

Right on target

UPM fencers make clean sweep in championships



By **SCOTT LEE**
metrospt@thestar.com.my
Photos by **IBRAHIM MOHTAR**

UNIVERSITI Putra Malaysia (UPM) were on target at the inaugural Higher Education Ministry-Nilai University fencing championships at the National Sports Council (NSC) in Bukit Jalil recently.

They were in superb form when they swept golds in all three events – epee, foil and sabre – in the women’s sections.

UPM claimed two of the three

titles at stake through Yaminah Mohamed Yasin (epee) and Filzah Syabila Jamaluddin (sabre) on the opening day.

Yaminah overcame a tough opponent Laura Simon from Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) before she prevailed with a solitary point victory (15-14) in the keenly contested final.

In contrast, Filzah did not face much difficulty in beating Liong Yuen Fong from Tunku Mahkota Ismail Sports School (SSTMI) with a convincing 15-5 victory.

UPM continued their winning

streak and added another gold and two silver medals on the final day of the competition.

In the women’s foil, the duo of Natasha Ezzra Abu Bakar and Evy James completed a one-two finish for UPM.

However, Muhammad Radhi Hashim failed in his bid to deliver another gold for UPM to match their effort on the first day.

Radhi went down 13-15 to Nurul Ariezzat Nazreen Ismail from Cyberlynx in the men’s sabre.

Ariezzat, who was part of the victorious national men’s sabre team at

Touche: Final match in the Women’s Foil category between Natasha (left) and Evy.



Medal winners: (From left) Joshua, Natasha and Nurul Ariezzat with their medals.

SEA Games in 2005, said they were hoping to gain exposure by competing in similar tournaments throughout the season.

“It will be great that fencing will be part of the Higher Education Sports Institute Games and Malaysian Universities Sports Council championships,” he added.

Meanwhile, lanky fencer Joshua Koh of Nilai University lived up to his top billing in the men’s epee.

The top seed Joshua defeated second-ranked Hasmie Sohaini from Kota Baru Teachers’ Training Institute 15-10.

The 23-year-old Joshua, who is pursuing a diploma in agriculture, said his long-term goal was to qualify for the Olympic Games in 2016.

The recent two-day meet also served as a platform for the selectors to identify potential fencers for the Asean University Games next year.

RESULTS (all finals)

WOMEN’S

- **Epee:** Yaminah Mohamed Yasin (UPM) bt Laura Simon (UMS) 15-14

- **Foil:** Natasha Ezzra Abu Bakar (UPM) bt Evy James (UPM) 15-5

- **Sabre:** Filzah Syabila Jamaluddin (UPM) bt Liong Yueh Fong (SSTMI) 15-7

MEN’S

- **Epee:** Joshua Koh (Nilai University) bt Hasmie Sohaini (Kota Bharu Teachers’ Training Institute) 15-10

- **Foil:** Andrew Mok (Sunway College) bt Syed Adil Emir Putra (Help) 15-9

- **Sabre:** Nurul Ariezzat Nazreen Ismail (Cyberlynx) bt Muhammad Radhi Hasim (UPM) 15-13