

Pandelela's name missing from Masum sports award list

PUTRAJAYA: National diving queen Pandelela Rinong's name is conspicuously missing from the nomination list which has 12 national athletes in the running for the 2012 Malaysian Universities Sports Council (Masum) Sportsman and Sportswoman awards.

Seven men and five women athletes were listed as candidates for the two awards, which will be presented at Dewan Agong Tunku Canselor Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) in Shah Alam on June 1.

The male nominees are Wong Keng Yinn (karate-Universiti Teknologi Malaysia); Khairulnizam Mohd Affendy (sailing-UiTM); Syed Mohamad Agil Syed Naquib (tennis-Universiti Malaysia Perlis); Lim Chee Wei (karate-Universiti Sains Malaysia); Muhamad Syafiq Ridhwan Abdul Malek (bowling-Universiti Putra Malaysia); Bryan Nikson Lomas (diving-Universiti Malaya) and Mohamad Nuzul Azwan Ahmad Tarmizi (petanque-Universiti Islam Antarabangsa Malaysia).

The women nominees are Nur Ezzaini Mohd Nor (netball-Universiti Teknologi Malaysia); Fatin Nurfatehah Mat Salleh (archery-UiTM); Cheong Jun Hong (diving-Universiti Putra Malaysia); Jawairiah Noordin (tennis-Universiti Malaysia Perlis) and A'ain Hidayah Ahmad Fuad'ad (pencak silat-Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia).

Deputy chairman of Masum 1, Prof Dr Anuar Hassan, said yesterday that the criteria for candidate selection included athletes having represented the country or achieved success or obtained medals at international level.

"The shortlisted candidates are not only screened based on sports achievements but also from academic and leadership aspects," said the deputy vice-chancellor for Student Affairs and Alumni of Universiti Malaysia Terengganu.

On Pandelela's omission, he said the matter was discussed at length during the selection meeting on Thursday.

"We are proud of the achievement of Pandelela at the London Olympic Games last year.

"However, she was registered as a Universiti Malaya student in September while she won the Olympic medal in August ... as such we could not include her," he said.

Apart from the two main awards, there are 12 other categories of awards including the best teams (men and women), promising talent (men and women), best manager, best coach, sports personality, appreciation award, special award, sports partner award as well as the best university athletes (men and women).

A total of seventy five nominations were received from 20 public institutions of higher learning for the 2012 Masum Sports Awards.

— Bernama