

Mora Invitational Basketball tournament 2011

Written by Editor

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There was nothing but magic in the New Gymnasium of the University of Moratuwa over the weekend of the 14th and 15th of May 2011. It was where the new champions of the of the 'Mora Invitational Basketball tournament' for the year 2011 were crowned. The University of Moratuwa men's team, captained by Uthpala Sumanarathna outlasted all other opponents to reach the pinnacle of the tournament and stand victorious at the end of it all. The Mora Invitational Basketball Tournament was organized by the basketball team in collaboration with the department of Physical Education of the University of Moratuwa. It was organized for the fourth consecutive year. The tournament was a platform for some of the best teams in the university arena and other higher educational institutes to come together and compete with each other and put on a show to all the enthusiastic sports lovers of the university community. It was indeed a spectacle to behold.

The final battle for championship glory was intense, awe inspiring and jaw dropping all at the same time and it took a lot out of both teams who took the game right down to the wire. At the end, the team that prevailed and made the final gallop was the University of Moratuwa who posted 87 points on the board as opposed to the tally of 78 by the visitors.

The consolation final was between the University of Kelaniya and the University of Colombo. Both teams had good performances in the earlier round before eventually losing out to the finalists. If this tournament was any indication, both teams are in for a great season ahead showing a lot of promise and potential. The clash in the consolation finals was no disappointment either. At the end it was the University of Kelaniya team that pulled through with the victory to secure third place. Earlier in the semi finals, a gutsy ACBT team was able to pull off a rabbit out of the hat by defeating a formidable University of Kelaniya team while suffering from a shortage of players on the court due to injuries. They were indomitable and willed their way through to the victory of the game, at the end of which earned them a standing ovation by everyone in the arena.

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The tournament kicked off on Saturday and showed great promise with some good basketball action in the first round itself. In the end it was an early exit to tournament first timers IIT and the defending champions, Old Mora. ACBT and University of Moratuwa were the only teams that were undefeated at the end of the first round.

In the women's category it was an all Mora affair for the title as Old Mora battled the University of Moratuwa women's team for the championship. The game had its moments, but at the end it was comprehensively won by the University of Moratuwa women's team.

The closing ceremony was held Sunday night and was graced with the presence of chief guest Prof. J.M.S.J. Bandara, Senior lecturer of the Department of Civil Engineering and former captain of the University of Moratuwa basketball team. Also present on the occasion was Director of Physical Education of the University of Moratuwa Mr. K.R.D.C. Rathnamudali.

Article by Faheem Jamaldeen

