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Keglers missing from awards list

By S. Selvam

EVEN as the Malaysian Schools Sports Council (MSSM) cast their nets wider to recognise and reward talented athletes, an oversight, or maybe just plain ignorance, on the part of State Schools Sports Councils may have robbed several bowlers from being nominated for the 2003 MSSM-Milo Sports Awards on Monday.

While MSSM are keen to create new categories to cater to the Best Team next year, members of the Asian Schools Bowling Championships in Penang last year, who swept seven of the 10 gold medals at stake, were conspicuously missing from the list of nominees announced by the schools body.

But according to MSSM's principal assistant director Mohsin Salim, nominating a candidate was the prerogative and responsibility of the respective State Schools Sports Councils.

"The forms were given out to each State Schools Sports Council and it was up to them to nominate the candidates for the awards," said Mohsin at a Press conference to announce the nominees at his office in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

"The selection panel do not have the authority to nominate students for the awards. That is the responsibility of the State Schools Sports Councils.

"However, we are not aware of the reasons for their (bowlers) exclusion from the nomination."

Last year, Malaysia swept seven of the 10 gold medals to retain the overall title for the second consecutive year.

And in another show of dominance, Zandra Aziela Ibrahim bagged four gold medals to lead the Malaysians to the overall title again with a total haul of six gold, six silver and one bronze at the 7th Asian Schools Bowling Championships in Hong Kong this year.

Mohsin said the proposal to include awards for team events will be discussed at their next council meeting.

"It is a good proposal and one that we will definitely consider in our next council meeting," added Mohsin.

"But for this year, unfortunately, there won't be any awards for team events."

The awards will be graced by Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, wife of former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Monday.

For the Sportsboy and Sportsgirl Awards, swimmer Daniel Willieam and artistic gymnast Nurul Fatiha Abdul Hamid are the front runners to win the titles.

Sportsboy: Mohamed Ariffin Ramly (cricket), Azrinafiz Azhar (badminton), Ahmad Firdaus Salim (athletics), Ken Wong Pip-Hou Ken Wong (golf), G. Kumaran (athletics), Chen Jin Sian (archery), Daniel Willieam (swimming), Azlan Johari (shooting), S. Narendran (athletics).

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