



Fighting performance: The finalists with organisers and school officials following the presentation ceremony.



Cricket

Mohammed Anwar denied Cambridge High School a cup double after his half-century helped Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Pakistan School clinch the UAE Exchange Centre Abu Dhabi U-16 title.

Cambridge were restricted to 116-4 at Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi but Anwar struck five boundaries and one maximum in his 56-runs as they reached the target with seven wickets remaining.

It prevented Cambridge winning their second title of the season following their fourth straight U-19 triumph last month.

With the double firmly in their players' minds, Cambridge got off to a strong start after electing to bat first as openers Sachin Jha and Justin D'Souza put on 60 for the first wicket.

But just as the duo were gaining confidence at the crease, spinner Mohammed Sameer removed dangerman D'Souza, who had scored four half-centuries in the tournament for 13.

And that sparked a mini batting collapse as Cambridge were struggling at 76-3 in 15 overs.

Captain Jha continued to pile on the runs, scoring 40 from 33 and Dhanrudh Venkatraman (23no) helped their team cross the 115-mark.

Chasing, the Pakistani school's innings began badly with UAE U-19 international Yodhin Punja removing Noor Ullah (0) and Khalid Mehmood (7).

But Anwar was in fine form with the bat, frustrating the bowlers with singles, twos and boundaries. He shared a valuable 39-run partnership for the third wicket with Hafeez Ur-Rehman (17) as their team reached 60 in 10 overs.

Rehman soon fell but captain Shah Faisal smashed an unbeaten 29, to guide his side to a deserved victory in the seventh edition of the tournament, sanctioned by the Emirates Cricket Board.

Al Diyafah hit back

Dubai school come from behind to win in final and beat 16 teams to top spot

Dubai's Al Diyafah High School came from behind to beat Westminster School 3-1 and win the 'Fight for the Goal' inter-school tournament.

Khalid Kamal gave Westminster an early lead, but Keagon Fernandes, Jacob Verghese and Chitranjan Singh Chaudhary were on target to seal the U-14 title for Al Diyafah.

The victory meant Al Diyafah were crowned winners in the third edition of the competition, which was hosted by JSS Private School in Dubai.

With 16 schools taking part, the competition threw up some closely-fought encounters.

And the final was certainly one. Both sides started the game in a cautious manner given that plenty was at stake.

With both teams cancelling each

other out, the game came into life in the 16th minute when Kamal gave Westminster the lead.

Despite being 1-0 down, the Al Diyafah players remained focused and were soon back in the game 11 minutes later.

Fernandes equalised in the 27th minute with a well-taken goal which gave his team-mates a sense of self-belief.

And that determination showed as the game progressed when Verghese put his side ahead just after the half-hour mark.

It had looked like his 38th-minute goal would be enough to carry a 2-1 advantage going into half-time, but things got even better for Al Diyafah.

Chaudhary showed his goal-scoring abilities to make it 3-1 just three minutes later, much to the



delight of his team-mates. With a two-goal advantage at the beginning of the second half, Westminster gave it their all, but their efforts were thwarted several times thanks to Al Diyafah's strong defence, frustrating Westminster with intercepted passes and blocked challenges.

Despite holding the lead, Al Diyafah were unable to add to their tally. But their first-half performance was enough for them to taste title victory.

In another match, Winchester School Dubai ran out 6-0 winners

against Oxford School to finish third in the competition.

Among the teams were Hiranandani Foundation School, who travelled from Mumbai.

And Subodh Dhyani of Dubai's JSS Private School, who helped organise the tournament, was thrilled to see the teams embrace the opportunity.

He said: "Fight for the Goal tournament was an exceptionally exciting experience for the students involved.

"They all loved taking part and it was great to see there was a considerable amount of talent in the young players from those that took part.

"It's for this reason why this tournament was organised and it has improved considerably year after year."



Group activities: School children at the Sports Day organised by ADEC.

Focus on living on healthy lifestyle

Athletics, cycling and football were just some of the activities for the 140,000 students, parents and teachers across the UAE who took part in Sports Day.

Launched by the Abu Dhabi Education Council (ADEC), as part of promoting a healthy lifestyle, students ranging from Grades 1 to 12, spared two hours to undertake the activities last Wednesday.

The children also undertook body mass index tests to get an idea of their fitness levels.

The various activities also

formed part of ADEC's 'Champions of Tomorrow' campaign, with a top official saying it's vital that school sports are held regularly if the UAE want to produce successful Olympians in the future.

Speaking of the launch, Mohammed Salem Al Dhaheri, ADEC's school operations executive director, said: "Through various sports initiatives, we hope to enhance the talent of our promising athletes and provide them with the necessary support to help them make their mark across local, regional and

international events, which is in line with the vision and directives of our wise leadership."

He added: "Sport plays an important role in developing leadership and social skills which are valuable for the children."

ADEC staff also joined in the fun by organising their own sports day at the company's headquarters in the capital.

Please email your school sports news and event reports to denzilpinto@sport360.com