

UMS trounce Likas United in decider

KOTA KINABALU: UMS emerged champions of the Universiti Malaysia Sabah Invitational Football Championship after trouncing Likas United 4-0 in the final clash played at UMS Stadium on Wednesday.

Former state striker Azrul Ejati Damsah helped UMS draw first blood when he slotted home the opener after just seven minutes of play.

However, the scoreline remained 1-0 in UMS' favour until the half-time break.

In the second half, UMS started strongly as they put on the extra gear by replacing the former Sabah Reserve League player with Thomas Stephanus in the attack.

The move proved to be effective as it was not long after when they finally managed to extend their lead, albeit that it was Musliadi Amdass, who put his name on the scoresheet for UMS' second.

His solo effort from the left after receiving a nice

pass from Gerd Smith saw him unleash a powerful drive that went straight into the back of the net.

In the 66th minute, Musliadi was on target again by scoring the third. This time he connected a cross from Ardi Sida before he completed his hat-trick in the 81st minute that eventually sealed UMS' convincing victory.

Likas United, who were strengthened by two former Sabah players Madzalan Emoi and Dominic Minsi, could not match UMS' dominance in the game.

For the record, the championship started last April and was participated by six teams where it was played on a round robin system with the top two teams vying for the championship crown.

The feat saw UMS claim the RM2,000 prize money plus a trophy and medals while Likas United settled for RM1,000, also plus a trophy and medals.



WINNERS ... Mohd Asyraaf (in red), celebrates with the team after receiving their championship trophy.

Noman Datuk Haji Ahmad, the president of the UMS, Professional Management Officers, Association Non-Academic Association,

presented the prizes to the winners.

The victory said UMS Head Coach Mohd Asyraaf Fong Abdullah, could at

least redeem themselves after their disappointment in the Malaysian Higher Education Learning Staff Games after losing to Uni-

versiti Sultan Zainal Abidin of Terengganu 2-1 in the semis last week. - **FRANCIS XAVIER** francis@newsabahtimes.com