

Nicol: Clean sweep? Why not?

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SERDANG — Malaysia's squash icon Nicol David is confident the sport can make a clean sweep of seven gold medals at the Kuala Lumpur SEA Games next month.

This despite the 33-year-old's absence.

"The squad for the Games are formidable and are medal contenders. No doubt they can push their limits to get the medals," said Nicol yesterday.

She was speaking after the UPM Sports Academy — Sports Warrior Global Transformational Sports Leadership Programme launched by Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh.

Those in the squad are S. Sivasangari, Andrea Lee, Zoe Foo, Chan Yiwen, Ooi Kah Yan, Aifa Azman, Lai Wen Li (women) and Darren Rahul Pragasam and Ong Sai Hung (men).

The UPM Sports Academy in partnership with Sports Warrior Global has introduced a programme tailored for the empowerment of university students involved in sports leadership.

The programme focuses on addressing the need for universities to contribute towards the leadership resource of sport governance at all tiers of sports associations.

It will strive to elevate the leadership qualities of students who pursue sports excellence via the governance of association.

Commenting on the programme, Nicol said she would like to have such initiative



Nicol expects Malaysia to make a clean sweep in SEA Games squash.

— Picture by AFP

in all universities in the country.

"Sports can truly develop leadership value and how we make use of it by applying it at the university level and then transition to the workplace," she said.

"By having me as a testament, sports

have so much quality that can represent a leader which it's actually a platform to develop leaders."

Nicol being an iconic athlete who has brought honour to the nation plays a significant role

in the programme realising its intended objectives.

The graceful transition of athletes from retirement into leaders will most definitely be given paramount importance in this programme.