

# Pregnant ROK shooter helps muzzle China

## MOM-TO-BE RALLIES FOR SHOCKING TRIUMPH OVER HOME FAVORITE SUN

By TANG ZHE  
CHINA DAILY

GUANGZHOU — Mother-to-be Gim Yun-mi won the women's 10-meter air pistol on Sunday, helping the Republic of Korea (ROK) sweep all four gold medals at the Aoti Shooting Range after China dominated the first day's action.

China cleaned up at the competition by bagging five of the first six gold medals up for grabs — almost double the three shooting golds it reaped in Doha — and threatened to walk away with the competition.

However the ROK, which picked up the remaining title on Saturday, jumped back into the fray on day two by claiming both team titles and the men's 10m air pistol, courtesy of some sharp-shooting by 22-year-old Lee Daem-yung.

"This must be my best performance," said Lee, who has now pocketed three golds in Guangzhou.

"I was only expecting one gold medal, either in the individual or team events... (so) I wasn't feeling too much pressure today, because we already bagged our first gold (in the 50m air pistol team event) the day before."

Gim, who is expecting her first child in a month, described being pregnant as a blessing, not a curse. The 28-year-old overcame a two-point deficit in the qualification



Gim Yun-mi of the ROK who won the individual title's gold, poses with her medals on the podium at the end of the women's 10m air pistol final at the Aoti Shooting Range in Guangzhou on Sunday.

round to fire 100.3 in the final and beat home favorite Sun Qi to the gold medal by two points.

"I believe my baby gave me all the luck I got in the competition," she said. "I thought I would be at a major disadvantage, both physically and mentally, but I felt even better knowing the baby was there."

Meanwhile, China saw a dip

in fortune this year in the 10m air pistol compared to its stellar performance at the previous Asiad. The host picked up three silver medals and one bronze in the discipline in Guangzhou, compared to four gold and one silver in Doha.

It was bad news for 39-year-old veteran Tan Zongliang, who was denied what may well have

been his final title in the men's individual event. Tan settled for silver after losing a tight duel with ROK's Lee that saw them tied on 585 points after the qualification round.

"Even at my age, I was a bit nervous in the final," said Tan, who managed to keep bronze medal-winner Kumar Vijay of India at bay despite coming off a



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SUN QI

two-year layoff from international competition.

"Of course I wanted to win the gold medal, so the final result is a bit of a pity.

On the women's side, China's Sun and Jo Yong-suk from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) ranked second and third thanks to the ROK's rapid rise in the sport.

It was a different picture in the qualifying stages, with Tan and Sun leading their respective points tables before their ROK steady rivals dislodged them.

"The ROK has been performing at quite a high level in the past few years and it's really proving a challenge to China," said Sun, who was making her Asian Games debut.

She said the pressure of the occasion got to her.

"I was feeling pretty stressed out in the final, maybe because I took such a long break before the games," she said.

## Solid preparation key to HK's hot wheels

By CUI JIA  
CHINA DAILY

GUANGZHOU — The coach of Hong Kong cyclist Lee Wai Sze believes her Asian Games record-setting win in the 500m time trial on Saturday was always

in the pipeline because the territory prepared for the Guangzhou Games like never before.

"It is not a surprise to me," said Shen Jinkang. "The attention we have paid to preparing for the Asian Games is just like how China prepared for the (2008 Beijing) Olympics."

Lee snatched the title from

under the nose of defending champion and hot favorite Chinese by setting an Asian record of 33.945 seconds at the Guangzhou velodrome.

Shen said Lee has the potential to beat her own record in the near future as she faltered during the first half of the first lap.

The coach was equally impressed with 19-year-old Cheung King Lok, who won a silver medal in the men's 4,000m individual pursuit on Sunday in his Asian Games debut.

It took an Asian record from the ROK's Jang Sun-jea to relegate Cheung to second place.

"Cheung will be a big star in four or five years' time," said Shen. "He's been fighting fit since he returned

from a high-altitude training program we sent him on."

Cheung said it was an honor to vie for the title with Jang, one of his idols, but that it grated coming so close to glory.

"I had the chance to do it but I let it go," he said.

Shen said that recent improvements to Hong Kong's training facilities and support services paid dividends in terms of cycling success.

"Our system now helps them recover faster from training sessions and recent competitions," he said.

China pocketed the other two gold medals in track cycling — in the men's team sprint and the women's 3,000m individual pursuit.



ZOU ZHONGPIN / CHINA DAILY

Brothers Zhang Lei and Zhang Miao and Cheng Changsong ride a victory lap after winning the men's track team sprint on Sunday.



CYCLING