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A Sukma ‘shot in the arm’ for future doctor Aina

New Straits Times, Malaysia



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THE tears of joy after being crowned the women’s 10m air rifle champion at the Malaysia Games (Sukma) provided the sweetest ending for Sabah shooter Nur Aina Natasya Anderson before she leaves the sport to pursue her dream of becoming a doctor.

The 19-year-old clinched gold after scoring 244.8 points, edging Pahang’s Nur Auni Arissa Azaha by just 0.6 points. Auni settled for silver with 244.2 points at the National Shooting Range in Subang yesterday.

Perak’s Nor Alya Aqila Mahathir took bronze with 223.4 points.

However, the victory meant much more to Aina, who had dreamed of winning Sukma gold after waiting four years for her chance.

“I still cannot believe that I won a medal, especially gold. I really did not expect it because the competition was very intense.

“I am extremely happy because I have achieved my dream of winning gold at my final Sukma,” she

said emotionally.

Her tears of happiness were a reward for years of hard work and training, dating back to when she was just 15.

At the previous Sukma in Sarawak, Aina had only managed a bronze in the team event after failing to reach the individual final when her qualifying score was not enough.

This time, she showed her resilience by remaining composed during the tight contest while overcoming

several strong shooters from Pahang, Perak and Negri Sembilan.

Aina said the support from Sabah fans also helped lift her spirits as she dealt with the pressure during the decisive moments.

“I just ignored everything happening behind me. I followed the rhythm of the fans’ singing and used it as motivation.

“When I heard the Sabah song, my spirit grew stronger and it helped me shoot better,” she said.

That passionate support will be one



Nur Aina Natasya Anderson

of Aina’s final memories of Sukma as she will begin her medical studies at Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) in September.

“I want to continue my studies and the course I am taking is difficult. So, this is really my final Sukma.

“I want to study medicine and my dream has always been to become a doctor,” she said.

Aina will also compete at the Games in the mixed team and 50m prone events. **Aida Adilah Mat**



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SUMMARIES

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