Iranian weightlifter nicks it by 1kg

Equestrian shares her fondness for horses

Families travel across the globe in support of their heroes

China must have quite a collection of Lyo plushies by now

The official Singapore 2010 Youth Olympic Village newspaper

A publication by the Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information, NTU
**NEWS IN NUMBERS**

**Empty seats, full hearts**

For the five days since the start of YOG, it seemed that support for the Games has been less than spectacular. The competition venues were less than packed, the cheers less than roof-lifting. Yesterday, local newspaper The Straits Times broke news explaining exactly why.

Before the start of the Games, Singapore’s Ministry of Education had bought a copious bundle of competition tickets — $80,000 in all — for its students. But many students do not stay for the entire duration. Many leave within a couple of hours. Authorities, though, have assured fans that unoccupied seats will be released.

As disconcerting as the empty seats must be for the stars on show, athletes must not take it to heart. They are cheering, be it in person, from outside the fence, or in front of the television set at home. From outside the fence, or in front of the television set at home. From outside the fence, or in front of the television set at home.

The minimum height of most professional male basketball players. The majority of female players are above 1.70m.

The year gender testing was introduced in the Olympic Games.

“I feel lots of new emotions… It was a dream.”

— Italy’s Gloria Filippi who shed tears of joy after winning gold in the mixed team competition alongside Anton Karoukin of Belarus.

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**FACTS OF THE WORLD**

**Greece**

The International Olympic Committee will only consider making a sport an Olympic event for men if it is being played on four continents.

**USA**

Evelyn Ashford from USA was pregnant when she broke the 200m world record at the 1984 Olympics.

**Pakistan**

Field Hockey is the national sport of Pakistan.

**Singapore**

All YOG competition and non competition venues are within a 30-minute radius of the Village.

**Australia**

Team Australia’s table tennis paddler, Lily Phan, was born in Vietnam.

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**MEDALS WON YESTERDAY**

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*Mixed teams from different countries participating by continent
T-30 MINUTES TO...

Muddy sprint on two wheels

Joining other enthusiasts at the BMX
Biking event at the Tampines Bike Park, photojournalist Ng Jun Sen caught the bikers riding the slopes despite the rain.

9.40am A fine day for mud and metal at Tampines Bike Park.

10.00am A taxi cautiously avoids mud pools at the carpark, but eventually drives into the mud pools at the carpark, but eventually drives into one. The car used to be white.

10.09am Two cyclists warm up on the rolling road, which allows pedalling without moving.

10.15am Oh dear. It’s starting to rain. The announcer says the race is delayed. My camera is getting wet!

10.20am At last, it stops raining, thankfully. With great effort, volunteers begin to pull the rain covers off the sand.

10.30am Finally, the seeding trial runs begin!

THE ONE KILO SURPRISE

On the last day of weightlifting competitions, Iran’s Alireza Kazeminejad secures a gold medal at the Men’s 85kg final

BY XUE JIANYUE

Iranian Alireza Kazeminejad trailed behind Armenian Minasyan Gor for most of the Men’s 85kg final. With two tries to go, he was 5kg behind the leader.

With a yell, 16-year-old Alireza lifted 190kg into a sudden victory, pipping Gor to the gold by a single kilogram.

With a loud yell, Iranian weightlifter Alireza Kazeminejad lifts 196 kg to win the Men’s 85kg final at Toa Payoh Sports Complex on August 19 morning. He had been trailing behind Armenian Minasyan Gor for most of the final, but eventually caught up to snatch a surprise gold. PHOTO: XUE JIANYUE

But despite trailing behind earlier, the 1.85m, 158kg giant was confident of lifting 196kg. After all, his personal best for Clean and Jerk is 200kg.

With the Youth Olympic gold and another at the 9th Asian Junior Weightlifting Championship last November, Alireza is setting his sights on the 2012 London Games.

Iran, a weightlifting powerhouse, has produced Olympic gold medalists like Hossein Rezazadeh, once dubbed the world’s strongest man. His world record for snatch (213kg) and clean and jerk (263kg) remains unbeaten.

Alireza admires Hossein as his hero, and hopes to emulate the super heavyweight champion at the Summer Olympics.

Having done his best, Alireza said it is his right to be the world’s strongest boy.

“Morning, afternoon, all I do is practice. That is how I got here,” he said.

“Morning, afternoon, all I do is practice. That is how I got here.” – Weightlifter Alireza Kazeminejad

CROWD FAVOURITES TRIUMPH

Anton Karoussin from Belarus and Gloria Filippi from Italy clinched the gold medal in yesterday’s Archery Mixed Team Competition. Silver went to Slovenia’s Gregor Rajh and Greece’s Zoi Panatskoupolou. Singapore’s Abdul Dayyan Mohamed Jaffar and Turkey’s Begunhan Elif Unsal shot perfect tens, winning the bronze over Spain and Bangladesh by a single point.

WEIGHT FOR IT

The 158kg Iranian Weightlifter Alireza Kazeminejad said, “I am going to get you. I am going to get you” to the barbell before the competition in the Men’s 85kg weightlifting ceremony. He kept to his word and walked off with a gold for the event.

RUSSELL AND CHINA GYMNASTS SPAR

The Women’s individual (artistic) gymnastics finals lived up to its hype as a crowd pleaser. Clinching the gold medal was Viktoria Komova, an outstanding gymnast from Russia who scored a total of 61.250, followed by her close competitor, Tan Sixin, from China, who scored 58.500.

INQUISITIVE ROCKS THE ROOM

Renowned local DJ Inquisitive spins club tunes at the Village last night as crowds gathered to party. Hours before he had tweeted, “Heading to the YOG campus for the show tonight.”
To equestrian Jasmine Lai, the best feeling in the world is when she is riding her horse. Here at the YOG, she has to ride a new horse breed, but she is loving every minute of it.

**Riding Artist**

**JASMINE LAI**
**EQUESTRIAN**
**HONG KONG**

"Do a lot of things with your team... These are the people who go through the same thing with you. And understand the same thing too."

— On the importance of teammates

Born in Qatar and raised in Cairo, Dr Rania Elwani is famously dubbed the Egyptian Mermaid. She participated in three Summer Olympic Games from 1992 to 2000 and became the founder of the Egypt Olympians Association.

**3**
The number of degrees Dr Rania has — in medicine, surgery and science.

**10**
The number of years Elwani was Egyptian Athlete of the year, from 1991 to 2000.

**14**
Rania Elwani’s age when she participated in the 1992 Barcelona Summer Olympics

"Be it striding gracefully around the course or clearing obstacles with agility and skill, equestrian Jasmine Lai is no different from an artist. Once the Hong Kong native mounts her horse, she forgets about everything else except her fine steed. "It’s the best feeling one can experience," the petite 18-year-old said.

Unlike the artist, Jasmine’s tool is her horse; her current canvass, the Singapore Turf Club Riding Centre.

“When I’m riding with a horse, I put all my concentration into working and exercising (the horse),” she says. “I’m able to forget about a lot of things that are happening around me.”

She adds: “It’s kind of calming being with another living animal and being able to communicate with it.”

Throughout the interview, Jasmine glows with a healthy tan as she speaks in a misleading American accent about her love for horses and horse riding.

Her mother introduced her to horse riding when she was nine. Horse riding was a way for her mother to lose her post-pregnancy weight after giving birth to Jasmine and her older sister Jacqueline.

The two girls would follow their mother to the stables where they found a new passion in horse riding.

Despite being active in many sports like swimming and running, she decided to focus on professional horse riding as she had greater interest in it.

“Swimming sometimes is boring because you just do laps and laps,” she says, “but when you ride, it’s more interesting because you experience different things from different horses.”

Her dedication in equestrian has taken her to Denmark and Germany in her attempt to gain more exposure to horse riding by training and..."
When winning is not everything

BY TAN YAN XI

Unlike other teams, the Canadian diving team is not here for the medal glory. Experience and rubbing shoulders with other athletes is priority. Pamela Ware and Marc Sabourin-Germain, both 17, are pushing on despite the sport not having much attention back home.

“They don’t even show diving on TV in Canada,” Marc bemoans.

Pamela first took to the diving board when she was seven. She saw her sister, also a diver, having fun and joined the diving club. At the Pan American Junior Championships in 2009, the tanned girl took home four medals. And at the diving qualification for YOG, she was second for the 10m platform and third for the 3m springboard events.

A shoulder injury sustained on Monday might hinder Pamela but she is not backing out. “I will be happy as long as I come in top three,” she says.

Marc however has lesser medal expectations for his event, the 10m platform. Having just qualified for YOG, the architect-wannabe is looking forward to learning from the experience. The lad has joined competitions above his age group, like the Senior International Diving Competition in USA. Losing is not an issue to him.

“It is a rare chance to be able to interact with other world class divers, at least I can observe and pick up a thing or two from the experienced divers,” he says.

Coach Aaron Dzier shares a close friendship, going back seven years, when Marc first joined Pamela’s diving club. The duo roam the Village together to complete their Youth Olympic Passport. Proudly displaying his passport, Marc has already won a handphone case.

Coach Aaron Dzier only wants the best for his charges. Having coached more than 40 divers for the national squad, he wants the duo to focus on their techniques with the placing secondary. “I want them to perform to the best of their abilities”, Aaron is like a second father, Pamela and Marc, having accompanied them on their overseas competitions. They will be flying off to USA on August 28 for the Junior World Championships.
BY SHARIFAH FADHILAH ALSHAHAB AND CANDICE NEO

The basketball preliminaries on August 19 was not just a showcase of skills, but also a display of culture and aesthetics.

Opening in style as they do before every match, the  New Zealand team performed the Haka, a traditional Maori war dance popularised by the country’s rugby team.

Another stylish performance was by the boys from The Philippines.

Their distinct and highly effective game plan when in possession was to lure the opponents towards the basket before making a pass out to a teammate near the 3-point arc for an unguarded shot.

Player number six, Jeron Teng awed the spectators with a move that player dribbles and rotates their body around the opponent before making a shot.

Making a fashion statement on court was Egyptian player, Khaled Ibrahim, who can be easily spotted from his unique goggle-like spectacles. The spectacles were specially made in Alexandria for his sensitive eyes.

Khaled commented that the soft rubber on the spectacles makes it comfortable for him to wear them while playing.

But it remains to be seen if such style would result in a gold medal.

However, they were not the only team with signature moves.

The USA Girls’ team took advantage of their height and seemingly magnetic hands to gain possession of the ball by blocking shots, stealing passes and grabbing rebounds.

The shortest player, Andraya Carter made up for her lack of height with speed, daring hustle and impressive gravity defying jumps.

“I can definitely touch the rim, and on some days I can grab it,” the 16-year-old said.

Taking her coach’s advice, she observed her opponents and prevented them from making a shot in time by getting up close and forcing them to dribble.

Having only ten seconds to shoot, her flustered opponent would have only ten seconds to shoot, her flustered opponent would make a less than accurate shot in desperation.

Legend has it that the haka originated from the sun god Ra who had two wives. Together with his wife, Hine-raumati (which means essence of summer), they had a son named Tanerore.

Having only ten seconds to shoot, her flustered opponent would make a less than accurate shot in desperation.

During summer, the dancing light rays are believed to be Taneorere dancing for his mother. Hence, the wiriwiri or trembling shimmer is shown through the trembling hands of the haka performer.

BY CERLYN CHIA

At the 3-6-3 booth, athletes are taught a new activity: sport stacking. 3-6-3 reflects the essence of the game, which is to stack the competition-standard cups into a formation of three cups, six cups and three cups.

Athletes have to stack competition-standard cups within the shortest time possible. They can either compete individually or form teams of two to compete against other teams. Loud cheering could be heard as athletes beat their opponents or broke record timing.

They are encouraged to compete in a team, as “by doing in pairs, the athletes will learn cooperation and teamwork”, said Ms Jessica Chan, a volunteer who at the booth.

The athletes can learn the game with the help of the trainers at the booth or by watching the video of the World Sport Stacking Champion, Steven Puruggangan in action.

On Wednesday evening, Cheng Ru and Xu Zheng Yang from China clocked in a new team record with a timing of 6:15s.

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ATHLETES’ FAMILIES OUT IN FULL FORCE

They fork out a large sum to fly across the globe — just to support their child in the Games.

By Khoo Fang Xuan

It was not hard to tell who’s who, on court as well as in the spectator stands. Standing out from the midst of seated spectators, they wave their country’s flag unceasingly. They scream out players’ names the loudest. And they go through a rollercoaster of emotions whenever the scoreboard changes. They are the families of the athletes, who have flown in to support their loved ones at the YOG.

“It’s always good for a player to see familiar faces in a sea of unfamiliar ones, and it’s good to see orange somewhere,” said Ronald Fransman, father of Netherlands badminton player Nick. Mr Fransman, his wife and their youngest son were all clad in bright orange, the national colour of their country.

The trip to support Nick had cost them quite a bit. “It is a very expensive trip but very worth it,” said Mrs Fransman, who used to play badminton with Nick when he was young.

Each family member has a role to play: Dad takes the photos, Mum and little brother make up the cheering squad. Shouts of “come on Nick!” and “good job!” constantly ring out from their end of the stands.

Some girls from the Australian handball team will also have their families rooting for them from the sidelines. “Our mothers will be here to support us,” said Bella Faasau. Her mother has been present at her games whenever possible. “My mom always has time for the family,” she said.

While it is a morale boost for the team to be cheered for by familiar voices, those whose families are not here are in good hands. “We’ve got our coach here. She’s like our second mom,” said Bella Faasau.

Others, however, do not have their loved ones here. French kayaker Guillaume Bernis will be facing his competitors on Saturday without his family cheering him on in person at the Marina Reservoir.

“They would like to come but…the flight is too expensive as Singapore is too far away,” he explained.

Guillaume’s interest in kayaking was sparked off by his dad told him: “Be focused on yourself and on the river whenever you race.”

PHOTO: KHOO FANG XUAN

Lending their support to The Netherlands badminton player Nick is family. The threesome were seen cheering loudly during the game. PHOTO: KHOO FANG XUAN

Sports icons and their supportive family

Earl and Tiger Woods
A golfing child prodigy, Tiger was introduced to golf before age two by his father Earl Woods. He travelled to Tiger’s golf events as often as possible before he died.

Lewis and Anthony Hamilton
Supportive of his son’s interest in racing, Anthony held three jobs at one point in time to support his son’s career.

Rafael and Toni Nadal
Rafael started playing tennis at four. Toni, his uncle and long-time coach, encouraged Rafael to become a left-hander to gain an advantage on the tennis court.

By Khoo Fang Xuan

PHOTOS: INTERNET

**WHO:** Monaco’s Princess Stéphanie

**WHERE:** Women’s 3m springboard diving competition

**WHY:** Formerly a singer, fashion model and a swimwear designer, Princess Stéphanie of Monaco, was at the event to support her daughter, Pauline Ducruet. Despite a late entrance into diving just four years ago, Ducruet aspires to take part in the 2012 London Olympics.

**WHO:** Prince Albert of Monaco, IOC member and president of Monaco’s National Olympic Committee

**WHERE:** 3-on-3 basketball at ‘scape Youth park

**WHY:** Prince Albert was in town to watch the 3-on-3 basketball. Formerly a member of Monaco’s bobsled team, he is also the uncle of diver Pauline Ducruet. He believes the fast paced game would challenge players more.

**WHO:** Prince Willem-Alexander, Prince of Orange, Dutch International Olympic Committee member

**WHERE:** Badminton preliminary round at the Indoor Stadium

**WHY:** The Prince was at the preliminary round of the Badminton event to support Netherlands’ representative – Nick Fransman. Netherlands has a strong interest to host a Youth Olympic Games in possibly 2018 or 2022.

**PHOTOS:** INTERNET
SPORTING HIGHS AND LOWS

A week of competition has passed. Many final whistles were blown and finish lines crossed, and a week from now it may just remain as a memory. Yet, all sports are made of moments, and some of the most memorable are the ones that overflow with emotion. After all, it is the exhilaration of victory and the pain of defeat that fuel the sportsman and keep the Olympic Spirit going.

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT:
Kicked out of medal contention, Adrian Kranitz of Hungary leaves the wrestling arena without his coach after losing 4-0 to Namibia’s Jason Afrikaner in the men’s Greco-Roman 58 kg preliminaries. PHOTO: LAM YARN
Mexican taekwondo player Briseida Acosta, 16, is comforted by her coach after losing 2-1 to China’s Zheng Shuyin in the women’s +63kg finals on August 19. PHOTO: WANG SIMIN
Italian swimmer Flavio Bizzarri who won in the youth men’s 200m breast-stroke on August 18 at the Singapore Sports School, poses with his gold medal. PHOTO: SPH-SYOGOC/MUGILAN RAJASEGERAN
Chile’s players celebrate with coach Rodrigo Valdes after getting the second goal during first half of Equatorial Guinea versus Chile girls’ preliminaries match at Jalan Besar Stadium on August 18. PHOTO: SPH-SYOGOC/SEYU TZYY WEI