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SRAM get 2002 cheer

MALAYSIA did not get the 2006 Asian Games but at least, there was something to cheer when the Olympic Council of Asia decided to include squash in the 2002 Asiad in Pusan.

Squash, which was introduced in the 1998 Asiad in Bangkok, was among the non-Olympic sports retained for Pusan.

Besides squash, bodybuilding was also included. Both sports should give Malaysia some medal prospects in the Games.

In Bangkok '98, Malaysia won a gold through Nicol Ann David and bronze from Kenneth Low.

Malaysia have also produced many excellent bodybuilders who won international competitions like Malek Noor.

Squash Rackets Association of Malaysia (SRAM) executive director Kol (Rtd) Wong Ah Jit said in Kuala Lumpur yesterday Malaysia will be hoping that the team events are included for the 2002 Games.

"I would like to congratulate Asian Squash Federation president Mokhzani Mahathir for his dedication and hard work in ensuring squash remains in the Asian Games," said Wong.

"This will strengthen our push to include the sport in future Olympics."

For the 2002 Games, SRAM have set a two-gold medal target.

OCA also decided to keep snooker on the list of the Games, but dropped karate. Pusan will host the 16-day Asian Games from Sept 29 to Oct 14.

(END)