

Sikhander Singh
NUS President Sports Award - Individual 2008

Good evening guest of honour Prof Shih, distinguished guests and fellow friends. This award is certainly the highlight of my 4 years in NUS. The award does not only spell out my achievements but epitomizes the team efforts and dedication.

I still remember the first time this award was introduced. I was a “freshie”, attending the sports award. That year, the first recipient of the award went to Vicky Campbell, an aquathlete. At that moment, I wanted to be like her, emulating her perseverance and hard work. It is strange how one’s achievements can have an impact on others. Lance Armstrong 7 victories in the Tour de France had such gravity in showing the greatness of the human spirit and mind, which propelled the sport to greater heights. I hope to do the same, although I know that the chance of winning one tour is beyond my reach, for now.

The point I am trying to drive at is that sports can be such a life changing experience. First it’s agonizingly painful. Then it’s a love hate relationship, sometimes you do it because you like it, and on other occasions you are made to do it even if you are feeling drained from the daily schoolwork. And finally, sports just doesn’t become an event for you and I, it’s a lifestyle. No pain no gain. This award sums up all the sacrifices that I have made over the years. It’s certainly been tough to juggle sports, studies, time with friends and loved ones. Through sports, I am sure that most of us will never forget the good and bad memories that you and your team go through. One incident that I will never forget occurred in year 1. That year, we lost the overall IVP title by two minutes. We could have won the title had I done a better race, but I stopped halfway after having bad stitches. I was devastated, and I blamed myself. However, no one in the team blamed me; and stood by the principle that we win as a team and we lose as a team. These were words that I heard over and over not believing that these words carry any weight but I was wrong. This reminds of me of a famous saying, “Winning is not a sometime thing; it's an all the time thing. You don't win once in a while; you don't do things right once in a while; you do them right all the time. Winning is a habit. Unfortunately, so is losing”. This said, it makes the team stronger when we lose and even stronger when we win. Winning or losing is immaterial to me, yes it’s hard to believe but to me, the experience and memories of training together is itself a prize where no material value can be etched upon.

Lastly, I will like to thank my family, friends, the aquathlon and road relay team and my sponsors, Ridley, passione bicycles, entro cycle, Oakley and Asics. Before I leave I will just like to leave you with a quote from Arthur Ashe, “You are never really playing an opponent. You are playing yourself, your own highest standards, and when you reach your limits that are real joy.”

Thank you.