

## Hall of Champions, On and Off the Field!

The winter subsided and made way for the biggest sporting event in IBA's prestigious history. The IBA Sports League 2015 kicked off in grand style on February 6<sup>th</sup> and went on for ten exciting, intense and roller coaster days. The lush green outfields and professional facilities awaited students from all over Karachi to display their skills.

There was not a shortage of energy as Searle Vitamin Water sponsored the event and provided free drinks throughout the league. There were other esteemed sponsors as well. National Bank of Pakistan and General Tyre were our Gold Sponsors. Our first-aid sponsors Dawaai and our media sponsors included Apna Karachi FM 107. We cannot undermine their



contribution to make IBA Sports League 2015 the most successful sporting event in our history!



The most exciting thing about the event was that it was hosted by IBA Students themselves. IBA Boys Sports Society Manager Kumail Akhtar Habib, Chief Financing Officer Hammad Ather Mehmood, along with Aman Ashraf Jafri, Hammad Iqbal, Jaivishal Keswani, Rafay Jangda, Ahmed Lakhani and Omer Mughal were the main men just to name a few. These boys worked tirelessly and were there on all the days to ensure the proceedings went smoothly. A huge credit goes to them for hosting the event on such a magnanimous scale.

All the outdoor matches took place at the UBL Sports Complex located behind the Students Center and Tabba building respectively. The indoor tournaments were conducted inside the Students Center that included Table

Tennis. All the umpires, referees and sports officials were professionals and were exclusively hired for the event to make it as fair as possible.

The aura and the atmosphere of the league was an unforgettable one. The students wore their university colored jerseys that were laden with sponsor logos and imitated an experience similar to the IPL.

The competitions included Cricket, Football, Volleyball, Throwball, Table Tennis, and Basketball. All the matches were professionally conducted and the more than occasional student audience helped the matches have healthy rivalries going.

The Cricket tournament was filled with drama throughout. Home team IBA topped their group by winning 2 of the 3 matches and lined up against the mighty Sir Syed University for the semis. Unfortunately IBA crashed out in the semis after a more than closely contested match. The final was played between the spirited NED and Sir Syed. There was no repeat of the super over



group match between the two and Sir Syed clinched the Cricket trophy in a one sided encounter. Bilal Munir from SZABIST ended up being the top scorer but the Player of the Tournament went to highly abled all-rounder Bahadur Khan from Sir Syed, whose match saving innings against IBA ensured them the finalists spot.

The football tournament was another hotly contested event. The teams tackled, slid, headed and shot in order to score the gold. Team IBA made an early exit in the quarters and the final was played between PNEC NUST and NED. Like the knockout matches, the final was also decided on penalties and PNEC NUST held their nerves and with credit to their goalie, clinched the Football trophy. The Player of the Tournament Award went to none other than the heavily praised and talented Abdullah from PNEC NUST.

NED managed to make it into the finals of both the volleyball and throwball events but unfortunately lost to a spirited FAST team in volleyball. However, their well-knit Throwball team brought them gold.

It was IBA and Greenwich who made it into the finals of the Table Tennis event. The boys in maroon made hay while the sun shined and gave IBA the first final win of the ISL'15.



The Basketball final was probably the most heated finals of the ISL. PNEC NUST lined up against boys from IBA in a close contest. The scores went neck to neck until the final quarter as both the teams racked up fouls upon fouls against each other. Player of the Tournament Abbas Jafferi ensured that his team held their slender lead till the buzzer to give the Basketball trophy to IBA.

All in all, the teams that contested in the events displayed immense courage and skill to finish up where they did. Some were better than others but everyone was equally well spirited. The closing ceremony was held at the Amphitheatre and once again credit to the IBA Boys Sports Society and the ISL'15 team who managed to pull it off with grace. The points of all the events were lined up and NED turned out to be the winner of the prestigious Hall of Champions trophy.



ISL'15 would like to thank all the sponsors, officials and participants who made the tournament a grand success. Team ISL wishes to conduct further events to promote the spirit of competition at this level.