

30/11/2002

SRAM sets top eight target in world junior

Glen Peters

MALAYSIA does not have any outstanding players in the team to the World Junior Championships, but the SRA of Malaysia (SRAM) has set a top-eight target in the team and individual events.

The tournament will be played in Chennai, India, starting Tuesday.

In the 2000 edition, Malaysia, steered by Azlan Iskandar, managed to match their best ever finish of sixth in the team event. Azlan finished eight in the individual event.

World number seven Ong Beng Hee is the only Malaysian to win the individual title, in 1998.

"We are hoping the players will produce a good result. We hope they will do better, with determination and hunger for success. Hopefully, they will finish among the top eight in both categories," said SRAM president Datuk Mokhzani Mahathir after handing the "Jalur Gemilang" to the team in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Malaysia will be represented by Timothy Arnold, Wong Kim Lee, Mohamed Nafzahizam Adnan, Mohamed Shahril Shahidan, Mohamed Nafiizwan Adnan and Kapil Nesan.

In the team event, Malaysia have been drawn with Pakistan, Switzerland and New Zealand.

The other teams competing in the tournament are England, Canada, Mexico, Wales, Zimbabwe, Egypt, United States, Ireland, Australia, Netherlands, Scotland and India.

Hong Kong, Kuwait and Kenya are also competing, and will be drawn into their groups during the team managers meeting.

"Traditionally we have been a strong force, Nicol (David) and Beng Hee have done well in the world junior championships and we hope to continue this tradition."

"The seeding does not reflect it, but we hope they will be a force to be reckoned with in the tournament. We would also like to thank Mulpha for their sponsorship."