

# Geylang change name to spur players

By WANG MENG MENG

S-LEAGUE football team Geylang United are hoping that a blast from the past will power them to their former glory.

The Bedok-based club announced yesterday that they will revert to their old name Geylang International, which was used during their heyday from 1975 to 1995.

Geylang chairman and former national striker Leong Kok Fann, 54, said: "I hope it can inspire the

current generation of players to do justice to this name."

Formed in 1974 as International Contract Specialists, the club's name was changed to Geylang International a year later.

They went on to win Singapore's top football league titles in 1975, 1976, 1977 (then known as the National Football League), 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992 and 1993 (the former Premier League).

Changing their name to Geylang United in 1996, the Eagles

won the S-League that year and in 2001. Since then, their only success has been the 2009 Singapore Cup.

V. Kanan, the club's coach, said: "Hopefully, this name change will spur the players. We are targeting a top-five finish in the league as well as making it to the Singapore Cup final."

They finished 11th out of 13 clubs in the league last season.

Geylang also announced a new outreach programme. Through the club's efforts, the Singapore

Management University (SMU) will provide 20 undergraduates who will tutor Secondary 2 students from Bedok View Secondary School in English, mathematics and science. The programme will start this month.

The Eagles are also offering a scholarship, with money raised from the club's golf day, to their S-League and Prime League players to pay for their studies. Three players will be awarded a scholarship worth \$2,500 each.

[meng@sph.com.sg](mailto:meng@sph.com.sg)