

2012 Sports News

Dollah would have approved of Aaravin

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THE NEW PAPER DOLLAH KASSIM AWARD

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16-year-old becomes the first defender to bag award named after Singapore legend

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When Aaravin Rajendran was announced as the winner of the The New Paper Dollah Kassim Award yesterday, tears of pride and joy welled up in his father's eyes.

For the football-crazy 30-year-old, seeing his 16-year-old son pick up the award during the National Football Academy's (NFA) annual graduation ceremony represented a dream he could now fulfil in his younger days.

S Rajendran, who attended the ceremony at the Amara Hotel with his wife Shila, said: "I didn't have a chance when I was young.

"I used to play football but I couldn't afford boots, so I used to borrow from people. Now, since he is playing, I try to give him as much as possible."

With his 1.81m frame and ability on the ball, Aaravin was a rock in the defence for the Singapore Under-18 team who finished second in the Canon Lion City Cup in June.

Having produced previous winner **Ahmad Saadik**, Aaravin's coach Dejan Glavcovic was delighted to have another of his players collect the gong.

The Seth said: "I always had good about Aaravin or any player of mine winning things. Somehow, we win something at any competition.

"Aaravin is one of the NFA's tallest players and one of the best defenders in the business in Singapore.

"I do believe that international exposure will definitely help him bloom into a national player and, eventually, into a star."

The award - which was initiated by The New Paper in partnership with Singapore Pools and the Football Association of Singapore (FAS) in 2010 - recognises both talent and character, which typified the late Singapore legend Dollah.

The other nominees were Boyston Tan, **Azhar Azmi**, Mubashir Azman and Nur Fikho Idris.

The winner was decided by a judging panel from TNP, FAS and Singapore Pools as well as readers' votes. Aaravin took 36.1 per cent of the votes.

Besides his football credentials, Aaravin also impressed the panel with his maturity.

Bis Singh, head of game development at the FAS, said: "For the Dollah Kassim Award winners we have had one midfielder (2010's Amrind, Ezzaman Muzlan), one second striker (Azlan) and now we have Aaravin who is a defender.

"I think he did well during the Lion City Cup and during the interview he had with the panel, he showed that he could be an ambassador for football.

"Besides playing for us, we are also looking at other aspects because you're representing Singapore when you're abroad.

"Also important is ambition and, in this case, Aaravin really wants to be a professional, but not at the expense of studies and other aspects of life that are important."

For his win, Aaravin received the Singapore Pools Passport to Excellence that will see him undergo an overseas training stint with a renowned football club on a flight sponsored by Turkish Airlines.

While delighted with the win, there will be no big celebration for Aaravin.

"I don't think I will celebrate as much because I'm still young with a lot of things to do and a long hard road ahead," he said.

"I need to continue working hard. I'm looking forward to the overseas trip and I want to prepare myself well, so that I can go over to perform and improve myself."



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- Aaravin Rajendran (above), with his parents (right)



Click [here](#) to read the article.

35 Footballers Receive Zone Awards, National Colours, Adam Swandi Named Best School Boy Footballer

Adam Swandi was named Best School Boy (Football) by the Singapore Schools Sports Council at its Zone Awards and National Colours presentation at Nanyang Polytechnic on 14 September 2012.

Besides Adam, another four Singapore Sports School student-athletes were named Best School Boy/Girl in their respective sport. They are Terry Hee (Badminton), Darren Ong (Bowling), Ang Wan Qi (Table Tennis) and Veronica Shanti Pereira (Track and Field). Wan Qi was also a member of the Singapore Schools Table Tennis Girls Team that won the Best Team Award (Girls).

Synchronised swimmers Yap Yu Hui, Lee Meishuang and Natalie Chen were awarded Special Colours. They represented Singapore at the Jakarta-Palembang 2011 Southeast Asian Games and won a clutch of silver and bronze medals.

Altogether, 35 members of the Sports School Football Academy received Zone Awards and National Colours.

As only selected representatives from each school were invited to participate in the presentation ceremony on 14 September, Sports School organised its own presentation ceremony to fete its 120 recipients of Zone Awards and 85 National Colours, and members of 25 Team Awards, on 27 September 2012. Olympian Derek Wong, who represented Singapore in Badminton at the London 2012 Olympic Games, was the guest-of-honour who presented the certificates to the award winners.

Individual Awards

Aaron Tang Jun Jie 1st National, 1st Zone

Adam Swandi 2nd National, 2nd Zone, Best School Boy (Football)

Alif Iskandar Abdul Razak 1st National, 1st Zone

Amirul Hakim Onn 1st National, 1st Zone

Brandon Koh Kim Leong 3rd National, 4th Zone

Bryan Tan Yu Ru 2nd National, 3rd Zone

Danial Shafiq Abdul Rahman 1st National, 1st Zone

Ehvin s/o Sasidharan 2nd National, 2nd Zone

Elfi Shahrul Salan 2nd National, 2nd Zone

Haiqal Sulaiman 1st National, 1st Zone
Ikhsan Fandi Ahmad 1st National, 1st Zone
Jordan Chan Zhi Wei 1st National, 1st Zone
Justin Hui Yong Kang 1st National, 1st Zone
Khairuddin Omar 2nd National, 2nd Zone
Mohamed Faizal Mohd Raffi 2nd National, 2nd Zone
Mohammad Fadzyl Misawal 1st National, 1st Zone
Mohammad Sadik Mohd Said 2nd National, 2nd Zone
Mohammad Shahrul Affandy Mohamed Fazil 1st National, 1st Zone
Muhamad Rusyaidi Salime 1st National, 1st Zone
Muhammad Adib Nur Hakim Azahari 1st National, 1st Zone
Muhammad Amirul Adli Azmi 2nd National, 2nd Zone
Muhammad Hami Syahin Said 1st National, 1st Zone
Muhammad Hazim Faiz Hassan 2nd National, 3rd Zone
Muhammad Irfan Asyraf Mohamed Aziz 3rd National, 3rd Zone
Muhammad Muhaimin Suhaimi 3rd National, 4th Zone
Muhammad Muhelmy Suhaimi 2nd National, 2nd Zone
Muhammad Nazhiim Harman 1st National, 1st Zone
Muhammad Nur Helmi Razali 1st National, 1st Zone
Muhammad Saifullah Mohammad Akbar 1st National, 1st Zone
Muhammad Syahrul Sazali 1st National, 1st Zone
Muhammad Syukri Mohd Bashir 1st National, 1st Zone
Nicholas Yong Chung Wai 1st National, 1st Zone
Prakash s/o Nanthakumar 1st National, 1st Zone
Rajandran Aaravin 2nd National, 2nd Zone
Zachary James Delf 1st National, 1st Zone



A Treat Meet With 'The Special One'

By Shirley Tan-Oehler

Senior Manager, Strategic Communications

Ten boys from the Football Academy were asked to show up for a photography session. They were given adidas Real Madrid fan gear to wear, and directed to pose in front of a white background. They were bewildered as to why they were asked to pose in such a manner, but nonetheless, they did as they were told.

On 15 June 2012, they found out why...

Their images were used for the backdrop for the Jose Mourinho fireside chat at the Singapore Sports School - and they were lining up to meet "The Special One", where he was to be seated, for his autograph.

The Real Madrid coach saw the humour in the unique "welcome" and after his chat session, happily autographed on the back of the shirts of each of the boys.

Mourinho's visit to Singapore was arranged by the Singapore Olympic Foundation-Peter Lim Scholarship and the chat session jointly hosted by

Singapore Sports School and the Football Association of Singapore, and attended by the FAS Under 16 and Under 15 teams, coaches and managers, our School's sport scientists and other staff.

adidas, which sponsors our School's Football and Track and Field academies, gave T-shirts and a ball for Mourinho to sign. The signed articles will be displayed in The Champions' Heritage Centre. What of the boys' signed T-shirts? They get to keep them, of course!



Singapore Sports School Wins Nike MUPC Under 15 Title

Singapore Sports School's Under 15 and Under 14 teams took part in the Nike Manchester United Premier Cup and competed with another 54 schools, a record number for this tournament. The Football Academy aimed to defend their title and had both teams qualify for the final, a repeat of last year's scenario. The final took place at Sports School on 24 April 2012. It was clear that the older Under 15 players were taking control of the game and pressed for goals right from the start. Irfan Fandi Ahmad was in fine form and scored a hatrick. The Under 15 team earned the right to represent Singapore in the regional finals, held in Indonesia from 28 to 31 May 2012.



5 On 10-Day Attachment With Albirex Niigata, Japan (6 March)

Pictures by Vincent Nghai



Five footballers will be heading for Japan for a 10-day training stint with top-tiered Japanese League side Albirex Niigata. The tie-up is the first of its kind and was brokered by adidas, sponsor of Singapore Sports School's Football Academy and Albirex Niigata.

This attachment, from 9 March to 18 March 2012, is made possible thanks to the EW Barker Endowment Fund which will cover almost 80 per cent of the cost. adidas is outfitting the footballers with training gear and footwear, while Albirex Niigata has made arrangements for the footballers to travel on All Nippon Airways at special rates and also to visit its other sports teams and places with educational and cultural interest.

Originally, it was six to go, but Hazim Faiz Hassan suffered a serious injury during a local match days before the scheduled departure and has to give the trip a skip.

Of the six, four were part of the National Football Association teams that thrilled Singapore at the 23rd Canon Lion City Cup last June. Muhaimin Suhaimi and Hazim were part of the NFA Under 16 team that finished runners-

up and Adam Swandi and Ammirul Adli were the Captain and Vice-Captain respectively of the NFA Under 15 team that took third place. Not to be outdone, their juniors, Zharfan Rohaizad and Andin Addie Djayady, both 15, played key roles in Singapore Sports School's first-ever football Gold medal win at the Thailand Sports School Games, in 2011.

The footballers will be accompanied by the Football Academy's Head Coach Teng Wei Ken, who is there to learn more about the youth set up at Albirex Niigata and see if he can implement some ideas of the successful Japanese football system into the Academy.

Mr Eric Song, Singapore Sports School Assistant Director of Sports, said: "We are bringing some of our best players over to train with the youth teams of Albirex Niigata. We believe the boys can only stand to benefit from training in the Japanese football system and it will help in their Long-Term Athlete Development."

This training stint comes with the blessing of the Japanese Football Association which supports this opportunity for the best young players in Singapore to pick up tips from the Japanese football system.

With the future in mind, Albirex Niigata hopes that this Singapore Sports School-Albirex Niigata attachment programme will develop and help to produce players good enough for the Singapore national team and also to compete with the best in Asia and the World.

"Our hope is that one day, we will see a Singapore Sports School football alumnus ply his trade in the J-League, arguably the best league in Asia," said Albirex Niigata FC Singapore Chairman Daisuke Korenaga.

Videos

Visit of Jose "The Special One" Mourinho On 15 June 2012

TODAY digital, 15 June 2012: 'The Special One', Jose Mourinho was in town for a second day, this time visiting the Singapore Sports School, where he talks about his passion for football, his team building philosophy and why La Liga is the toughest league.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5JdlsmWcmpk>