

HONOURED FOR BEING AMBASSADORS OF SPORT



From left, Mr Ting Chung Hua, Mr Chua Song Cher, Mr Gabriel Rao, Mr Moiz Malik, Ms Ruth Ng, Mr Jay Sng of Compassvale Primary School, Mr Ken Tan, Mr Dominic Tung from Tan Tock Seng Hospital and Mr David Wong.

Everyday heroes will take centre stage on June 8, when the Singapore Sports Council (SSC) honours individuals, coaches and organisations who have helped make sports a part of the lives of others, at the POSB Everyday Champions for Sports Awards 2010. Among the winners are 23-year-old national fencer Ruth Ng, who spread her love for the sport by organising an international children's fencing tournament, and conducting talks at schools for students and parents. Others like Moiz Malik — a member of the Tchoukball Association of Singapore — will be honoured for his voluntary coaching work with the deaf in Thailand, and for promoting the sport among adults and students alike.

A total of 26 recipients — nine individuals, nine coaches and eight organisations — will receive their award from Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean at a ceremony at the Marriott Hotel next Tuesday. The winners will take home a trophy, certificate and tickets for the inaugural Youth Olympic Games from Aug 14 to 26. **LOW LIN FHOONG. PHOTO ERNEST CHUA**

Real's latest galactico

Mourinho won't say who he has identified to turn Spanish giants into champions

MADRID — Jose Mourinho has already started work as Real Madrid's new manager, by all accounts.

At the press conference yesterday to introduce the Portuguese as the Spanish giants' latest manager, the former boss of Porto, Chelsea and Inter Milan revealed he wanted to hire "three or four" players, although he doesn't plan a spending spree.

Mourinho was released by Inter Milan last week after he guided the Italian club to an unprecedented treble of Serie A, Italian Cup and Champions League success.

Real spent a record US\$300 million (\$420 million) to acquire Cristiano Ronaldo and Kaka for last season's campaign, but coach Manuel Pellegrini failed to deliver any trophy and paid the ultimate price.

To end the trophy drought, Mourinho said: "We need three or four players for the coach to have more possibilities to get closer to my ideal of a team.

"I don't think it's going



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Jose Mourinho, incoming Real Madrid coach

to be a summer with a lot of changes."

Real haven't won the Champions League since 2002, and have employed 10 coaches and spent almost US\$1 billion on player acquisitions since then.

Mourinho joins Real on a four-year deal reportedly worth €10 million (\$17 million) a season and he insisted he would not change his combative style.

"I don't know if I was born to coach Real Madrid, but I was born to be a football coach. I love important challenges," he said.

"I am Jose Mourinho and I don't change. I arrive with all my qualities and my defects."

The no-nonsense coach is confident he can bring success to Real during his spell at the Santiago Bernabeu.

"I am a coach that has a lot of self-esteem and confidence

and I don't think about the possibility of being sacked," he claimed.

"I think four years of contract is enough to win, to build a strong team for the present and the future.

"I have a lot of confidence in my players, I have the hope that my new players have confidence in me."

Many believe Mourinho will target his former players at Chelsea like Ashley Cole and Frank Lampard, along with Liverpool captain Steven Gerrard, as he looks to bring steel to Real, but the new manager refused to identify who he was eyeing.

"It's too early to speak about changes," he said.

"I believe it's time to analyse the situation, to get to know my club, ask lots of questions and get answers.

"If we work as a group, it's not difficult to get results. I want this group to have an identity, to win everything.

"The strength of my team is always the team and not the individuals." **AGENCIES**

Stosur ends Henin's streak, gets Serena next

TENNIS

French Open

PARIS — Sam Stosur ended Justine Henin's hopes for a comeback victory at the French Open, converting her second match point yesterday for a shock 2-6, 6-1, 6-4 victory in the fourth round.

Needing one point to secure the upset win, Stosur wavered, hitting a double-fault. The Australian took a deep breath and tried again. This time she launched a confident serve into the corner, setting her up for an overhead slam to seal the biggest victory of her career.

Stosur ended the four-time French Open champion's streak of 24 consecutive victories at Roland Garros. Stosur's opponent in the quarter-finals will be top-ranked Serena Williams, who earlier beat Shahar Peer 6-2, 6-2.

Henin's defeat was her first in the tournament since 2004. She was playing at Roland Garros for the first time since ending a 20-month retirement, and looked like a title contender in the early rounds.

But after taking a 4-3 lead in the final set against Stosur, Henin showed signs of nerves and was betrayed by her elegant backhand.

Serving at 4-all, the Belgian double-faulted to reach break point, then yanked a backhand wide. In the final game she pushed three backhands into the net, including a potential winner on the first point.

Stosur, 26, has won 18 matches on clay this year, most on the women's tour. She was a Roland Garros semi-finalist last year and is ranked a career-best No 7 — the highest ranking for an Australian-born woman since Wendy Turnbull in 1985.

Williams looked shaky only after her fourth-round victory, when she tried to speak French to the crowd. Interviewed courtside by former French player Cedric Pioline, she said: "I love Paris. My game is better. I hope I'm going to win." **AP**

MEN'S 4TH RD RESULTS

Jurgen Melzer (Aut x22) bt Teimuraz Gabashvili (Rus) 7-6 (8/6), 4-6, 6-1, 6-4

Novak Djokovic (Srb x3) bt Robby Ginepri (US) 6-4, 2-6, 6-1, 6-2

