



Judokas crash into Western wall of power

By GAO CHANGXIN
CHINA DAILY

SHENZHEN — Take a lesson: the best athletes in the world are in really good shape.

Hong Kong's Yu Kin Ting learned that the hard way on Tuesday, suffering an early elimination in his 60kg judo match at the Universiade.

Time for a lot more training.

The 22-year-old said his technique wasn't to blame in a loss to Hungary's Tibor Majer. The problem was a stronger, better-conditioned opponent.

"They (western athletes) are much stronger than me," said Yu, a student at Hong Kong Baptist University. "I did well early in the match, but after three minutes my stamina went ... and I was only able to defend in the remaining two minutes."

"The matches here are a little too intense for me ... I will do more weightlifting in the future to improve my strength."

Yu became one of Hong Kong's most famous judokas after winning a gold and a bronze at the 2009 East Asian Games in Hong Kong.

While he also attended the 2010 Asian Games in Guangzhou, Yu has little experience in worldwide competitions like the Universiade, and seldom pits himself against Westerners.

Yu is not the only Chinese judoka overwhelmed by Western power.

After fighting four Western athletes on Monday, Chinese Taipei's Chen Si-yu said international competitions are very different to regional ones.

"Western athletes are very powerful, but not as skilled as Asian athletes," Chen said. "It takes time to adapt. Next time I will do better."

Yu was undaunted by his Universiade failure, and will begin preparations for the World Judo Championships in Paris next week.

"I will first relax for a little while and get back to training. I think I will be able to learn more at the World Championships," he said.

"If I can go to London next summer, we will see."

Yu entered judo with little guidance. When he was in sixth grade, he attended a class at school and fell in love with the sport.

"My parents didn't spend a lot of time with me and know little about sports," he said. "At that time, they just thought that if I had something that I can put my time into, I wouldn't idle around and make trouble."



CUI MENG / CHINA DAILY

"Beach Babies" perform during the beach volleyball games at the Shenzhen Universiade.

Beach Babies make big splash

COMPETITORS KEEP EYE ON BALL, WHILE CROWDS CAST THEIRS ON WOMEN

By SHI YINGYING
CHINA DAILY

SHENZHEN — Some are coming to Shenzhen's palm-lined Dameisha beach to watch the game. Others are there to view the scenery — especially the bikini-clad cheerleaders.

Meet the "Beach Babies" — beautiful women, such as Wu Di, who root for teams while wearing skimpy swimsuits — and sometimes seem to be working harder than the players.

"I want to spread my zeal to everybody who comes," said Wu, a 21-year-old Shenzhen native, who also performed at the Guangzhou Asian Games.

"It's an unusual experience to dance on the sand. I believe most of you haven't tried it before."

The fans enthusiastically welcomed the squad.

"I like the way they smile," Russian men's beach volleyball coach Alexander Razin said.

"It's very natural. You can tell it's not fake. And they're always smiling."

But the cheerleaders said their job is tougher than it looks.

"It's unbelievably hot to dance around on the burning sand," Wu said.

"After a few weeks of acclimation, we got used to the 60 C sand. But many of us got sunburned. Our skin is much darker now."

She pointed out Asian women tend to prefer lighter skin.

"We stopped wearing sunscreen and are instead using oil because we will get tanner in the coming days, anyway," she said.

"We just want the color to be smoother."

Cheerleader Xu Jieting said squad members needed more foot strength on sand than on flooring.

"Otherwise you're going to fall," Xu said.

"The worst thing is that if you fall, you have to get up quickly and smile again. Sand's resistance is twice that of flat ground, so we must exaggerate our movements twice as much. That's not that easy in 40 C weather."

Xu said sand had scratched her eyes the day before.

"But I will keep dancing for the friends from all over the world, because we, the Beach Babies, represent the image of Shenzhen university students," she said.

"If my friends ask, 'Why are you so tanned?' I'll proudly answer, 'Because I'm a Beach Baby!'"