

SuniG Netball: NUS bring home 3rd consecutive title after 56–36 win over NTU

By REDintern Jasmine Goh



The ball sails over the outstretched arm of the NUS C and is gathered by the NTU WA. (Photo 1 © Les Tan/Red Sports)

National University of Singapore, Wednesday, September 18, 2013 – The National University of Singapore (NUS) defeated Nanyang Technological University (NTU) 56–36 to take home the Singapore University Games (SuniG) Netball Championship.

This is the third year running that NUS have clinched the title with NTU as runners-up.

NUS also won the Institute-Varsity-Polytechnic (IVP) Games netball title in January 2013. NTU have a strong IVP record, having been champions nine out of the last 13 IVP seasons.

NUS started strongly to give themselves a 16–7 lead after the opening quarter. Sharp, swift and accurate passes proved to be most effective for NUS.

NTU displayed relentless pressure on their defence, especially in the centre-third where they forced their opponents to decide on their options. However, failure to convert their shooting attempts gave NUS an advantage.

The second quarter saw tighter defence by the NTU goal defenders, creating more opportunities for turnovers to be converted into shots. NUS, on their side, took no time in capitalizing on the rebounds and converted their turnovers as well. NUS led 32–16 at half-time.



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In the third quarter, NTU had a more composed game play as they changed their attack line-up used more bounce passes in the goal circle. The second half proved to be a tougher fight for NUS as NTU stepped up their defence, especially in the goal circle with NTU's Goal Keeper and Goal Defender effectively pressuring the NUS shooters. NUS had a 14-point, 46–25 lead at the end of the third quarter.

Despite trailing by a large margin, NTU continued to give NUS a hard fight and tried their best to upset NUS' flow and composure in the fourth quarter. Despite the eventual 36–56 loss to NUS, the NTU players were satisfied to end on a high note.

"NUS put up a strong fight today. They settled down earlier than us and I think that was what led to their advantage. Congratulations to them," said NTU captain Xin Yi. "On our part, we worked really hard to narrow the gap. The third quarter was more of a breakthrough for us where we changed our attack around and the flow became much better. This was evident from the increase in shooting attempts that we had."

Cheryl Lee, the NUS captain, said: "NTU's defence was very tight on us. They kept our attackers close and they pressured us well. Despite that, we managed to settle down and bring down the ball smoothly. Though we made a few mistakes here and there, ultimately we managed to bring down the ball steadily and played to our own game."

"This is our third consecutive year taking home the title, but definitely not the last," she added.

Over at the next court, Singapore Institute of Management (SIM) defeated Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) 53–9 to finish in fourth position. SIM finished third in 2012.

Singapore Management University (SMU) finished SUniG in third place, after an earlier 39–21 win over SIM.

Score by Quarter

NUS vs NTU

1Q: 16–7

2Q: 16–9 (32–16)

3Q: 14–9 (46–25)

4Q: 10–9

Final Score: 56–36

SIM vs SIT

1Q: 10–3

2Q: 19–1 (29–4)

3Q: 11–3 (40–7)

4Q: 13–2

Final Score: 53–9



The NUS GA grabs the pass in midair. (Photo 2 © Les Tan/Red Sports)



The NTU WA anticipates a pass. (Photo 3 © Les Tan/Red Sports)