

# Stingrays avenge loss to win Super League

By JONATHAN WONG

HEAVILY motivated to make amends for last month's 14-point hammering by Magic Marlins, the Sneakers Stingrays turned the tables to end a five-year wait for the Netball Super League crown.

They beat the Marlins 45-37 at the Toa Payoh Sports Hall yesterday, despite a third-quarter wobble that saw their lead cut from nine points to just four.

It was captain Carmen Goh's first championship and the 24-year-old centre was visibly emotional after the victory.

She said: "I'm just so proud of the team and this achievement really reflects all the hard work we've put in."

Her team had been overrun by

the Marlins 45-31 last month, but they used that as inspiration.

Said Stingrays coach Goh Seck Tuck: "They were physically and mentally quite tired today after a very tough semi-final on Saturday, but fought hard and never gave up."

It showed in their defending as they worked tirelessly to deny the Marlins attackers space and time, limiting them to 52 goal attempts while carving 64 opportunities for themselves.

Said goal defence Parveen Nair: "We changed our game plan to deal with their attackers and we were definitely hungrier out there. We had a lot to prove and show what we were really capable of."

There was more good news for the Singapore Management Univer-

sity student, 21, who was shortlisted as part of the 17-member SEA Games national squad. The squad will eventually be trimmed to 12 for the June 5-16 Games.

She said: "It will be a tough challenge to make the final cut but I'm excited about the chance (to play) my first major international tournament with the senior team."

National coach Ruth Aitken said: "I want versatility in my final squad, which means players who can cover a few positions. The SEA Games is important for us and for Singapore."

An overseas training camp in Fiji has been arranged in April to aid the team's preparations as they target a gold medal at the SEA Games.

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Stingrays captain Carmen Goh (far left) and coach Goh Seck Tuck receive the Netball Super League trophy.

Stingrays' goal defence Parveen Nair blocks a Marlins shooter during the final at the Toa Payoh Sports Hall.  
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