



By QIU QUANLIN
CHINA DAILY

SHENZHEN — The inclusion of some national team players on China's Universiade women's soccer squad was not against the rules because they are college students, the head coach said.



FOOTBALL

"I can responsibly say that they are truly university students," Wang Changquan said after a 1-0 victory against Canada on Saturday.

Coach Wang's remarks came after Canadian coach Graham Roxburgh claimed that the game was tough because China included some national team players in the competition.

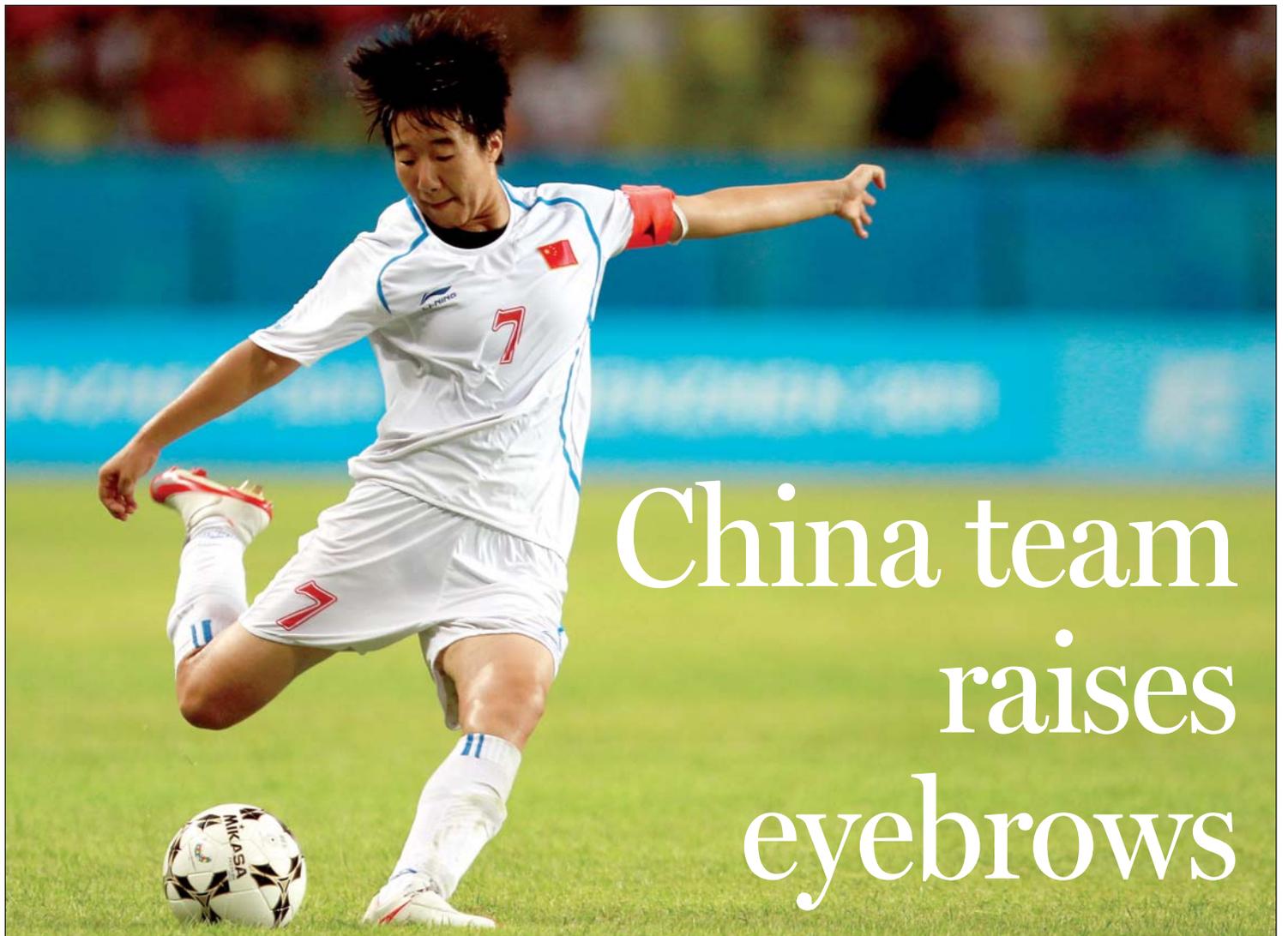
"There was not a lot of difference from this Chinese team and some previous teams. I was at the Universiade tournament two years ago and we beat China twice," Roxburgh said.

The Chinese squad boasts some top players like captain Bi Yan, and defenders Wang Dongni and Qu Shanshan, who are also members of the national team.

Earlier, after a 2-0 loss in its opening Group A match, Chinese Taipei head coach Lu Kuei-hua said her side had the capability to beat China if it does not include some of its top players in the line-up.

In response, the Chinese head coach said the priority of the current squad was to win each game and honor for the country.

"The Universiade is a competition among college students. We want to choose the best players from China's universities. The players of our national team are studying in university, so they have the right to attend the Uni-



China team raises eyebrows

China women's national team member Bi Yan in full flight during the side's game against Canada on Saturday.

CUI MENG / CHINA DAILY

versade. They are real college students," Wang said.

Fourteen of the players on the Chinese Universiade squad are from Beijing Normal University, which won the women's national college soccer championship last year.

Besides the national team players, most players on the Chinese squad were born between 1988 and 1991 and had never played in big international competitions



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CHINA'S COACH WANG CHANGQUAN

before the Shenzhen Universiade.

China's 1-0 victory against Canada in Group A at Shenzhen Bao'an Stadium ensured China would advance to the quarter-finals.

China created the bulk of the scoring chances with a huge crowd cheering it on, and finally broke the deadlock four minutes before halftime when Wang Shanshan bounced a shot in off

the post after the scrambling Canadian defense could not clear a loose ball in the penalty box.

"We are very thankful that our fans cheered all night for us. They created an electric atmosphere," said Bi.

"But it is not only one or two wins that can help boost the development of women's soccer in China. We should develop more talent at the grassroots," Bi said.

Ghana loses, but the party just goes on for the Africans

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SHENZHEN — Kogo Koomson was singing and dancing in the stands with his two-year-old son on Sunday.

It didn't matter that Ghana lost. "My team played very good. All we Ghanaians here today are happy," the 29-year-old businessman from that country said.

British substitute Peter Moses Craig broke a scoreless tie in the 76th minute and the Ghanaians failed to press forward later, hand-

ing the Brits a 1-0 victory in a men's Group D match at the Shenzhen Bao'an Xixiang Sports Center.

Moreover, the loss did little to dampen Ghanaian fans' enthusiasm.

"The team had to overcome many difficulties before it came to southern China," said Koomson, adding more than 500 Ghanaians were in Shenzhen to watch the match. "We came here to support the players. They are the best," he said.

The Ghanaian squad came together one month before the opening of the Shenzhen Uni-

versade, said head coach Ibrahim Tanko.

"The players are from six universities. We lost the game today, but we are happy given that we have not played an official match before the Universiade," he said.

Ghana, after a 2-2 draw with Japan and the 1-0 loss against Britain, has to concentrate on its last Group D match against Canada on Tuesday.

"We didn't lose confidence. We'll advance into the next round of the competition if we concentrate more on the pitch," he said.



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Fans from Ghana cheer for their team against Britain during their Group D match on Sunday.