

UPM stroll to rugby gold

A STAR-STUDED Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) captured the rugby gold medal with a convincing 26-12 win over Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) in the final at the inaugural Malaysian Institutions of Higher Learning Games (SUKIPT) at UPM campus in Serdang yesterday.

UPM, powered by national players Zulkifli Azmi, Nazreen Fitri Nasrudin, Nazeer Nesharah and Muhammad Zulkawai Jusoh, were given a run for their money in the first-half.

UPM, who beat Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) in the semi-final, were quick off the mark with tries from Anwarul Aswad and Zulkifli in the first five minutes but UTM managed to recover with tries from Mohd Firdaus Ghani and Mohd Iqmal Nor Zaini to pull level going into the break.

The home team were able to step up a gear in the second-half, and touchdowns by Anwarul and Zulkifli in the 14th and 17th minute were enough to seal the match for UPM.

Nazeer, who captained UPM in the final, said: "We have played UTM quite a number of times in the MA-SUM series in the past few years and knew they would be a tough opponent.

"We wanted to play a very simple game today with focus on clean passing and being quick to support one another.

"It paid off for us and we are very



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happy to emerge winners after a tough two days of rugby here."

In the beach volleyball final, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia capitalised on home ground advantage to beat UiTM 21-17, 21-18. UTM took the bronze with a 21-11, 21-18 win over Universiti Malaysia Terengganu.

In athletics, Nik Hafiz Nik Mohamad of Universiti Malaysia Perlis (UniMAP) and UPM's K. Ganthimathi won the men's and women's 1,500m respectively. Nik Hafiz clocked 4 minutes 7.65 seconds while Ganthimathi did 4:53.74s at National Sports Complex in Bukit Jalil.

The men's 10,000m gold went to Ananth Narayan from Nottingham University with a time of 37:20.34s while Noor Amira Mohd Nafis clinched the triple jump gold with a 12.58m effort. The women's discus saw Tebo Lyndi Disele from Universiti Tenaga Nasional (Uniten) emerge victorious with a throw of 28.42m.



Nik Hafiz of UNiMAP took the 1500m gold. Pic by Goh Thean Howe

The final day of competition today will see a total of 11 gold medals on offer in track and field (five), septa-aktaw (two) and chess (four).

RESULTS: MEN — 1,500m: 1 Nik Hafiz Nik Mohamad (UniMAP) 4:07.65s, 2 Omar Ahmed Abdi Essa (IUUM) 4:10.18s, 3 Muhammad Auf Afibukhari (Intitut Sains dan Teknologi Darul Takzim) 4:17.15s. **10 000m:** 1 Ananth Narayan (Nottingham) 37:20.34s, 2 Amirul Syazwan Samad (UM) 37:50.68s, 3 S.Kumar

(KKPP) 38:13.35s.

Women — Discus: 1 Tebo Lyndi Disele (UNITEN) 28.42m, 2 Nur Rahmah Johani (UNIMAS) 26.95m, 3 Ruzlinda Ramli (KKPP) 26.82m.

1,500m: 1 K.Ganthimathi (UPM) 4:53.74s, 2 Nur Hazimah Idris (KKPP) 5:22.80s, 3 C.Shama Jeanne (UPM) 5:40.90s. **Triple jump:** 1 Noor Amira Mohamad Nafiah (UPM) 12.58m, 2 Merrey Gabali (UMS) 11.30m, 3 Lily Hartini Ahmad Zamri (UITM) 11.19m. **By Fadhli Ishak**