

In the Name of Friendship



Students cheering at the basketball finals at the MPH

It was a game not to be missed, and everyone had been talking about it as they were all looking forward to watching it later that night. Girls were hoping to catch glimpses of beautifully-toned players, while the guys were anticipating who would slam dunk and which team would emerge as champion. Yep! You guessed it right. It was the finals of the basketball men's division at the UCSI Merdeka Sports Open 2007.

The much-awaited game of the day was between University College Sedaya International (UCSI) and Inti College Subang Jaya (Inti). Before the game started, we had the women's division basketball finals; and UCSI's don't-mess-with-us lasses thrashed HELP University College with a score of 71-33. They certainly were in their best form that night as they were swift and fast with the ball. Kudos, UCSI ladies!

It was a sea of yellow and white in the basketball court that night. Inti donned their yellow jerseys, whilst UCSI had their whites on. The atmosphere was tense and players were on the move from the start of the whistle! Supporters from Inti were at their feet when Inti scored their first goal. UCSI's crowd went wild when they scored next and the atmosphere became lively once more.

Supporters from both sides were constantly cheering, applauding and giving encouragement to their own teams. The scores were neck to neck, and by the second quarter, it was tied at 23-23! What a match! Our UCSI Group President and Vice Chancellor, Peter T. S. Ng was also there to support our team.

In the following quarters, Inti continued to increase their points and UCSI had to use all their skills to catch up. With just one more second to the clock, Inti received a penalty and the game ended with Inti edging UCSI with a score of 75-68. It was certainly a battle of the *giants*!

In an interview with one of Inti's player, Timothy, who is currently taking his degree in Business and will be majoring in Marketing, said that he liked the atmosphere, and it was Inti's first time participating in an event such as this, besides the sports event organized by the Malaysian Association of Private Colleges and Universities (MAPCU). He was positive that students who participated in this event would participate in events organised in the same manner.

Tai, one of UCSI's players, said that this event was a very good experience, and it was a well fought game. He added that being the first-runner-up during this sports open was still a good achievement and it reminded them to keep improving and working harder as a team.

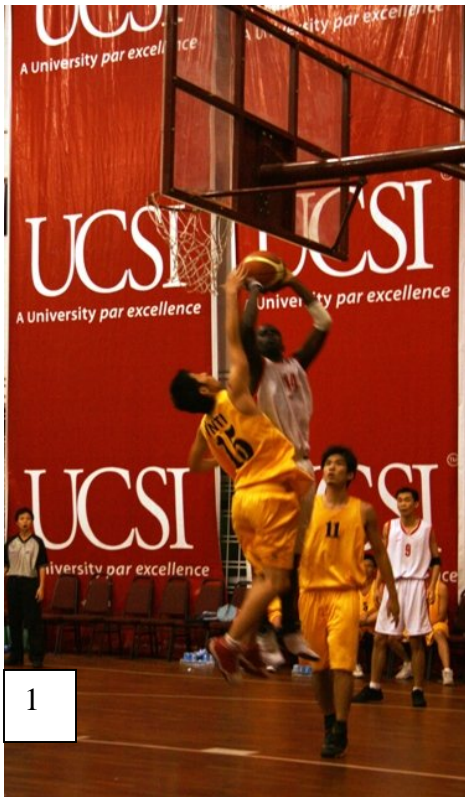
The sports arena is well-known for fostering friendships which transcend the boundaries of nationality, race and creed. The UCSI Merdeka Sports Open was organised with the similar goal, to bring students from different backgrounds to an event to share their passion for sports. The participants gain experience through constant training, making new friends, learning new skills from their counterparts, building a greater sense of teamwork and experiencing the adrenaline rush, of being challenged both physically and mentally.

The UCSI Merdeka Sports Open's opening ceremony was held on 13th September, 2007, and was officiated by Yang Berhormat Dato' Liow Tiong Lai, Deputy Youth and Sports Minister. In his speech, Dato' Liow said that winning does not necessarily label a sportsman as good, but it is the great effort and dynamics of the game that is vital. He later said that, "The challenge here is how to accept 'losing', and make something positive out of it. As the adage goes, 'It is better to fail, than failing to try'." He also hoped that the launch of this event will promise many more future sports events that will unite all students towards one common passion.

The UCSI Merdeka Sports Open will end on the 29th September. Throughout the sports open, participants will compete in five sports events; basketball, volleyball, table tennis, futsal and badminton. A total of 16 institutions of higher learning are taking part in this inter-college event, including Kolej Tunku Abdul Rahman (KTAR), Monash University, Inti College Subang Jaya, Asia Pacific Institute of Information Technology (APIIT), and *Universiti Putra Malaysia* (UPM), to name a few.

This is UCSI's first time hosting and organising this sports open and I feel honoured to be part of the organising committee. I hope everyone enjoyed themselves and more students from other institutions of higher learning will join us in similar events in the future!

Jessie Lim Yu Min



1. UCESI men's basketball team player going for a slam dunk
2. UCESI women's basketball team versus HELP University College