

Hong Kong's Lee upsets Guo for time trial gold

CHINESE STAR RIDER STUNNED IN FIRST MEDAL EVENT AFTER A POOR START IN FINAL

GUANGZHOU — Lee Wai Sze of Hong Kong pulled off an upset in the opening event of the Asian Games track cycling, snatching victory in the 500m time trial from defending champion and favorite Guo Shuang.



The 29-year-old Lee, the top-ranked track cyclist in the time trial, individual sprint, Keirin and team sprint disciplines, set an Asian record of 33.945 seconds at the Guangzhou velodrome.

"I have been longing for this medal," said Lee. "I have been turning in good performances on a daily basis in training."

Lee's coach, Shen Jinkang, said that Guo endured an off day in the saddle.

"She didn't perform well in the first half of the first lap," said the coach.

"If she had put in her normal performance she would have got gold, not Lee."

From a standing start on her aerodynamically streamlined bike, Lee powered through the two laps of the track to pile the pressure on Guo, who started last of the 10 competitors.

It proved to be too much for the home favorite, who won Olympic bronze in the sprint at the Beijing Games after the time trial was scrapped to make way for BMX.

The Chinese rider, who trumped Lee for the Asian Championships title

in Sharjah this year, finished 0.207 off the pace for silver, with Hsiao Mei-yu of Chinese Taipei taking bronze, 1.495 behind Lee.

Guo insisted, however, that she had not been put off by Lee's record-breaking ride.

"I wasn't affected by her breaking the record," the 24-year-old said. "Anyway, I can only control my performance, I cannot control what others do."

"I was a little slow in the first lap, but it didn't have much influence (on the result)."

Bronze medalist Hsiao said she was delighted with having set a personal best, but was slightly put out given how well the track had raced.

"I didn't let my coach down. I'm happy to get a medal," she said.

"The first time I saw my result, I was a little bit disappointed. But after seeing Kim Wong-yeong's result (35.801), I thought I might be able to get a different medal."

There was disappointment for Japanese teenager Kayono Maeda, ranked third in the world in the discipline by the sport's governing body, the UCI, as she clocked in at 36.033.

There are nine more gold medals up for grabs, with men going in six disciplines (sprint, team sprint, individual pursuit, team pursuit, Keirin, point race) and the women in three others (sprint, individual pursuit, point race).

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE



BOBBY YIP / REUTERS

Hong Kong's Lee Wai Sze rides to victory in the women's 500m time trial final at the Asian Games on Saturday. Lee set an Asian record of 33.945 seconds.

GOLD MEDALISTS >> OTHER OUTSTANDING ATHLETES



MIKE CLARKE / AFP

JUDO

ROK mauls Japan's pride

The Republic of Korea mauled Japan's judo pride by winning three of the four heavyweight gold medals on the first day of action at the Asian Games on Saturday. Kim Soo-whan, the 2009 East Asian champion, outpointed Japan's open-weight world champion Daiki Kamikawa in the semifinals and floored Beijing Olympic silver medalist Abdullo Tangriev of Uzbekistan in the men's over-100kg final.

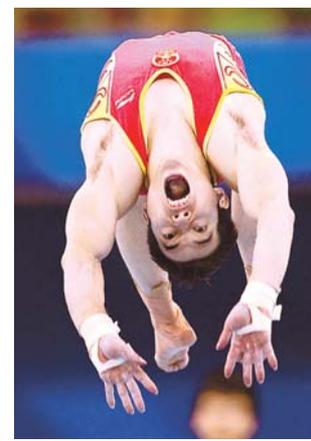


WU JUN / FOR CHINA DAILY

DANCE SPORT

China sparkles on dance floor

Dance sport powerhouse China dominated the opening day of action at the Asian Games on Saturday, shimmying its way to all five gold medals. Liang Yujie and Shen Hong took two of the gold medals (waltz and tango) in the standard competition at Zengcheng Gymnasium, wowing the judges with a near perfect score of 43.14 out of 45 in the waltz.



EDMOND TANG / CHINA DAILY

GYMNASTICS

Men's team breezes to gold

China's all-powerful men stormed to the team gymnastics gold on Saturday on home turf, with Japan taking the silver medal and the Republic of Korea hanging on for bronze. China scored 368.500 points, Japan 357.500 and the ROK 352.950. It was the 10th consecutive Asian Games team gold for China, which is also the reigning Olympic and world champion.