

Dragon boat race to grow

IF THE turnout at the SAVA Sprints International 2005 dragon boat competition is anything to go by, the event is set to take off in Singapore in a big way.

Only into its second year, the two-day event, which was held at the Bedok Reservoir over the weekend, saw significant increases in both the number of spectators and participating teams this time.

The SAVA Sprints, which kicked off Singapore Sports Council's Waterfest 2005, saw the number of teams increase from 28 in 2004 to 40 this year.

Fans were treated to thrilling action in races over 200m, 500m and 1,000m. Nanyang Technological University (NTU) and National University of Singapore (NUS) took home top honours in the women's and men's 1,000m Super Cup events, respectively.

A special 200m category, the Breast Cancer Invitational Race, was also added to the programme this year to coincide with Breast Cancer Month and raise money for research to fight the disease.

Spurred on by guest-of-honour George Yeo, Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Paddles in Pink team, made up of breast cancer survivors, finished first ahead of boats featuring Breast Cancer Foundation supporters and members of the media. — DARREN LAI

Other results yesterday (500m):

Mixed Premier

1 Nexus Workz 2 PYROS 3 SPC A

Women's Premier

1 NTU 2 The European Belles 3 Team Canada Sante Fe

Men's Premier

1 Pacific West 2 PYROS 3 NTU A