



Street sports

New sports like handball and frisbee were well-received during the recent Sports Challenge— but the food stalls were not. **Carmen Lee** tells more about the competition



Food Gone Cold

PARTICIPANTS were enthusiastic in taking part in the new games but paid little attention to the bands and carnival stalls.

Five food stalls, in the car park between the main S&RC building and the spectators' stand, and the live performances were unpopular with participants.

Madam Loh Siew Chin, 57, said that business was worse than the 50 cups of yoghurt she had expected to sell by mid-day. Drinks stall vendor, Mr William Chen, 17, said that he had to walk to the various courts to sell drinks as the participants were unaware of the stalls. Other stalls sold hamburgers and sausages.

One of the participants, Alvin Lim, 22, a third-year Computer Engineering student, said that he would rather not go to the stalls as they were too far away from the centre of action.

Equally far were the bands from the NTU Live Music Society performing at the spectators' stand. Facing an empty field during performances, they soon grew disgruntled. Lead singer of Another Last Chance repeatedly shouted: "NTU! Where are you?"

Sports Club acknowledged that reception of the performances and food stalls was poor. "This is our first attempt at creating a carnival setting," said Street Challenge Chairman Tan. "Next year, we plan to move the stalls nearer to the courts and participants."



ZEAL for new sports such as frisbee drew crowds to Street Challenge 2007, attracting 567 participants, about 100 more than last year.

Previously a three-day affair, the annual event was compacted into a single-day event at the Sports & Recreation Centre (S&RC) on 20 October, Saturday.

Past organisers had noted that many teams who lost in the first two days did not turn up on the last day, resulting in a dull atmosphere at the finals. Holding all events during the weekend also meant that they would not clash with any classes.

The arrangement was welcomed by many participants. Yau Jin Quan, 22, a second-year Civil Engineering undergraduate and street basketball enthusiast, said the compression of matches into a single day generated a large pool of spectators and a very lively atmosphere.

With the inclusion of handball and Frisbee, this year's Street Challenge saw participants competing in six sports. The other games played were soccer, basketball, netball and floorball.

The inclusion of handball and Frisbee was in sync with NTU Sports Club's aim of promoting less known sports, said Chairman of Street Challenge 2007, Tan Weilun, 22.

The new games were well-received, said Tan. "The turnout exceeded our expectations. 12 teams signed up for Frisbee when we only expected 10."

One participant, Tan Chong Meng, 23, was attracted to Frisbee because it did not need much equipment or practice time. The third-year student, who has represented the School of Chemical and Biological Engineering in the Inter-School Games before, said: "Frisbee is a rising sport. I believe

it will become more prominent in the NTU sporting scene after Street Challenge 2007."

Like frisbee, handball is relatively new to NTU, so the National University of Singapore handball team was engaged to conduct a clinic to teach the basics of the game.

One of the 35 people who turned up was Chiang Yi Wei, 22, a third-year Material Science Engineering student who had no prior experience in handball. "The clinic was useful as it gave my team and me a very hands-on experience," he said.

Armed with skills from the handball clinic, Chiang and his team breezed through to the semi-finals, but lost to the eventual champions with a score of 5-1.

In addition, there were eight side challenges that allowed participants to try out various sports. One required participants to kick a soccer ball into a tyre eight metres away.

The first three to complete all eight side challenges won a Sigg

water bottle worth \$30. The top three players of each event also won shoe bags and Nike water bottles.

Yap Xin Ping, 22, a second-year Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering student, tried his hand at four of the side challenges, and said they helped him understand more about sports he was not familiar with.

PHOTOS | TAN ZI JIE & KUAN JIE WEI



GOING FOR GOAL: Players look on with suspense as the netball heads towards the goal.