

FT surge from behind for Inter-state bowling overall title

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last in the Inter-state bowling championships.

After managing just one gold on Tuesday through Rafiq Ismail and Timmy Tan in the men's doubles, FT came out with guns blazing on the final day to bag three out of the eight gold medals up for grabs at the Sunway Mega Lanes on Wednesday.

Victories in the men's all-events, women's team and boys' team were enough to give them a final tally of four golds, seven silvers and two bronzes – just

enough to pip arch-rivals Selangor (4-3-3) to the overall title for the second straight year. Sarawak were third with 4-0-1.

The FT boys' quartet of Hafiz Zainuddin, Adam Azza, Syaffique Ikhwan and Cheah Yung Ren got the ball rolling when they knocked down a 4,686 total to overcome Malacca's Abdul Basit Mohd, Jason Syow, Ahmad Daniel Zainal Abidin and Ahmad Aidil Abdul Halim (4,642).

Pahang's Abdul Hadi Haron, Ahmad Zakwan, Muhd Nor Ikhwan and Muhd Aqil finished third with 4,591.



Sarawak quartet of Christopher Tiong, Mohd Uzair Irsyad, Muhd Syafiq Sajeli and Ervin Lim lifted the men's team title.

The FT's women team – comprising Sharon Koh, Alisha Iman Cheong, Nur Syazwani Sahar and Nora Lyana Nastasia – notched the second gold of the day with 4,739 pinfalls. They finished 131 pins ahead of arch-rivals Selangor (4608), who fielded Victoria Chin, Siti Safiyah Amirah Abdul Rahman and Natasha Roslan and Nur Hashilah Hashim. Last year's winners Perak, led by Sin Li Jane, Nor Syazana Mohd Rusli, Jessica Ting and Zulaika Atila Zakaria, took bronze with 4,507 pinfalls.

Timmy then took centrestage by delivering the crucial third gold – and fourth overall – for FT in the men's All-Events with a three-day total of 3,946.

FT made it a 1-2 finish when Rafiq (3,919) took silver. Penang's Adrian Ang (3,905) was third.

FT team manager Steven Teng hailed his charges' fighting spirit on the final day.

"I had said earlier that we would need five gold medals to become overall champions," said Steven.

"So, when we ended the second day with just one gold, I thought it was all over.

"But when the boys delivered the team gold in the afternoon, we began to believe again.

"And that inspired our women's team and Timmy to deliver the goods. Luckily, we had more silver medals than Selangor ... that helped us become champions again."

RESULTS

MEN

Team: 1. Sarawak 4980, 2. Federal Territory 4929, 3. Selangor 4867.

All-events: 1. Timmy Tan (FT) 3946, 2. Rafiq Ismail (FT) 3919, 3. Adrian Ang (Pen) 3905.

BOYS

Team: 1. Federal Territory 4686, 2. Malacca 4642, 3. Pahang 4591.

All-events: 1. Abang Afiq Yazid Abang Azman (Swk) 3675, 2. Syaffique Ikhwan (FT) 3658, 3. Cheah Yung Ren (FT) 3591.

WOMEN

Team: 1. Federal Territory 4739, 2. Selangor 4608, 3. Perak 4507.

All-events: 1. Victoria Chin (Sel) 3843, 2. Nur Syazwani Sahar (FT) 3805, 3. Natasha Roslan (Sel) 3779.

GIRLS

Team: 1. Penang 4440, 2. Kedah 4422, 3. Negri Sembilan 4359.

All-events: 1. Nur Dayana Zuhdi (NS) 3590, 2. Iffah Nadhirah Mohd Fared (Sel) 3464, 3. Sharifah Munirrah Syed Mohsin (Pah) 3409.