

Kuna can't hold back the tears after bagging kumite gold

PUTRAJAYA: Former Asian Games silver medallist L. Kunasilan was teary-eyed after bagging the men's kumite below 60kg gold medal in the National Karate Championships in Putrajaya.

The 27-year-old had good reason to get emotional as he would have been kicked out of the national team if he had failed to deliver at the meet.

But Kunasilan can breathe easy now as his 4-3 win over Perak team-mate R. Wugindran ensures his place in the national elite squad.

Kunasilan was roped into the squad in 2005 and made his impact by winning the SEA Games gold in Manila that year.

He grabbed silver at the Doha Asian Games the following year but has not been consistent since then, bowing out in the early rounds at the last Asian Games in Guangzhou.

Kunasilan only managed bronze in the national meet last year and was given an ultimatum to shape up or ship out.

"This national meet was a selection test for me. If I didn't regain my national title, I wouldn't have been considered for the Asian championships in Uzbekistan next month and be out of the national squad as well.

"I'm glad I performed under pressure.

"Now I hope to prepare well for the Asian championships," said Kunasilan, who still has a year of studies left before he graduates with a degree in physical education from UPM.

Top exponents G. Yamini and Leong Tze Wai turned out to be surprise casualties in the meet.

Tze Wai failed to retain his men's individual kata (perform-



Simply the best: The Hayashi-Ha karate club emerged overall champions of the National Karate Championships for the 17th consecutive year with a total tally of 7-6-6. — Bernama

Results

Men

Individual kata: 1. Lim Chee Wai (Pen), 2. Leong Tze Wai (Pen), 3. Selangor and Kedah.

Team kata: 1. Penang, 2. Sarawak, 3. Perak and Malacca.

Team kumite: 1. Hayashi-Ha, 2. Perak, 3. Police and Kedah.

Kumite above 84kg: 1. V. Jayaseelan (Hayashi-Ha), 2. S. Mohan Raj (Prk), 3. Joachim Francis (Pol) and Jarvis Julian (Shito-Ryu).

Kumite below 55kg: 1. Loganasha Rao (Sel), 2. Senthikumar Silvarajoo (Sel), 3. K. Kartik (Joh) and Prem Kumar (Hayashi-Ha).

Kumite below 60kg: 1. L. Kunasilan (Prk), 2. R. Wugindran (Prk), 3. Prakash Mohd Arjuna (Sel) and Ananda Kumar (Mal).

Kumite below 67kg: 1. Shaharudin Jamaludin

(Hayashi-Ha), 2. Shahabudin Jamaludin (Hayashi-Ha), 3. Uriel French (Joh) and M. Thevatharan (Putrajaya).

Kumite below 75kg: 1. K. Teagarajan (Hayashi-Ha), 2. Shamendran Raghonathan (Sel), 3. Jeeva Selvam (Ked) and M. Thavaraj (Joh).

Kumite below 84kg: 1. G. Nagatheeban (Hayashi-Ha), 2. Harry Lukas (Pol), 3. Sharma Jayaraman (Goshin-Ryu) and G. Visveswar (Hayashi-Ha).

Women

Individual kata: 1. Celine Lee (Pen), 2. Thor Chee Yee (Pen), 3. Lim Sin Yi (Joh) and Chun Jin Eee (Joh).

Team kata: 1. Penang, 2. Sarawak, 3. Perak and Putrajaya.

Team kumite: 1. Putrajaya, 2. Hayashi-Ha, 3.

Selangor and Kedah.

Kumite above 68kg: 1. Jamaliah Jamaludin (Hayashi-Ha), 2. S. Meenaloshini (Pol), 3. Norsita Omar (Pol) and Vickneswary (Sel).

Kumite below 50kg: 1. Nur Eleena Abdul Malik (Pen), 2. Jayanthi Kumaran (Putrajaya), 3. C. Maalani (Hayashi-Ha) and R. Santhini (Hayashi-Ha).

Kumite below 55kg: 1. A. Nisha (Hayashi-Ha), 2. M. Yokananthini (Hayashi-Ha), 3. G. Vijayaletcumi (Putrajaya) and M. Mathivani (Putrajaya).

Kumite below 61kg: 1. Syakila Salni (Sel), 2. G. Yamini (Hayashi-Ha), 3. Looi Lai Yan (Hayashi-Ha) and Ila Varasi (Sel).

Kumite below 68kg: 1. Shree Shamini Segaran (Ked), 2. S. Lenugajothi (Hayashi-Ha), 3. S. Nishanthi (Hayashi-Ha) and Cheong Wai Ying (Prk).

ance) title as he lost to upcoming junior Lim Chee Wei in an all-Penang final.

Tze Wai won the individual kata gold at the Asian Championships in China last year but 20-year-old Chee Wei has bloomed after making history as the first Malaysian to win a World Junior Championships medal with his bronze effort in Malacca last year.

Syakila Salni also flew the flag

for the juniors by claiming her first national title in the women's kumite below 61kg.

Syakila, representing Selangor, denied Yamini a 10th national title by edging her more illustrious rival 1-0 in sudden death. Despite tasting her first defeat at the national meet after nine years, Yamini, the Guangzhou Asian Games silver medallist in 2010, was not disheartened by her performance.

"I've had a shoulder injury since

February and I only started training two weeks ago.

"Syakila is also my sparring partner in the national team and has improved a lot," said Yamini, who also boast three successive SEA Games gold medals since Korat 2007.

Hayashi-Ha karate club, led by former national coach P. Arivalagan emerged overall champions for the 17th consecutive year with a total tally of 7-6-6.