

New dribbling talents

Universiti Malaysia Pahang to lead basketball efforts



Star (Metro)
Wed 27/10/10
10 Ma

Symbolic: Saifuddin signing a basketball to mark the launching of the competition in Sukpa stadium recently. With him were competition's chairperson Mustafa Ibrahim (left) and Daing Nasir (second left).

By **SIMON KHOO**
simonkhoo@thestar.com.my

KUANTAN: The Higher Education Ministry has set a target for universities and higher learning institutions to produce 30% of the country's basketball players, said deputy minister Datuk Saifuddin Abdullah.

Saifuddin said the target was in line with the Sports Development Policy to give more emphasis on the development of sporting activities and programmes.

"Basketball has been identified as one of the core sports under the country's sports development programmes.

"This game can be incorporated as a 1Malaysia sports involving all races in foster-

ing closer unity and understanding.

"In this regard, Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) has been selected as one of the main avenues to promote this sport," he said, after launching the basketball three-on-three challenge at the Sukpa stadium here recently.

Saifuddin, who is also the Temerloh MP, said organising more of such competitions could help to develop the sporting culture and interest among undergraduates.

He said UMP had been entrusted to lead and identify new talents in enhancing the game among universities and local institutions of higher learning.

The event organiser Mustafa Ibrahim said UMP would work closely with other parties such as the ministry, Education Ministry, Youth

and Sports Ministry and Malaysian Basketball Association to develop the sport.

The competition saw a total of 133 teams, including 20 teams from secondary schools participating.

Universiti Malaya (A) was the winner in the men's category, defeating Universiti Putra Malaysia (A).

In the women's category, Universiti Sains Malaysia (A) was the champion and Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (D), the first runner-up.

Kelantan School Sports Council and SM Air Putih (A) was the winner in the secondary school men's and women's categories, respectively.

UMP vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Daing Nasir Ibrahim presented the prizes to the winners.