

No quality in this year's Under-19

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THE Under-15 players outshone their seniors in the recently-concluded Kuala Lumpur Schools Interzone badminton championships.

This, according to Kuala Lumpur Schools chief coach, Wong Kok Wai is because there were no outstanding Under-19 players who were able to replace the quality from last year.

"Last year's Under-19 team were stronger simply because we could not find suitable players this year to replace them," said Kok Wai.

"But on the positive side the Under-15 players, who are our first batch

from the Under-10 development programme, will be a force to be reckoned with in the upcoming State meet.

"The previous development programme was left with gaps with no replacements for the Under-19 players but with the Under-10 programme included, we will not face this problem anymore."

Tipped to be future stars from the Kuala Lumpur team are nine-year-old Ho Yen Mei of Pudu and Bangsar's 13-year-old Kek Jay Lyn.

"Yen Mei may be only nine but she proved to be one of the strongest young players in the team," said Kok Wai.

Yen Mei won the Under-10 singles and doubles with partner Norshahida Baharom.

Jay Lyn of SMK Bukit Bandaraya is another star in the making who made it to the singles and doubles finals.

Jay Lyn, who stands just 4 feet 8 inches, fought her way to the singles

final, and together with partner Phang Sook Fun, made it to the doubles final.

"The Under-10 programme was started about five years ago and it's only now that its beginning to bear fruit through the Under-15 players who will, in turn, fill the shoes of the Under-19s." - SHENTON GOMEZ

(END) Source : New Straits Times