening match on Monday, but bounced back to register a 3-1 win over UM to secure their spot in the last eight.

UMS have yet to know who they will face in the quarter-finals tomorrow (8.30am) as the fixtures involving other groups have not yet been completed.

"We are glad to make it past the group stage. Last year we managed to finish in the bronze position and we hope this year we will at least reach the semi-finals.

"There are some strong teams that we may have to face but we have a good squad so I think we can make it (to the semi-finals)," said football head coach-cum-contingent deputy chief, Mohd Asyraf Fong Abdullah, when contacted, yesterday.

UMS were forced to settle for bronze after being ousted 2-1 by hosts,

UMS in the semi-finals stage last year.

Apart from competing in football, UMS are defending their titles in darts and women's volleyball.

In darts, UMS beat Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia 8-1 on Monday after blanking the Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE), 9-0 a day earlier.

UMS took on Universiti Malaya in the semi-finals yesterday but results were not available at press time.

In women's volleyball, UMS who are six-time champions since 2006, beat Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia 2-0 on Saturday, before blanking Universiti Putra Malaysia also 2-0 Monday.

A victory over Universiti Malaysia Kelantan in their final Group A match today will ensure UMS a place in the quarter-finals tomorrow.

Meanwhile, in athletics which ended on Sunday, UMS celebrated with two gold medals won through the women's shot put and discus events.

They also won a bronze medal each in the men's shot put and discus final.

Twenty-one IPTAs including MOHE are competing in the championships consisting of 25 disciplines.

The Melaka State Governor, Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob is expected to officiate at the closing on July 17.