

MK Mah (captain), Sahabudin Yusof, K.Bathumalai, Eshak Bluah, Tan Yee Khan (left to right).

GENTLEMAN GOLFER

SAHABUDDIN YUSOF
(GOLF PRO)

GROWING up in Ipoh, the same hometown as Yee Khan, everyone knew him. As a schoolboy we all knew his accomplishments in the world of badminton. That he was a great badminton player is an understatement. He was the best and a star in the 60s.

When he retired from badminton, he took up golf in the 70s.

Just imagine from admiring him for his badminton, we ended up as teammates, representing Malaysia in the Asian Cup Golf and Putra Cup Golf.

We played together in the Putra Cup amateur team competition from 1974 until 1979.

In this annual event, where Yee Khan and I were featured, we captured the team title in 1974, 1976 and in 1979.

Winning the Putra Cup on three occasions remains very precious for us. Yee Khan was a real team player.

I can vouch that he was a very dedicated and hard working golfer. And a gentleman

golfer too.

He worked very hard on his game. He never shirked when it came to practicing. He put in hours at the driving range and putting greens.

So much so by the time he finished hours of practicing, he would be drenched to the skin and would have changed four or more shirts in the process.

As we both lived in Ipoh, I would hitch a ride in his white Fiat and travel from one city to another, competing in amateur tournaments.

There is one unforgettable ride we had when his "little" Fiat broke down when we were on our way to Kuala Lumpur for a competition. He got it repaired. We lost a couple of hours of travel time. It did not break our spirits but instead we felt good as we laughed for the rest of our journey to our destination.

At times he had this "tidak apa attitude" but he was great fun and good company.

Yee Khan definitely had talent and I will remember our days together.