

# Favourites rule the courts

Muhammad Addeen and Mithila come out tops in IPT 1Malaysia squash championships

TOP seeds Muhammad Addeen Idrakie Bahtiar from Universiti Malaya (UM) and Mithila Tamilarasan from Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) lived up to their billing after bagging the Division 1 Men's and Women's title, respectively, in the second leg IPT 1Malaysia squash championships at the Pahang Squash Centre in Kuantan recently.

The 22-year-old Selangor-born lad outplayed second seed Gurshan Singh from UPM 12-10, 11-5, 11-0 to lift his first title while UPM's Mohd Amir Farhan Ampandi, winner of the first leg in Perlis, came from behind to snatch a 8-11, 11-9, 11-8, 11-4 win over arch rival Shaun Kwan Ka Junn of Nilai University to settle for third placing.

For Mithila, 19, it was a back-to-back victory. This time around, she brushed aside Gillian Ng from UM 8-11, 11-4, 11-6, 4-11, 11-7 to claim her second title in a row. Her first was in Perlis.

Adele Han May Jen from Infrastructure University Kuala Lumpur defeated Jamie Kwa of UM 11-5, 13-15, 11-6, 11-8 to finish third.

It was sweet victory for Addeen Idrakie especially after he missed out the opening leg in Perlis in April due to a Professional Squash Association (PSA) tournament in Canada.

The National No 3 player, who is pursuing a degree in sports management, said he was happy to compete in the tourney as it would motivate the university players to juggle between studies and games.

Mithila, the younger of two siblings, could not contain her emotions.

"Winning two titles in a row is something to cherish. I hope I can continue winning



more tourneys and make my university proud," said the first year consumer studies student.

The former SMK Sri Aman student hoped the win would boost her confidence when she competes for Selangor in the Malaysia Games in Sarawak next month.

This will be her third time representing the state in the Sukma Games. She is currently training under Calvin Chang and Muzaffar Hussein at Astaka courts in Petaling Jaya.

A total of 252 players from 33 universities, colleges and polytechnics participated in seven different divisions – four in the men's section and three in the women's.

This was an increase from the previous leg where only 145 players from 15 universities took part in five categories comprising three in men's division and two in women's division.

The winners received their prizes from UM services sports centre deputy director Norsyam Abdullah and Pahang Squash Association secretary Kamal Hisyam.



1 The winners of the Men's Division posing for a group photo.

2 The Division 1 winners from the women's category.