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Abu Dhabi Win Intergulf Netball Championship

8 March 2010,

ABU DHABI — Abu Dhabi secured its place as the Gulf’s premier netball team, clinching the coveted Intergulf Championship Trophy from long term rivals Dubai A in a cliffhanger finale at the Rugby Sevens Ground this weekend. Abu Dhabi won 14-10.

The finale marked the culmination of the Intergulf Championship tournament, an annual gathering of the Gulf’s top netball stars in what is claimed to be the women’s premier sporting event in the Gulf.

Co-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.”

Co-Captain Keren Peterson added: “We would also like to thank Dubai for hosting the event and organizing such a fantastic weekend of netball and showing our competitors around the Gulf what the UAE can do and the extremely high standard of play here in the UAE is extremely high. We are so proud of the teams and hope it inspires and furthers the growth of netball both in the Capital and beyond.”

The Dubai squad is well renowned for their athleticism and fierce competition so Abu Dhabi’s win this weekend is a real triumph for the aspiring netballers in what was a brilliant match to watch. Dubai started strongly and led the game 3-0 to start off with. 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 the Dubai team and finished the match on 14-10.

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 to mention a few. Abu Dhabi Netball League Chairlady Erene Spies said: “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. We are so proud of the teams and hope it inspires and furthers the growth of netball both in the Capital and beyond.”

The teams were presented with their trophies by a representative of the sponsors from sponsor Garnier along with other tournament officials. Abu Dhabi’s other entrants also did well with the Abu Dhabi Men’s team claiming third place and the Abu Dhabi B team coming fifth. The Abu Dhabi social teams also did the capital proud.

The Abu Dhabi squad was comprised of 60 players split between 6 women’s teams (four social and two competitive) and one men’s team. This is the first time that Abu Dhabi has sent such a large number of teams to compete at the event. The teams were selected from players within the Abu Dhabi Netball League, a collection of over 250 women who play in competitive and social leagues on a weekly basis and teams have been training under the guidance of coach Kellie Codgon.

james@khaleejtimes.com

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