National Archives and
Records Centre, Singapore.
6 NOV 1979
ACC. No. NARC
19 0006 271

EMBARGOED UNTIL AFTER DELIVERY

SPEECH BY TAN ENG LIANG, CHAIRMAN, SINGAPORE SPORTS COUNCIL AT THE MILO FOOTBALL TRAINING SCHEME AWARD PRESENTATION AT THE CONFERENCE ROOM, NATIONAL STADIUM ON 10 NOVEMBER 1979 AT 11.00 AM

In our latest survey conducted among sports associations and organisations on The Extent of Sports Participation in Singapore for 1978, football is ranked as the most popular team game in overall ranking. The survey also showed that the number of soccer participants has grown from 22,320 in 1975 to 39,100 in 1978, a seventy-five percent increase. It is still a predominantly male sports as only 470 of the 39,100 are females. These statistics confirm the value of the Milo Football Training Scheme.

The Milo Football Training Scheme has been with us for the past six years. During this time, it has been satisfying for me to see so much progress made by the trainees. Statistics show that 45% of the boys have graduated from the scheme to the Milo Football School where they are receiving coaching on an advanced level. In addition, no less than 40% of the boys from the scheme have made it to the Lion City Cup teams.

An outstanding example of accelerated progress is that of Fandi Ahmad, a product of the Milo Football Training Scheme. This young man whose skills were praised by the Manager of the Cosmos Football Team recently, represents the calibre of players that we can expect to come from the scheme from time to time. There are, I believe, many more trainees with potential who are capable of following in the footsteps of Fandi.

The forthcoming Lion City Cup tournament will provide a good testing ground for the young footballers in Singapore.

2/.

The competition will be stiffer than that experienced previously since international teams will be vying for the title this time. It will be a proud day for the Milo Scheme, indeed Singapore football, if the Republic can repeat the very good performances of the last two years.

While those who have been selected to represent Singapore are preparing for the competitions ahead and the rest are taking a respite from training, it would be well for all trainees to reappraise their positions in the scheme. On my part, I would like to say that in order to reap the full benefits of organised training, you will have to value the scheme and give it your due attention. In the final analysis, what you hope to get out of the scheme in terms of improvement, will be proportionate to what you are prepared to put in. And that means urgency of purpose, hardwork, sacrifice, dedication, discipline and a readiness to accept advice from your mentors. The value of any training scheme is lost if we have trainees who take training lightly.

I wish to congratulate the 31 winners of the Soccer Awards this year. You have done well in the various inter and intra centre competitions. To those who have not won any award, I would urge you to try harder next year and gain the recognition that comes with such an award.

Finally, I wish to thank all concerned - Nestle Singapore for their continued support in sponsoring the scheme, the Football Association of Singapore for their technical advice and the hardworking group of coaches for making the scheme what it is today - a progressive on-going project of importance to the future of football in Singapore.

DO/11c