

Ivan ready to focus on squash after completing studies

By AFTAR SINGH

KUALA LUMPUR: With his studies done and dusted, national No. 2 Ivan Yuen can finally focus on his squash career.

The 25-year-old Selangor player took five-and-half years to complete his varsity studies. He obtained a degree in business administration from Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) two weeks ago. And Ivan, who turned pro in 2007, is relieved to have finally got his degree.

"It took me five-and-half years to get the degree because I skipped two semesters to represent Malaysia in competitions," said the world No. 64 Ivan.

"I'm not going to look for a job as I want to fully focus on training and competing in as many PSA tournaments overseas as possible.

"I need to improve on my fitness and tactics so that I can to put up a strong challenge in the PSA tournaments.

"I'm happy to have been training and sparring with coach Ong (Beng Hee) since last year. I believe he will help me improve every aspect of my game."

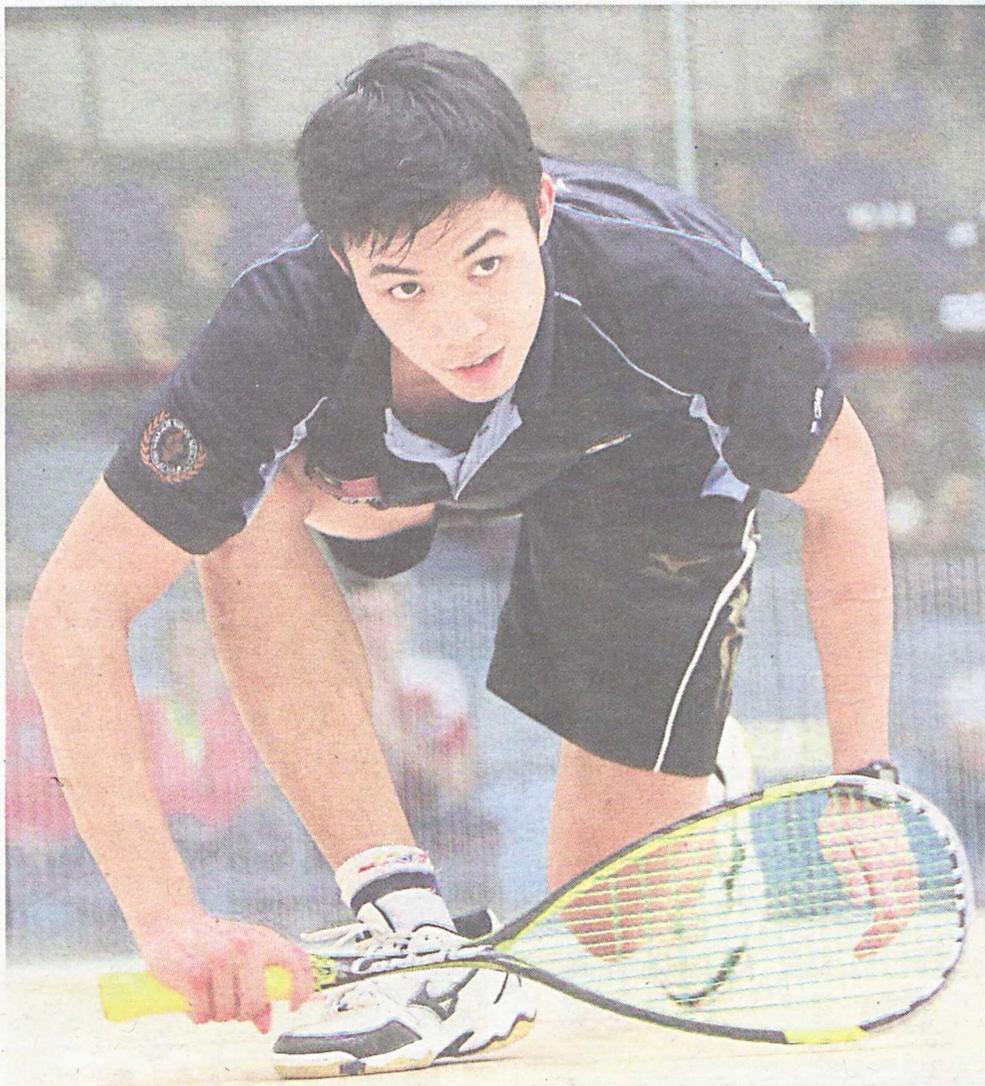
Ivan, whose highest ranking was No. 56 in June 2012, has won just four titles since playing in the professional circuit nine years ago.

"I want to win more PSA titles and also improve on my world ranking ... I've been struggling to break into top 50 for a few years now," said Ivan, whose first professional win came in the Indian Challenger tournament in Chennai in 2010.

Last year, he won two Malaysian Tour of Squash (SSJM) tournaments in Kangar and Penang. He also won the National Sports Council (NSC) Circuit in 2012.

Ivan is expected to feature in 12 PSA tournaments this year, and his first two assignments are the Inno Wood Open in Kriens, Switzerland, from March 15-19; and the Qatar Circuit No. 3 in Doha from March 19-23.

He will also feature in a few of the 12-leg Malaysian Tour of Squash.



Time to get serious: Ivan Yuen has won just four titles since playing in the professional circuit nine years ago.