

Four make the cut for Glasgow

IT could turn out to be a fruitful season for the national shooters as four have already qualified for the Glasgow Commonwealth Games following impressive performances in the Selangor Championships which ended on Sunday in Subang.

Muslifah Zulkifli overcame a back injury to surpass the Commonwealth Games qualifying mark of 575 points by amassing 581 in the women's 50m rifle three position. The qualifying mark is the sixth placing score of each event in the 2010 edition in New Delhi.

A bronze medallist at last month's Sea Games in Myanmar, Muslifah was not aiming high in the competition as she has not been training regularly due to her back problem. She will make her second Commonwealth Games appearance in Glasgow.

"Qualifying for the Games is a bonus as I was not performing well in training," said Muslifah yesterday.

The other qualifiers are Johnathan Wong, Choo Wen Yan and Mohd Hassanul Adzhar Mohd Badrin.

The Malacca-born Johnathan surpassed the qualifying mark by five points with a 579 total in the men's 10m air pistol while compatriot Wen Yan recorded 576.

Wen Yan defied doctor's orders after a nasty fall in Bukit Jalil and it turned out to be the right decision as the 21-year-old posted his personal best in the event to qualify for Glasgow.

"I thought I would only be making up the numbers in the competition. It will be my first outing in the Commonwealth Games," said Wen Yan, who lost two teeth and suffered bruises on his cheeks, nose and chin in the fall.

Hassanul Adzhar surpassed the qualifying mark of 592 points by earning 594 to qualify for his maiden Games in the 50m rifle prone.

"I am thrilled as I not only recorded a personal best but also surpassed the Commonwealth Games qualifying mark. I hope to emulate my sister's (Siti Nur Masitah) achievements in the sport. She won a silver in the recent Sea Games," said Hassanul, who is pursuing a degree in Human Resource Development at Universiti Putra Malaysia.

Hassanul added: "I want to thank my sister for encouraging me to take up the sport."

The shooters will return to the Subang range for the Tun Tan Siew Sin Trophy on Feb 20-23.