

# No coach, but still four golds bagged



TRAILBLAZER: Despite having no coach, NTU swimmers improved their ranking to bring medals home. PHOTO | TAN YI WEN

## LIM YUFAN

THE NTU swim team defied the odds to emerge runners-up of the Institute-Varsity-Polytechnic (IVP) Games 2008 with four golds, five silvers and six bronzes.

The event took place over the

weekend from October 11th to 12th at the Toa Payoh Swimming Complex.

National swimmer Ho Qing Xiang won two individual gold medals in the 50 metres freestyle and 50 metres butterfly.

On balancing his schoolwork and training schedule, the final-

year student at the School of Art, Design and Media said, "Basically, it's about making a lot of sacrifices. I don't have much of a social life."

Although the team did not have a coach for the past year, they exceeded expectations by moving up three places on the overall

standings.

The highlight of the team's performance included two gold medals for the men's 4 x 50 metres freestyle relay, men's 4 x 50 metres medley relay and two silvers for the women's corresponding events.

Student coach and captain Roderick Eng, 22, said he did not expect the team to win the medley relays.

**"IVP is actually a good chance for NTU to foster a stronger school spirit."**

Amanda Tay, 21,  
Swim team member

success.

"Roderick has done a very good job," said final-year Business student Amanda Tay. "He came up with the training programme for us. You can see that our team spirit is really good."

Captain of the women's team See Pui Fun added, "Roderick is very well-liked by the team."

However, the lack of supporters for the NTU team at the swimming complex was evident.

Compared to her junior college days, Tay felt there was less publicity for inter-school competitions in NTU.

"I think the IVP is actually a good chance for NTU to foster a stronger school spirit," said the 21-year-old. "Through better publicity, the swimmers will be more motivated and results will improve too."

After the stellar performance, See hopes to see some changes made to the swimming pool in SRC.

"During our training hours, we have to share the pool with many other swimmers," she said. "Hopefully, the swimmers will be given priority to use the pool."

"I took a big risk by going in without a natural backstroker. Our first choice backstroker couldn't make it and I had to replace him with someone else," he said.

Other members of the team also gave credit to Eng for this year's