

UNDER THE FLOODLIGHTS

The past SMA annual inter-hospital soccer championships were all fought for under the scorching sun. The organising team led by Chairperson Dr William Kristanto received feedback from players that they would prefer a night tournament this year, as it would place a greater emphasis on skills and less on fitness. Hence, in our attempt to level the playing field, the 42nd SMA-Eagle Eye Centre Inter-Hospital Soccer Tournament was held on the evening of 8 May at the Home United Youth Academy (HYFA).

The eight participating hospital and private practitioner teams' players started streaming into the HYFA fields at 4 pm for their warm up to conquer four hours' worth of soccer matches. At 5 pm, the first two matches kicked off with the Khoo Teck Puat Hospital team competing against the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) team, while the National University Hospital players were up against their Tan Tock Seng Hospital counterparts. After each team

completed three matches under their respective groups amid cheers from supporters along the sidelines, the SAF team topped the Group 1 table while the Singapore General Hospital (SGH) team came in with the most match points in Group 2.

As the SAF, SGH, SingHealth HQ (SHHQ) and Private Practice 1 (PP1) teams vied for a spot in the finals against the setting sun, raindrops started to fall. However, the players' fighting spirit was not put out by the rain and they fought strong and hard for a closer chance at the championship. The SAF and SGH teams eventually won their places in the much anticipated finals.

A mixture of fatigue and fiery determination were clearly written on the SAF and SGH players' faces as they stepped onto the pitch at 8 pm for the last 20 minutes of the game to obtain the coveted championship. It was a close match and the ball was deflected numerous times by both team's defence

players as they struggled to maintain possession and to send it to the opposite team's goalpost. The SGH team eventually scored three goals that sealed the game, and they were crowned as the champions of the 42nd SMA-Eagle Eye Centre Inter-Hospital Soccer Tournament!

We would like to thank Eagle Eye Centre for their strong support and sponsorship for this year's tournament. ◆



PROFILE

TEXT BY

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Legend

1. The SGH team were all smiles after winning the championship
2. A PP2 player sliding in for a tackle against his SHHQ counterpart