

# Nurul beats the odds to shoot down a gold <sup>98</sup>

LANGKAWI: Nurul Hudda Baharin overcame a broken arm and nervousness to win Malaysia's first ever shooting gold in Commonwealth Games history yesterday.

The gutsy Nurul - almost ruled out of the competition following a nasty motorcycle accident last month - capped it by scoring a new Games record of 494.8 points in the individual air rifle final.

There were emotional scenes at the Langkawi International

Shooting Range as Nurul wept with joy immediately after the event. *S 19.9.98*

Teammate Abdul Mutalib Abdul Razak, the silver medalist in the men's pairs air rifle, later joined her in saying a little prayer.

The 25-year-old policewoman said she never thought she could perform so well nor set a new record.

"Honestly, I was shaking when the final round began because I was leading.

"There were several world-class shooters just waiting for me to make the slightest mistake.

And ironically, a mistake in her first shot ignited her into championship mode.

"I fumbled in the first shot of the final when I accidentally pulled the trigger while aiming. Luckily, it did not go astray but hit the target board and I got 8.8 points.

"The mistake really woke me up as I realised that I could not

afford any more slip-ups," she said.

Nurul said that cheering Malaysian supporters also added some pressure as the nearest contenders had shot better scores.

"I gathered myself and kept reminding myself that I should not blow this chance away. I took more time than the usual before firing," she said.

Nurul said she was still

● TURN TO PAGE TWO

## *S 19.9.98* Nurul dedicates victory to her doctors

● FROM PAGE ONE

feeling some pain on her right arm but her nervousness overshadowed that.

She had suffered multiple fractures in her right arm on Aug 10 after falling off her motorcycle to avoid a boy crossing the road.

Team manager Musa Omar had even dropped Nurul from two other events - sport rifle prone and sport rifle three positions - to allow Nurul to concentrate on the individual air rifle.

THIS IS NURUL'S FIRST major achievement since taking up the sport five years ago.

Nurul dedicated her victory to the doctors "who did their very best to help me recover for the Games."

"Without their dedication, I won't be here and the gold may not be ours. I also thank all Malaysians and my teammates who prayed for my speedy recovery and for continuing to give me moral support.

"This victory is because of all of them and it is for them," said Nurul.

Also present to share the moment of glory was Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who gave away the medals, his wife Datin Seri Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali and Youth and Sports Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.