

30 MAR 2004

Sports-Awards

NAZMIZAN, NICOL CROWNED SPORTSMAN AND SPORTSWOMAN

PETALING JAYA, March 30 (Bernama) -- Vietnam SEA Games sprint king Nazmizan Muhammad and squash queen Nicol Ann David were crowned 2003 National Sportsman and Sportswoman in a glittering ceremony here tonight.

Nazmizan, 22, won the 100m and 200m sprint double, to end the country's 36-year drought in the SEA Games, beat close contenders, badminton ace Wong Choong Hann and swimmer Lim Keng Liat for the title.

Nicol, swept aside five times winner and the country's top bowler Shalin Zulkifli and woman badminton player Wong Mew Choo.

Nazmizan and Nicol received RM10,000 cash and a trophy from the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Syed Putra Jamalullail.

Nazmizan had also won the "2003 Olympian of the Year" award for his superb achievement.

The second year Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) student is currently on a mission to beat the 10.28s qualifying mark for the Athens Olympics in August.

His personal best time of 10.38s that he set during the 2003 World University Games in Daegu, South Korea last August, will not enable him to see action in Athens.

Meanwhile, for Nicol, 20, who turned professional in 2002, and ranked eighth in the world, the win was her second after having won the title in 1999.

In June 2003, Nicol was in 53rd position but made a quantum leap to finish among the top 10 by the end of last year, earning the distinction of being the first Asian woman to do so.

Both the awards for Best Men's and Women's Teams were swept by the Malaysian bowling teams, by virtue of winning the 5th World Team Cup in Odense, Denmark in February last year.

The men's team comprised of Azidi Ameran, Zulmazran Zulkifli, Jonathan Lim Chin Lung, Alex Liew Kien Liang, Lim Tow Chuang and Beng Heng Boon Hian while

the women's team was made up of Sarah Yap, Choy Poh Lai, Wendy Chai, Sharon Chai, Lai Kin Ngoh and Shalin Zulkifli.

Former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad was honoured with the Sports Personality award for his tremendous contributions to the development of sports in the country.

The Sports Leadership award went to Secretary-general of the Asian Football Confederation Datuk Peter Velappan for his wide contributions to football in Asia.

Tennis legend, the late Durbara Singh, Loh Beng Hooi (Karate) and Abd Majid Muda (weightlifting) were recipients of the Special awards.

-- BERNAMA

ZAS AHH JRL