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Abu Dhabi win Intergulf netball championship

Cliffhanger finale sees team beat Dubai

Staff Report

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Dubai: Abu Dhabi secured their position as the Gulf's premier netball team, by clinching the coveted Intergulf Championship Trophy from long term rivals Dubai A in a cliffhanger finale at The Sevens.

It was a superb 14-10 triumph for the Abu Dhabi women who fought hard to down a Dubai side well known for their athleticism and fierce competitive spirit. Dubai started strongly and led the game 3-0 early on, but Abu Dhabi fought their way back to 6-6 at half-time. Abu Dhabi then pulled away with shooters Cherie Mansfield and Jen Burridge proving too strong for Dubai.

Formidable opponent

Vice-captain Jacqueline Coetzee said: "We are absolutely delighted to retain the title for the second year in a row. Dubai proved to be an extremely formidable opponent and really made us work for it in what was one of the most physical games of netball we've ever played.

"The standard of competition was particularly high and bringing the trophy back to Abu Dhabi is an extremely satisfying reward for the months of training and hard work. We're extremely grateful to our band of vocal supporters who helped propel us further when we were too tired to go on."

The tournament marked an intensive weekend of netball attended by over 250 of the top players across the Gulf including teams from Oman, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Bahrain.

"This is an extremely positive result for both netball in Abu Dhabi and the UAE and proves the standard of play here in the UAE is extremely high," said Erene Spies, the Chairlady of the Abu Dhabi Netball League.