

UMS dominate SUKIPT first day

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KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) dominated proceedings on the first day of the Higher Education Games (SUKIPT) 2012 after winning two gold medals, one silver and a bronze, in Nilai, Negeri Sembilan yesterday.

Universiti Help with one gold, two silver and one bronze are second, while Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) with one gold and one silver are third.

They bagged two gold medals with Raymond Toh Meng Hui delivering the first gold after beating favourite and national exponent, Too Lap Weng in the Individual Poomsae.

Raymond, 22, went on to bag his second gold medal in the team event.

Raymond together with Yeo Kok Siang and Fakrurazi Razali clinched the Poomsae team event.

UMS contingent chief, Mohd Asyraaf Abdullah, who is also UMS Sports Centre Director, described Raymond's achievement as another milestone for the Centre for Taekwondo Excellence, after appointing a Korean coach early this year.

He said that this is a great achievement for UMS, and they are very proud of Raymond's victory.

"He only started competing in Poomsae

events recently after we persuaded him to switch from Kyorugi (sparring)," said Asyraaf, adding that Raymond has shown tremendous improvement after taking up the event for just one year.

"We are looking forward to greater achievements from him again next year.

Asyraaf said Raymond, who is a third-year social science student from Johor, is now one step closer to realising his dream of representing the country.

UMS also won bronze in the women's category through Melda Dahalan, who later paired with Fakrurazi to clinch silver in the Poomsae Mixed.

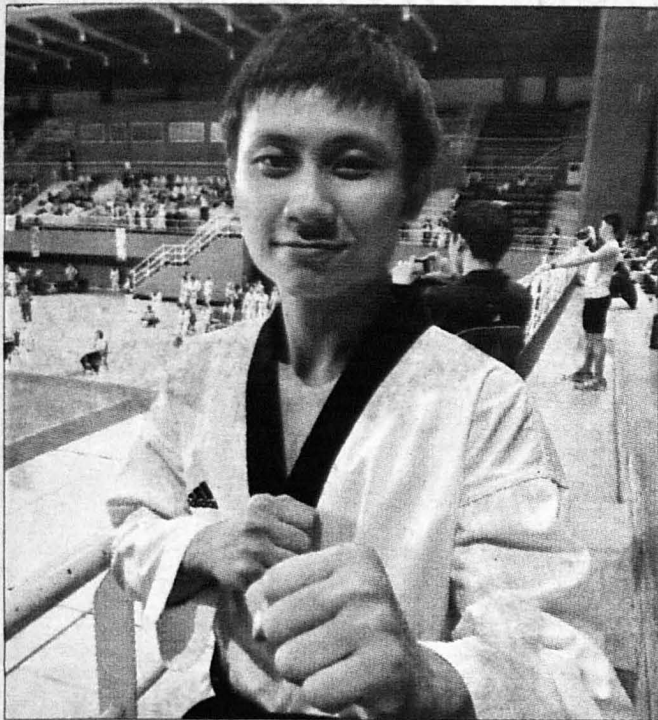
The 15-day carnival-like event, which was launched by Malaysia Higher Education Minister, Datuk Seri Mohd Khaleed Nordin at UiTM Shah Alam, Sunday, is the largest sporting event of its kind in the country.

A record total 101 contingents are competing in 15 sporting disciplines, including archery, athletics, badminton, bowling, karate, netball, shooting, swimming, tennis and taekwondo.

Other events are volleyball, beach volleyball, chess, rugby and sepak takraw.

UMS is sending 87 athletes, and is competing in all disciplines except for swimming and tennis.

Today, 10 gold medals will be on offer, eight in swimming and two in tenpin bowling.



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