

Wednesday November 3, 2010

Children get opportunity to train with English team's reps

THE coaching crew from a team in the top flight English domestic rugby union league Aviva Premiership, Saracens will be revisiting the Bintang Rugby Club (BRC) junior programme for the third consecutive year.

Besides the Saracens' academy trainer Alex Austerberry returning for the second time, another representative from the club will also be sharing his experience and expertise during their seven-day trip to Malaysia from Nov 10.

BRC spokesman Andy Lawrence said it would be a rare chance for the BRC youngsters as well as budding players from other schools to pick up valuable training methods to improve on their skills.

"We are very fortunate that they have obliged to continue this partnership and allocated time to conduct the programme here for us in between their tight competition calendar," he added.



Listen up: Alex interacting with the Alice Smith primary school pupils during the coaching clinic

The coaching clinics dedicated to trainees aged between eight and 19 years was a result of BRC's partnership with The Nomad Group Berhad.

In 2008, they chipped in RM20,000 a year to support the BRC's initiatives for a period of three years.

Besides a series of sessions in the Klang Valley, they will also be reaching out to the keen followers in Negri Sembilan on Nov 10 followed by Malacca on Nov 12.

"Our counterparts in both states have been gracious hosts in inviting us to be part of the junior tournaments over the years.

"We want them to be part of our club's programme.

"It is also important to provide the emerging players in both states the same opportunity to enhance their competitiveness in the game," said Andy.

Two secondary schools — Negri Sembilan Sports School and SM Sains Tuanku Ja'afar — have confirmed their participation for the session scheduled at Kuala Pilah.

“Outside the Klang Valley, we are expecting at least one primary school to join the session as an introduction to the physical contact in rugby,” said Andy, adding that they could accommodate six to eight primary schools with 10 to 12 pupils from each school for the clinics hosted in the Klang Valley.

As hosts of the one-day session on Nov 13, the renowned school with strong tradition in rugby, SM Sains Selangor (SMSS), will be inviting the primary schools to join.

Both the visiting coaches will also evaluate the juniors from five age-groups (Under-11, Under-12, Under-13, Under-15 and Under-19) in action in friendly matches involving the BRC against other opponents.

In addition, students from four other schools — Alice Smith Jalan Bellamy, Alice Smith Equine Park, ELC School and Garden International School — will be going through the paces under the watchful eyes of the Saracens' duo as they wrap up their stint on the final two days.