

Gong leaves superstar in the shade

CHINA'S COACH SAYS DEFEATED GUO WILL SHINE IN THE SPRINT AFTER DISAPPOINTING TIME TRIAL

By TANG YUE
CHINA DAILY

SHENZHEN — For a long time, Olympic medalist Guo Shuang has been arguably the only recognized cyclist in the country.

But now Gong Jinjie is riding out of her star teammate's shadow after a record-breaking victory in the women's 500m time trial at the Universiade.

The 24-year-old won the first cycling gold for the host and the eighth in total, while hot favorite Guo finished fourth. Gong's time of 34.91 sec broke the Universiade record held by Guo.

"It was good that I could win the race today. It was really tough and the temperature was high," Gong said after the race at Longgang Velodrome yesterday.

The team's head coach, Daniel Morelon, also spoke highly of Gong's performance.

"I'm not surprised that Gong won today. Her time was very good, especially when you consider the heat and the fact the track was not very fast," said the Frenchman, who started coaching the team in 2007.

However Gong, the two-time World Cup runner-up did not appear excited about the victory as the 500m time trial is not an Olympic event.

She is more eager to win the team sprint, in which she teamed up with Lin Junhong to claim the title at this year's World Cup in Beijing. She has already set her

sights on competing in the event in London.

"Of course, we want a gold in London. There is a year to go until the Olympics and I feel time is running faster and faster now. There is not really much time left for us," she said.

"I've already qualified for the Games. So I won't race too much in the coming year but will balance competition, rest and training. Hopefully I can reach my peak in London."

Lyubov Shulika of Ukraine won the silver medal and improved her personal best time with a ride of 34.985 sec.

"The silver medal was really beyond my expectations. My best achievement before Shenzhen was a bronze medal at the European Championships. And my performance here was better than that time," Shulika said.

"I think the Universiade is just like a small Olympics. This is the biggest tournament I've ever participated in. So I'm really excited to win a medal here."

Victoria Baranova of Russia was also more than happy with her bronze medal and said edging out Guo gave her extra satisfaction.

"I didn't expect to ride faster than Guo. That is really a surprise for me," she said. "I will be very happy to go home with a medal."

However, Morelon said there was no need to worry about Guo, the bronze medalist at the Beijing Olympics.

"It's not her specialty. So I'm not surprised she didn't get a medal. She has a better chance of winning the sprint."



China's Gong Jinjie showed her immense ability by winning the women's 500m time trial yesterday in Shenzhen. LI GA / XINHUA



GAO ERQIANG / CHINA DAILY
Ho Hsiao-chun heaves to win the women's 63kg title.

Emotions flow after Chinese Taipei's first gold

By TANG YUE
CHINA DAILY

SHENZHEN — Big girls do cry. Ho Hsiao-chun does, anyway. The 24-year-old burst into tears after claiming the title in the 63kg weightlifting class on Tuesday, the first gold medal for Chinese Taipei at this Universiade.

"I'm really very excited to win the first gold for Chinese Taipei," an emotional Ho said. "I hope it will encourage other athletes from Chinese Taipei in the com-

ing events. My dear teammates, I believe we can make it.



WEIGHT-LIFTING

Ho lifted a total of 211kg at the Complex Training Hall of Shenzhen Sport School.

Picking up a barbell for the first time at the age of 14, Ho proved to

be a natural — except for the nasty bouts of nerves she suffers when it comes time to compete.

At last year's Guangzhou Asian Games, she was expected to win a medal, but finished ninth with a performance well below the level she was training at.

Thus the victory in Shenzhen doesn't just give her a medal — it should also help her mental conditioning, said coach Huang Da-de.

"She was really very upset after the Asian Games and the sad

mood lasted for quite a while," Huang said. "But I didn't push her to train and just talked to her."

"She then regained confidence little by little and improved a lot in training. I believe the gold medal this time will make her a much stronger weightlifter in the future."

Now a confident Ho is eyeing a medal in London.

"After the Universiade, I have solid faith in my strength. Next year is the Olympic Games and my goal is to stand on the podium," she said.