

Soaring higher with new spikes

Pole vaulter Roslinda receives custom-made shoes



It's mine:
Roslinda
showing the
spikes she
received from
adidas.

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Photos by RAJA FAISAL HISHAN

NATIONAL women pole vault champion Roslinda Samsu hopes her new custom-made spikes will help her reach new heights when she takes part in the Negri Sembilan Open athletics championships at the Tuanku Abdul Rahman Stadium in Paroi this weekend.

adidas Malaysia, who have been sponsoring her attire and equipment for the past three years, has provided Roslinda a pair of specially hand-made spikes from Germany.

Roslinda has a peculiar feet structure. Besides a flat foot, she also has a bunion and her fore foot is large and wide. As such she needs more space at the toe box area to fit her bunion feet.

adidas Malaysia sport marketing associate K. Krishnan said Roslinda's feet were unique and she had to wear triple jump spikes.

"The standard spikes available globally does not fit her and adidas Malaysia had to work with our parent company in Germany to get the spikes custom fit as required by Roslinda. We have used a cutting board which has the

required width of 100mm.

"As we had to work with existing toolings, we had to go for the original mid-oute sole to cut down the sidewalls and have the sideboard standing slightly over the tooling. The spikes are special. We are confident Roslinda will be able to scale new heights with the comfortable spikes," said Krishnan.

The 27-year-old Roslinda, a Physical Education student in Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), said she was feeling comfortable with the new pair of spikes.

However the petite lass, who holds the national record of 4.40m set in Spain in 2006, added that her target was to clear 4.35m to qualify for the World Championships in Berlin, Germany from Aug 15 to 23.

Currently she is undergoing an intensive training programme under the watchful eyes of her personal coach Man Sahar Abdul Jalil.

"I hope to do well in the Negri Sembilan Open. It will also be an ideal opportunity to test my new pair of spikes," said Roslinda, who is ranked first in Asia.

Besides the World Championships, Roslinda will be taking part in the Philippines Open, European circuit, SEA Games and the Asian Indoor Games.



All yours: Krishnan (left) showing Roslinda the special features of the spikes.