

Ex-Sukma athlete freed of rape charge

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PETALING JAYA: A former Sukma athlete was freed of the charge of raping a female chaperone in 2013.

Adib Adha Ismail, 20, looked calm as the Sessions Court judge pronounced the judgment at the end of the prosecution's case.

"Thank you very much," said the former player in the Federal Territory handball team.

Adib Adha left the courthouse soon after, dodging photographers and reporters.

According to judge Abu Bakar Manat, the prosecution failed to produce enough evidence to prove a case against Adib Adha.

The judge also concluded that the DNA evidence obtained from a towel in the room where the purported rape incident had allegedly happened merely proved Adib Adha was present in the room during that time.

But it did not prove that he had raped the victim at any point.

On July 11, 2013, Adib Adha together with two other athletes – Megat Farzeril Faiz Megat Razali, 21, and Mohammad Shaizzad Md Shafie, 21 – were charged with raping a 20-year-old woman at the Sukma Games Village.

They had been accused of raping the woman in a room at Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) in Serdang between 4am and 4.10am

on July 4, 2013.

The accuser contacted the police soon after the incident. The report generated a lot of attention on the safety of female athletes at the Sukma Games.

However, Adib Adha's lawyer Guok Ngek Seong said that at one point in the trial, all three were discharged not amounting to acquittal and when it was time to re-charge them, only Adib Adha had turned up.

Guok added that he did not know what had happened to the other two because he did not represent them.

Yesterday's verdict came after the court heard testimony from 14 witnesses called by the prosecution.