

# MASUM girls on fire

**GREAT SHOW:** Inexperience doesn't stop team from winning national title

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**T**HE Malaysian Universities Sports Council (MASUM) women's team showed steely determination to clinch the ING National Open Softball Championship title against favourites Penang in the final recently.

The team, comprising the best players from universities across the nation, showed great mental strength and fighting spirit to claw their way back after trailing the northern team 3-7 after the fourth inning to eventually win the match 9-7 at the Universiti Putra Malaysia main campus.

MASUM manager Rohaida Hasan said she was delighted with the young team's performance at the tournament which saw them clinch their second national title, having also won in 2009.

"I am very happy with the players' performance as we had featured a new-look team with only two players from last year's squad," said Rohaida.

"Although most of them are quite inexperienced, they showed great strength and determination to beat a team with such quality such as Penang.

"We had set a target of reaching the final and to win is a great bonus for us as we had expected Penang and Terengganu to be top contenders."

Rohaida added that she hoped the result would help spur the team to greater heights locally and internationally.

"We only had four days of centralised training before the tour-

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namment as the majority of the players were busy with their final exams.

"I feel with better preparation we will be able to do better and will look to continue our good form at the Penang and Miri Opens in September and October.

"The Higher Education Ministry also has plans to send us abroad for competition and we are in the midst of finalising the details."

Defending champions Terengganu managed some form of consolation when they beat Brunei 10-7 in the playoff match to finish third.

Meanwhile, the men's competition saw Brunei clinch the title with a 5-4 win over defending champions Perak 'A' in the final.

Selangor 'B' finished third in the event when they beat MASUM 3-2 in the playoff match.

The three-day tournament received a big boost this year after ING Insurance Bhd came in as the main sponsor with a RM25,000 contribution to the event. MMTS Consulting Sdn Bhd also lent its support with RM10,000.



**Brunei's Khairul Iskandar** bats against **Perak** in the final.





(Top) **Masum's Fatin Syuhada** bats against Perak in the women's final. (Bottom) **Brunei players** celebrate after beating Perak in the final at the ING National Open Softball Championship recently.

