

ROYAL DOUBLE!

● Al Hammadi wins Crown Prince Cup



Y A Q O O B
Yousif Al
Hammadi

scored a royal double yesterday winning the 120-km Crown Prince Cup Endurance Horse Ride, held at the Bahrain International Endurance Village in Sakhir.

Two months ago, Al Hammadi had steered Hondo to victory in the 120-km Endurance Ride for His Majesty's Cup.

This time, Al Hammadi won on Kalharabi.

The Royal Endurance Team rider secured his double after ups and downs in this five-stage night ride, organised by the Bahrain Royal Equestrian and Endurance Federation (Breef).

Al Hammadi completed the event with a total ride time of five hours, three minutes and 20 seconds and an average speed of 23-km per hour.

He was followed by Al Khalidia Stable riders Fahad Ismail (5:05:49) and Raed Mahmood (5:14:36), who steered Derrom and Warraba to claim second and third places, respectively.

Fourth overall was Shaikha Najla bint Salman bin Saqer Al Khalifa (5:20:41) of Ahmed Al Fateh Stable, fifth Saeed Al Harbi (5:57:04) of the UAE and sixth Shaikh Ebrahim bin Mohammed Al Khalifa (6:21:56).

The race got underway with Royal Endurance Team dominating the first



■ Al Hammadi lifts the trophy on the podium in presence of Shaikh Salman, Shaikh Nasser and Shaikh Khalid and other riders

stage, which was over 30 kms, with Hussain Al Nayef, Jaffer Mirza and Fahad Bakheit taking the top three positions.

Outstanding

In the second stage, also over 30 kms, Mirza took over the lead from Al Nayef, as Mohammed Al Samad moved up to second, while Bakheit stayed third.

Bakheit then put on an outstanding display to climb into first place at the end of the 20-km third stage. Behind him were

Al Hammadi and Mahmood, who progressed into second and third positions, respectively.

In the fourth stage, another 20-km stretch, Al Hammadi snatched top spot to inch closer to victory. Bakheit dropped to second while Mahmood maintained third place.

Al Hammadi, expressed delight after completing his King-Crown Prince Cup double, saying that he felt happy after being able to win the strongest two endur-

ance championships in the same season.

"My happiness of winning the trophy cannot be described for sure. This achievement is a gift to all the members of the Royal Endurance Team, headed by Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the main supporter of the team," said Al Hammadi.

"If it wasn't for Shaikh Nasser and his guidance, it would have been impossible for the rest of the team to win most of the rides this season."

Al Hammadi noted the high technical level of the ride, just as everyone expected, where the competition was strong and interesting through different stages.

The ride, which concluded just before midnight, was followed by a prize-distribution ceremony.

It was attended by Shaikh Mohammed bin Salman Al Khalifa, son of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince.

Shaikh Salman presented trophies to all three riders at the ceremony, which was also attended by Breef president Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa and Shaikh Nasser, the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports chairman and president of the Bahrain Olympic Committee.



■ Supreme Council for Youth and Sports first vice-chairman and president of the Bahrain Royal Equestrian and Endurance Federation Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa yesterday received a medal from International Military Sports Council (IMSC) president Col Hamad Kalkaba, who is visiting Bahrain. The medal was presented at a reception ceremony, which was also attended by chief of equestrian committee at IMSC Col. Max Barbacini, Bahrain Military Sports Association general secretary Hamad Al Manea and other officials. Above, Shaikh Khalid with IMSC representatives and other officials.