



Passion, thrills abound at gym

By TANG ZHE
CHINA DAILY

SHENZHEN — The Universiade showed its amateur characteristics as dozens of gymnasts fell from the apparatus at Shenzhen Bao'an Gymnasium.

However, that did not diminish the passion and excitement of the young gymnasts who are at the event to enjoy it and enrich their experience.

"It is our first time competing in the Universiade, so we come here mainly to gain experience and make steady performances," said Zi Jie Gabriel Gan from Singapore.

The 25-year-old, who participated at the Guangzhou Asian Games last year, was satisfied with his improvement, though his medal hopes were negligible at best against powerhouses such as China, Japan and Russia.

"I am not a professional gymnast, and I just practice in my spare time," said Gan, a student at Edith Cowan University. "I think I did a good job on some apparatus today, although on the pommel horse I made a few mistakes. But I have learnt a lot from it and the pommel horse is where I have made the biggest improvement.

"My teammates and I really cherish the experience in China because we have the same language, and we are linked with the same blood ... so we will try our best to learn from this event and feel it in our hearts," he said.

Tyrone Morris from South Africa was another who has enjoyed his time in Shenzhen, though he injured his neck.

"Though I came here for competition, I have a greater desire to learn more about China and make friends here," said Morris, who stopped to show off his Chinese words, such as "Xie Xie" (thank you), "Da Jia Hao" (hello), with volunteers despite his injury.

Chinese teams fall short

By TANG ZHE
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SHENZHEN — The inexperienced Chinese gymnasts paid their dues with both the men's and women's teams missing out gold medals during the weekend.

The highly-fancied men's team was overwhelmed by Japan and finished with the silver on Sunday.

"We prepared very hard before the Universiade, but it was a pity we made many mistakes today. We will work harder to seize back the championship the next time," said Wang Guanyin, who won the parallel bars at the 2009 World Championships, but failed to claim titles at two World Cup events and the National Championships this year due to repeated mistakes in a new routine.

The men's team, which also included Wang, made lots of mistakes in the vault, though he fin-

ished with a perfect performance in the parallel bars. The 24-year-old attributed the team's performance to a lack of experience.

"A lot of reasons led to the result," he said. "We were not well prepared psychologically, because this was the first time all of us have taken part in a major sports meeting, and also the first time for us to work as a team.

"Secondly, we missed some details in daily training though we trained really hard, and we have found a lot of aspects we need to improve on through this competition," said Wang.

The women's team performed even less well with only two, Guan Wenli and Xiao Kangjun, remaining available for the team event after world champion Cheng Fei pulled out due to injury. That made it impossible for China to take part in the team competition, which requires at least three participants per country.

The Chinese gymnasts will now compete in men's and women's individual all-round events on Monday.



ZOU ZHONGPIN / CHINA DAILY

Lin Meiling (white) of China defeats Poland's Agata Ozdoba to win the women's 63kg class judo gold medal at the Universiade on Sunday.

Coach says medal target a 'big secret'

By GAO CHANGXIN
CHINA DAILY

SHENZHEN — One gold down. How many to go? Guan Mingkun isn't saying, but he likes his team's chances.

Guan, coach of China's female judo squad at Universiade, said his team's medal target is a "big secret."

Guan said the female judo team's preparation has been "very good" and might deliver a "surprise" in

Wednesday's team competition, and in the minus 48kg division on Tuesday.

"We attach great importance to the Universiade, as a preparation for the upcoming world championships, which is a qualification match for the London Olympics," said Guan, who co-coaches the seven members of the team.

On Saturday, the team grabbed the Chinese delegation's first gold of the Universiade, when 23-year-old Qin Qian defeated Korean rival Kim Na-young in the final of the plus 78 kilogram division.

Teammate Zhang Jie also secured a bronze. A total of 18 judo

gold medals will be contested.

Guan also said he is "very satisfied" with the food and accommodation arranged by the organizing committee.

"It's one of the best foods we have ever had in any sports meets, probably because it's at home," said Guan. "The organizing committee is very thoughtful, and everything is taken care of."

Guan also spoke highly of the competition facilities, saying they are even better than those in the Olympic Games.

"The training court, for example, has eight mattresses. That is more than most of the events."



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JUDO