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Folks at University Utara Malaysia's (UUM) National Golf Academy in Sintok near Jitra, Kedah, were all smiles when its student Muhammad Wafiyuddin bin Abdul Manaf, earned his Q-Card at PGM's inaugural Q-School at Impian Golf & Country Club last January.

Wafiyuddin Brings Smiles to UUM

Words & Pictures: Saad Hashim

Wafiyuddin, who is already playing off zero handicap, shot a 310 over 226 (79-74-73) to finish in joint 15th place out of 27 players who shot the required three-day score of 15-over 231 or better.

Only US-based Gavin Kyle Green, the champion, shot an under-par score (5-under 211). Green has just been selected to head the MGA's national team.

With the Q-Card Wafiyuddin could now tee up at all PGM events throughout this 2012 season if he wants to.

"Not yet, maybe I'll go to a few events," said Wafiyuddin, one of the pioneering "thinking golfers" of the academy who will first do a three year degree course in various disciplines while playing golf and studying everything about golf.

"This is what we mean by thinking golfer," said Director of the academy Prof. Madya Azan bin Shoan whose background is psychology. "We want our graduates to be all rounders."

UUM Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dato' Dr. Mohamad Mustafa Ishak, said, "The government has chosen UUM to be the centre of excellence for golf. We were given an allocation. So we will try our level best to realise the government objective. We set up this academy and began with several young golfers with handicap five or lower. Our policy is if they are good golfers then academic requirement will be quite minimal.

"We are quite flexible. For instance in the case of Wafiyuddin and whoever has done well like him, we may even allow him to do a 'Mahidle We' that is taking a longer to finish their degree because they want to compete in some golf events."

Recently Prof. Dato' Dr. Mohamad Mustafa signed an

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