

Research

Ts. Dr. Nasrul Hadi produces Protective Bandana (Pro-B) reducing the risk of injury to takraw players

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PEKAN, 4 September 2023 - Sepak takraw is one of the sports that has the potential to bring medals to Malaysia, but it is only contested up to the Asian Games level.

Although it had begun to be competed professionally around 1960, the development of takraw technology which was seen as poorly developed, was one of the factors that this sport not being successfully competed in the Olympic Games.

Among them are equipment technology during training, the takraw ball technology itself, more suitable attire and the safety of takraw players.

Starting from that, the Director of the Centre for Advanced Industrial Technology, Centre for Innovation and Commercial Management who is also a Lecturer at the Faculty of Mechanical and Automotive Engineering Technology (FTKMA), Ts. Dr. Nasrul Hadi Johari, 38, produced a Protective Bandana (Pro-B) that should only be worn by takraw players in accordance with the suitability and comfort that will reduce at least 50% of the hit impact from the takraw ball header.

The idea of Pro-B development was the result of an initiative with members of the Human Engineering Group based in FTKMA, namely Dr. Mohd Hasnun Arif Hassan, Nik Haikal M. Hassan and Dr. Zulkifli <u>Ahmad@Manap</u>.



According to Ts. Dr. Nasrul Hadi, for takraw to be competed at the international level, such as in the Olympic Games, this sport needs to be competed in at least 75 countries spanning four continents in

the world.

"Sepak takraw uses the feet and head as the main components in the game; however, with the nature of a hard takraw ball, even though it is springy and always hit at a high speed exceeding 50 km/h, heading a takraw ball using the forehead is painful and dangerous.

"Especially in intensive training, takraw players will usually head a takraw ball hundreds of times to improve ball control skills.

"The prolonged pain of heading the ball can lead to injuries to the players' head including the risk of injuring parts of the brain," he said.

He added that this issue needs to be considered and they took the initiative to focus on ways to reduce the risk of injury to the players' heads by providing a liner that can be worn directly on the head to reduce the hit impact from the ball.

"The development of Pro-B actually started as early as 2013 but stopped for several years because I continued my Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) study and resumed in 2019 with support from the UMPSA itself, namely through research product grants (PDUs), before being fully completed in early 2021.

"Pro-B will be on the market for RM45 a set.

"We hope that Pro-B can reduce the risk of injury to players' heads, including to children or those who have just started playing sepak takraw," he said.

This can thus promote the sport of sepak takraw to be contested in countries that are still unfamiliar with the sport.

"It is hoped that this product can help takraw sport to be competed at the international level, such as in the Commonwealth Games and Olympics and further develop the sports-related industry in Malaysia.

"In addition to Pro-B, we are in the process of preparing a takraw ball launcher that will be used in training sessions.

"This equipment will help improve the performance of players and certainly improve the technology of this sport," he said.

He added that so far, they are in the process of collaborating with several parties, namely the Pahang State Education Department (JPN), the Pahang State Sepak Takraw team and the nearest takraw associations to supply the Pro-B set.

"They will use it in training sessions, including in tournaments.

"School children will definitely like this Pro-B and will be more interested in the sport of sepak takraw which in turn will promote this sport more widely when they grow up," he said.

This research won a gold medal in the Creation, Innovation, Technology and Research Exposition (CITREx) 2022.

The research also won a gold medal at the International Invention, Innovation and Technology Exhibition (ITEX) 2022 which took place at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre (KLCC) on 26 and 27 May 2022.

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