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UPM vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Nik Mustapha R. Abdullah (second from left) chatting with Mohd Edren Fadzilah (right).

UPM welcomes mixed intake

■ By Teresa Yong

KUALA LUMPUR: University freshmen are always a mixed bag, and this year is no exception for Universiti Putra Malaysia.

UPM welcomed 27 athletes from the National Sports Council and one disabled person in this year's intake on Sunday.

Mohd Edren Fadzilah, who walks with the aid of crutches, said: "I chose UPM because it provides disabled-friendly fa-

cilities. I love English Literature and hope to be an English lecturer."

The 22-year-old wants to be an example to other people with disabilities, and said they should not use disability as an excuse not to further their education.

Baljit Singh, a 21-year-old defender on the national hockey squad, has signed up for a course in the Faculty of Modern Language and Communication.

"My studies will not affect

my performance in the national squad.

"I know how to divide my time between studies and training," said the student from Kluang.

National gymnast Foong Sew Ting from Kajang, Selangor, who has registered with the same faculty, is also confident she will be able to juggle sport with studies.

The 21-year-old has represented Malaysia three times in the SEA Games, and in the Asian Games 2006, and as-

pires to be a TV sports commentator upon graduation.

But taekwondo exponent Ryan Chong Wy Lunn, from Setapak, was a little anxious.

"I'm only worried about not being able to split my time properly between my studies and sport," said the 20-year-old SEA Games silver medalist.

Vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Nik Mustapha R. Abdullah said he was pleased to welcome Edren and the 27 athletes to UPM.