

Stunning win by Wahidah

Kedah born-lass upsets favourite
Joseline to bag 10m air pistol gold

By R. PATRICK

SUBANG JAYA: Wahidah Ismail of Kedah staged an upset by winning the gold medal for the 10m air pistol shooting event at the Chia Woh Trophy Championships at the Subang shooting range yesterday.

She did better than hot favourite Joseline Cheah by firing down an impressive score of 194.3 to win the top prize.

The second place went to Siti Zawlah Mohamed who scored a close 191.7 while reigning World Cup silver medallist Joseline only managed a bronze with 175.

With her breakthrough performance yesterday, Wahidah hopes that she will impress the selectors to win a place in the Myanmar SEA Games squad for the first time.

"I am really happy as I did my best and managed to win my first gold under the new regulation. It's a great rule as it promotes fairplay."

Under the new regulation, the shooters have to start afresh in the final as the scores from the qualify-

Results

■ MEN

50m rifle prone individual: 1. Mohd Nurrahimin Abdul Halim (Pah) 206.3, 2. Mohd Hadafi Jaafar (Pol) 204.8, 3. Mohd Lufti Othman (Neg) 182.7

■ WOMEN

10m air pistol individual: Wahidah Ismail (Ked) 194.3, 2. Siti Zawlah Mohamed (Pol) 191.7, 3. Joseline Cheah Lee Yean (For) 175.0.

ing rounds are not carried forward.

"I made it to the elite squad in 2010 but failed to make the 2011 SEA Games squad. I was disappointed but determined to make it this time and I hope my results in the tournament will be taken into consideration," said Wahidah, 23, who is currently pursuing a degree in accountancy at Universiti Putra Malaysia.

"It'll be such an honour and much-needed exposure to experience competition on the Asean level."

Wahidah picked up the sport from her grandfather – Mohamed Jaafar, who represented Malaysia in the SEAP Games.

"I was 13 when I picked up the sport. I used to follow my grandfa-



Proud champion: Kedah's Wahidah Ismail with her 10m air pistol gold medal at the Chia Woh Trophy Championships at the Subang shooting range yesterday. — YAP CHEE HONG / The Star

ther to the shooting range and he influenced me to take it up seriously," added Wahidah, whose pin-point accuracy won admiration and earned her a place in the Bukit Jalil Sports School shooting programme in 2005.

While Wahidah was happy, Joseline took the defeat in her stride.

"Local competitions are mainly to

widen my experience and can be considered as my 'experimental ground' to try out new techniques. I gave my best and I am satisfied with the results. My aim right now is the World Cup," said Joseline, who will represent Malaysia in Munich in November. She will be the first Malaysian to feature in the World Cup Finals.