

CIMB Junior Scrabble Circuit (Pahang) 2011

9th April 2011, Sek. Sains Haji Ahmad Shah, Pekan, Pahang

by William Kang

52 youths from in and out of the rural area of Pekan participated in the Pahang CIMB Junior Scrabble Circuit, where a place in 15 of the top spots allotted would earn the player a ticket to the CIMB Junior National Scrabble Tournament for a place in the annual World Youth Scrabble Championship to be held at the year's end.

The pre-tournament favourites for the title of Pahang state champion included William Kang of SMK Subang Utama and Jagan Narayanan of SMK Seafield, both of whom hail from Selangor and surprise participants for the leg, citing reasons for not being able to attend their "home" leg just the week after.

The supposed deciding match between the two Selangor players came as early as the second game, having pulverised their opponents in the first game by spreads in excess of 500, thus setting them up against each other. William dominated the first half of the game, having raced into a 100-point lead with EARNEST that stretched across two double-word premium squares. He soon took a defensive stance for the rest of the game, playing tight, low-scoring moves to keep the board closed and blocked so as to keep Jagan from playing a bingo. In the end, the match was indeed William's – although his opponent had caught up to within a 20-point deficit by exploiting unguarded triple-word lines to put the match in the balance for the last few plays.

William and Jagan went on to win the rest of their games in commanding style to take the first and second spots in the competition respectively. Ahmad Mursyidi Tzaka, Muhamad Amirul Azrie and Wilson Kang round out the top five. Wilson, the younger brother of William Kang, was also the youngest player of the tournament at 12 years old.

The highest-scoring word of the tournament was ZINGERS for 123 points by 6th placed Ahmad Hazlami Fikri against William in the fourth game; whereas William's 657 point-game in the first round was the highest of the day.

The top 15 are listed as follows:

- 1 William Kang, 7 wins, +1798
- 2 Jagan Narayanan, 6 wins, +1454
- 3 Ahmad Mursyidi Tzaka, 6 wins, +154
- 4 Muhamad Amirul Azrie, 5 wins, +571
- 5 WilsonKang, 5 wins, +386
- 6 Ahmad Hazlami Fikri, 5 wins, +365
- 7 Haveenesh Retnasingm, 5 wins, +265
- 8 Mohd Hilman Abdrahma, 5 wins, +234
- 9 Nur Syamimi Bahru Ru, 5 wins, +188

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| 10 | Muhd Noorafiq Izani, | 5 wins, +116 |
| 11 | Nik Mohd Syamil, | 5 wins, -118 |
| 12 | Chan Wai Kee, | 5 wins, -135 |
| 13 | Nik Amir Hasyim N M, | 4 wins, +435 |
| 14 | Amirul Safwan Nasaru, | 4 wins, +267 |
| 15 | Aiman Dzulhelmy Shaz, | 4 wins, +245 |

The players listed will be eligible to play in the CIMB National Youth Scrabble Tournament, to be held on the 28th-29th of May.

I, on behalf of the all the participating players, would like to thank Martin Teo, Rainier Ng, the supervising teachers from various schools, and administrators of Sek. Sains Haji Ahmad Shah for providing the venue and ensuring the smooth flow of the tournament.