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Sigma Paints in a group picture. (AN photos)



Rashed Good Year players gather for a souvenir photograph.

Sigma, Good Year-2 triumph

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ALKHOBAR: Veteran Ronnie Ferolino showed what he could do for his team when he scored 17 points as Sigma Paints beat its younger opponent Rashed Good Year-1 91-85 in Junior non-rated division D-2 Friday in the UBBF 11th Conference at Al-Qadisia Sports Club here.

Banking on their wealth of experience to make up for the advancing years, diminutive point guard Edwin Aleta added 16 including four triples in the second period, pesky forward Derick dela Cruz made 16 points and playing coach Ramil Zarandin had 6 points for Sigma.

Six-foot-three center Jeff Baluyot was hardly used but remained an immovable object in the paint and made 6 points. But surprisingly, it was rookie Michael Juanite who stood out in all departments of the game to finish with 17 points, 3 steals and 2 assists.

Fahd Alireza Engineering Consultants is the tournament's major sponsor. Al Hoty Group of Companies, Mohammad Dossary Hospital, Kabayan Foods, Farm Superstores and McDonald's are minor sponsors.

Both teams played under heavy pressure ending the first period tied at 23-23, but the veterans shot better during the last six minutes of the second quarter for an 11-3 run and enjoyed a 48-40 advantage going into the last two minutes.

Rashed's ace guard and last conference MVP Jerome Lazaro hit a three but then Sigma's Zarandin and Juanite had a pair of shots to end the half ahead by 7, 55-48. But things turned around in Rashed's favor courtesy of rookie Maclen Lontoc, Joel Lumbrera and Ronan Mandia, who scored 18 of the team's 24 points to grab back the lead 72-68 going into the final canto.

Rashed still had the lead until the 3:31-minute mark on Mandia's consecutive baskets, 83-79 only to give the momentum back to Sigma when Dela Cruz and Ferolino had 7 unanswered points for a 90-85 spread just 18.7 ticks in the clock when Nonoy Dela Cruz completed a layup off a Juanite's assist.

In another junior/non-rated

game, Rashed Good Year-2 won a cardiac game against Al Hoty Calibration, 85-80.

Mick Galeria led coach Allan Camacho's team with 24 points while hefty Junjun Ontingco added 19, Albert Dupaya had 14 and Marvin Davillo 11.

Rashed took the first half 14-11 but the Calibrators came up big in the next quarter when Sambahon, Tapongot and Macatula went on a scoring rampage in the final two minutes of the second quarter to restore a 32-21 lead entering the third.

Rashed showed resiliency and concentrated on playing inside with some success when Ontingco's 13 baskets underneath went unchallenged to end the third period 56-50.

The final quarter was close with no more than two points separating the sides and the final deadlock occurred at 76-76 on Calibrators' Macaspac's eight-footer, 1:18 remaining.

Rashed's Dupaya broke the deadlock with a short stab and the Calibrators' Ali Al Khaledi was called for a traveling violation exactly a minute to play.

Rashed used up the clock while making important foul shots as both teams were on penalty.

In Inter-Company Class B non-rated game, Femco Powerforce overwhelmed Al Kaabi in a 106-60 blowout. Glen Juliaga top-scored with 18 points to lead three other Femco players in double figures.

Jose Tabaquero and Michael Agarra each finished with 17 points while Lloyd Mulingtapang added 16.

In Inter-Company Class A non-rated game, Al Kuhaimi picked up its second win beating the Aces, 98-81. Man of the hour Sonny Cariaga scored a personal best of 34 points mostly on fastbreaks for Kuhaimi, Judelle Limosnero added 20, Danilo Pascual had 13 while Robert Valmores and Jerald Calano combined for 11 points.

Meanwhile, SSH Medical thrashed MODA 82-57 in another Inter-Company Class B non-rated game. Sherwin Lledo and Benhavier Saning each scored 20 points, Peter Paul Dadua added 15, while Herbert Bretana had 8.