

Squad C leaders emerge as topseeds

4th May, Jakarta: Karen Marcano of Venezuela and Sami Konsteri of Finland topped the Women's and Men's final block of the 8th World Ranking Masters 2008 to emerge as overall topseeds for the elimination knockout quarter-final. Ranked third from the Amercian zone coming into the Ranking Masters, Karen Marcano of Venezuela, made most the the running in the third and final block to win the \$1,000 bonus by topping the squad with a score of 1716. Photo Gallery: May 4

The Venezuelan also emerged as topseed for the elimination knockout quarter-final with a 24-game total of 4832. Overnight leader, Tannya Roumimper of Indonesia bowled her poorest 8-game series for 17th position in the squad eventually finished third overall with 4725. Malaysia's strongest contender, Shalin Zulkifli retained her second spot overall despite only managing an eighth-place finish in the third squad on a total of 4740, ahead of the Indonesian youngster.

"This is by far my best performance in the World Ranking Masters," said the delighted 28-year-old Karen, who is making her fourth appearance. "It is very difficult to be consistent and I had a lot of low games in the first and second block. But today, I'm so happy that I had no low games. "I'm very happy to finish third and also happy for Karen," said the older of the two sisters, Alicia. "Last year I finish third and this is my sixth appearance. Maybe I can finish better the third this time. Squad B leader, Krista Pollanen of Finland ended in fourth spot with 4707 while Karen's elder sister, Alicia R. Marcano improved from eighth overnight to take up fifth spot with 4650. Wendy Chai of Malaysia, joined Shalin for the next round with a sixth place finish. Debutante, Diana Zavjalova of Latvia, who was 10th after two blocks, made the cut in seventh as Indonesia's Putty Armein posted two final high games of 246 and 238 in Squad C to edge England's Kirsten Penny by 4 pins to clinch the eighth and final quarter-final spot. Meanwhile, Squad A leader, Sami Konsteri of Finland won his second \$1,000 bonus after he topped the final Squad C with 1884 afer a keen tussle for the lead with Argentine Lucas Legnani and Malaysian Zulmazran Zulkifli. Legnani, who shot 279 in the opening game and 278 in the sixth game, just could not overhaul the Finn and had to settle for second with 1782. Zulmazran posted his highest 8-game series with 1735 to clinch third spot. Konsteri also emerged as topseed and overall leader with a 24-game total of 5173 ahead of Legnani in second with 5106. Indonesia's Ryan Lalisang, who was second after the second block ended the qualifying rounds in third overall on 4989.

"I had a very lucky strike in the sixth game and I thought I could maybe shoot the first perfect game," said the national coach of Finland, Sami Konsteri. "But I'm still happy with a high game of 279. I felt very comfortable throughout this squad and I'm very satisfied to make the top 8. The knockout format is very even and a very different game altogether. Anybody can win and I intend to keep my concentration to try and go all the way to the finals. Zulmazran's third place finish in Squad C moved him up from a dangerous eighth position to fifth with 4942 behind Denmark's Jesper Agerbo, who took fourth place with 4947. Overnight leader, Mubarak Al-Muraikhi of Qatar posted his lowest series to finish sixth with 4936. Finn Jari Ratia also fell off the pace in the final squad but managed to make the cut in seventh position on a total of 4925 while Hussain Al-Suwaidi of UAE, who was second after two blocks, clinched the eighth and final quarter-final spot with 4892.

Photos by Terence Yaw.