

Rare defeat for Montfort

MONTFORT Secondary's reputation as a powerhouse in schools badminton suffered a small dent yesterday, when they stumbled in the North Zone Boys' C Division final.

The multiple-time national B and C champions lost 1-3 to perennial rival Singapore Sports School (SSP) at the latter's home ground.

Montfort took the lead when Bimo Adi Prakoso beat Ngiam Bin 21-12, 21-10 in the first singles. But SSP won the next two matches.

SSP's Bernard Ong and Wilfred Ng then beat Jason Wong and Jerome Wong 23-21, 19-21, 21-17 in the second doubles to clinch the zonal title.

However, it could be difficult for the SSP to repeat their conquest when the national rounds begin next month.

This is because Montfort could be beefed up by the arrival of another two foreign shuttlers by then.

Still, Desmond Tan, 34, general manager of the SSP's badminton academy, was happy with the win.

"We've waited so long for this, and I believe it will put us in good stead for the nationals," he said.

However, there was no repeat upset in the North Zone B final as Montfort swept SSP 3-0 to retain their title.

CHIA JIE MIN



Lim Wei Leong (behind) and Tay Li Wei defeated Montfort's Chia Hao Wen and Cheo Tian Feng to put SSP level. ST PHOTO: NG SOR LUAN