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HOE PEI SHAN » SILAT

TEENAGERS engaged in fights usually spell nothing but trouble.

Not so for Nurindah Mursani (above), who punched and kicked her way to a World Junior Pencak Silat Championship title.

The 15-year-old beat Brunei's Nurul Aimi Amaliana Zainidi 4-1 in yesterday's final at Bedok Sports Hall to win the girls' A category (39-42 kg).

Said a beaming Nurindah: "I'm proud of this win, it's my first major title. After all the hard work and training I put in, it's a nice reward."

The Singapore Sports School student had earlier won a silver in the Junior Female Artistic singles category.

Her father, Mursani Muri, used to be a silat exponent, and it was through her parents that she was first introduced to the sport six years ago.

BY Singapore reigned supreme at Bedok. Three tournaments – the world juniors, the pre-junior international and the International Open championships – were held concurrently.

The hosts topped the medal standings among the 13 participating nations, with 28 golds, 13 silvers and 21 bronzes.

Of the 28 golds, 13 came from the pre-juniors, and six from juniors – testament to a strong youth programme.

Setting a fine example was captain Mohamed Zulfakar, who thrashed Indonesia's Pujio Janoko 5-0 in the men's senior Class C (55-60kg) final.

Said the 2002 world champion: "I'm proud of the whole team. They displayed discipline and maturity in their fights, especially the juniors."

Malaysia reaped 22 golds, 25 silvers and 19 bronzes to finish second. Indonesia were third with 12 golds, seven silvers and two bronzes.

