

27/12/1999

Brunei shame earns soccer the nod

IT must be a joke for the new century. Who could have imagined the national soccer team being nominated for Timesport-Sports Toto's Man of the Year award?

That was exactly what reader Jacky Chan did when he submitted his nomination via e-mail.

Chan's reasons being:

* THE team's failure at the Brunei Sea Games had caused a huge public outcry which no other sport or individual had managed to get in 1999.

* BEING the No 1 sport in the country, football enjoyed an enormous following that the failure in Brunei became the much talked about topic among people from all walks of life.

* I BELIEVE the award should not be restricted to just successes but failures as well.

Maybe Chan has a point but the national soccer team will have to contend with the other nominees like Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Sepang International Circuit chairman Tan Sri Basir Ismail, Olympic Council of Malaysia secretary Sieh Kok Chi and and Country Heights Holdings managing director Tan Sri Lee Kim Yew.

Sailor Datuk Azhar Mansor, hockey skipper Nor Saiful Zaini, Malaysian Tenpin Bowling Congress president Datuk P.S. Nathan, bowler Shalin Zulkifli, the Squash Rackets Association of Malaysia, the late Datuk Alex Lee, and MHF deputy president Datuk P. Alagenda.

So who will be the Man of the Year? The choice is yours.

Send your nomination to NST Sports Desk, Balai Berita, 31, Jalan Riong, 59100 Kuala Lumpur or Fax: 03-2849144. Our e-mail address is nstsport@nstp.com.my.

(END)