



HIGH PRICE FOR THIRD

CHINESE TAIPEI GYMNAST FIGHTS THROUGH CHEST MUSCLE INJURY TO WIN BRONZE

Arthur Zanetti of Brazil balances himself on the rings to win the Universiade gold medal yesterday at the Shenzhen Universiade.

LIN YIGUANG / XINHUA

By TANG ZHE
CHINA DAILY

SHENZHEN — It's not the Olympics, but at least one young gymnast competed like it was.

Chen Chi-hyu from Chinese Taipei fought through the pain of a chest muscle laceration to win bronze in the men's ring at Bao'an Gymnasium, claiming the delegation's only gymnastics medal at the Universiade.

"I asked him to give up, because the upcoming London Olympic Games is more important, but he insisted on playing, which made me so touched," said Lin Yu-hsin, Chen's coach.



ARTISTIC
GYMNASTICS

"Though our medical team helped him to wrap up the wound and use acupuncture to prevent inflamma-

tion, it's still very hard for him to continue on the rings with such an injury.

"I am very satisfied with his performance today and I think if he landed on the floor more steadily, he had a chance to win the gold."

A student at National Taiwan Sport University, the 22-year-old Chen yearned to participate at the Universiade.

"I have trained as an athlete for

16 years and I wanted to participate in the Universiade for a long time," said Chen, who was a reserve in the previous two competitions.

South Korean gymnast Jo Hyun-joo, who injured her neck in the women's individual all-around Monday, claimed the title in women's vault yesterday.

The 18-year-old was the gold medal favorite after qualifying first for the individual all-around final. But she fell off the balance beam

and landed heavily on her back during the second rotation.

It was originally feared she had suffered a cervical vertebra fracture, but it turned out to be a soft tissue injury.

"It was hurt when I fell down from the beam yesterday, but it turned better after a while," Jo said. "My coach and teammates really cared about me and sent me to the Universiade Village for treatment. I am in good condition now."



JIN SHUO / CHINA NEWS SERVICE

Wong Hiu Ying waves to the crowd after winning the bronze.

A bronze medal and another lesson

By TANG ZHE
CHINA DAILY

SHENZHEN — Sports don't always distract an athlete from schoolwork.

Sometimes they even inspire it.

Hong Kong gymnast Wong Hiu Ying says competition has enhanced her academic life.

"Gymnastics has brought me to a lot of countries, so I can experience different cultures," said Wong.

She recently graduated from Hong Kong Polytechnic University, majoring in costume design.

Athletes who have graduated within the past two years remain eligible for the Universiade.

"I had to design some clothes before graduation, and ... each of my designs turned out to be like a gym outfit," the 24-year-old said.

She has participated in three Universiades, and earned a bronze in the vault on Tuesday.

It was Hong Kong's first medal in gymnastics at a Universiade.

"I displayed my full ability today and I'm really excited, because there are few gymnasts from Hong Kong who joined the games in the

past, and it's even harder to secure a medal," Wong said.

She placed ninth in the event at the 2009 Belgrade Universiade and finished 15th in the women's all-around on Monday.

"I started practicing gymnastics purely out of interest at the age of five, and I took every opportunity to practice more during tournaments, and gradually I improved my playing form," she said. "After some good results in recent years, I felt myself more motivated to play. I haven't decided when to stop. It depends on my condition. If I can

keep it, I will continue to practice gymnastics, because it also helps in studying and living."

Wong said she was happy to participate, though the level of the games hardly compares with the Olympics.

"It's impractical to ask all the athletes to treat the Universiade like the Olympics, but I think among many athletes here, a lot of them just want to enjoy themselves instead of setting the targets of winning world championships or claiming Olympic gold," she said.