OLEKSANDR BOUNCES HIGHER

Nail-biting final sees Ukrainian gymnast beat Chinese competitor by narrow margin

BY MELISSA LIN

A difference of 0.3 points was all it took to separate the gold and silver medallist at the Men's Trampoline event at Bishan Sports Hall yesterday. In the end, Ukraine's Oleksandr Satin triumphed over his close competitor, He Yuxiang of China.

It was a nail-biting final that had the crowd both gasping and cheering as the male gymnasts somersaulted in the air during their 10-skill routine. An audible gasp could be heard when one finalist, Great Britain's Nathan Bailey, landed outside of the trampoline and was subsequently penalised for it.

Oleksandr, 16, put up a performance that had the crowd holding their breath as he landed dangerously close to the edge of the trampoline several times. However, he executed his somersaults with precision and completed his routine to the thunderous applause of the crowd that grew even louder when his score of 41.00 was flashed across the screen.

If 17-year-old Yuxiang was fazed by his competitors' stellar performances, he did not show it. Unlike Oleksandr's performance, it seemed like there was a gravitational field that pulled Yuxiang towards the centre of the trampoline every time he landed.

Tension filled the gymnasium as the crowd and gymnasts waited for Yuxiang's score. He had finished first during the qualifying rounds 0.5 points ahead of second-placed Oleksandr. It was heartbreak for him when his final score of 40.7 was revealed. He had lost the gold medal to Satin by 0.3 points.

Nevertheless, Yuxiang's coach is satisfied with his gymnast's performance. “It's such a waste, he made a few small mistakes towards the end. He also felt great pressure after seeing his competitors' outstanding performances before his routine. But I am very satisfied with his performance,” he said.

Oleksandr had his friends' encouragement to thank for his win. He said: “Right until the very last moments, they were emailing me telling me that I am the best, I will get there and I will make it.”

He wishes to celebrate his win by going on a holiday with his family before training for the World Championships.

“When I go back to Ukraine, I would like to go to the seaside with my parents. I haven't been to the sea for a very long time as I've been training,” he said with a grin.

From our reader, Joyce Huxley, Secretary General of St. Lucia Amateur Swimming Association

“At the pool at the Singapore Sports School, we managed to team up the tallest of the female swimmers with the shortest: Siona Huxley from Saint Lucia (LCA) and Sonia Akter from Bangladesh (BAN). Thought that your readers might enjoy!”

Siona (left) is 1.87m, while Sonia (right) is 1.28m.
MEDALS WON YESTERDAY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNTRY</th>
<th>GOLD</th>
<th>SILVER</th>
<th>BRONZE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa*</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australians*</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belarus</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese Taipei</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Croatia</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe*</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Britain</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Israel</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korea</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romania</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russian Federation</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serbia</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ukraine</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Mixed teams from different countries participating by continent

“...you either go for it or you don’t and I went for it and it didn’t come off — these things happen but it’s still very annoying... It’s just a learning experience, a good experience in many ways.”

– Nathan Bailey, 17, Great Britain

8th place, Gymnastics Trampoline

THE FIRST YEAR MOUNTAIN BIKING WAS PLAYED IN THE OLYMPICS.

THE NUMBER OF COMPETITION VENUES USED AT THE 2010 GAMES:

1

THE NUMBER OF FEATHERS FOUND IN THE SHUTTLECOCK USED IN OLYMPIC BADMINTON GAMES:

16

TIMES THAT LIVE PIGEON SHOOTING WAS FEATURED IN THE SUMMER OLYMPICS:

RUGGED, RAW EMOTIONS

By Anjali Raguraman

The saying ‘wearing your heart on your sleeve’ is said to come from Middle Ages jousting matches. Knights were said to wear the colours of the lady they were fighting for, in cloths or ribbons tied to their arms. It is fitting that it came from a sporting event, because the Games have evoked nothing less than raw emotions.

At an event that has already been dubbed the Olympics’ little cousin, the emotions of winning and losing — the qualifying round your team did not make, the stumble on the track that cost you a personal best timing, the medal you just missed — all have a profound resonance with the athletes.

The joy is evident in their fist-pumping celebrations, just as much as the disappointment, etched in the faces of those who lose out.

Seven days into the Games and there have been many a memorable celebration. There was Chinese fencer Lin Sheng’s distinctly triumphant screams (she eventually went on to take Gold), and the celebratory dance of the Equatorial Guinea girls footballers. The joy of triumph is very real, as is the pain of losing.

There is the image of Team Americas triathlete Lautaro Diaz slumped in a corner, inconsolable after costing his team a gold medal by incurring a 15-second time penalty.

When the Montenegrin footballer committed the red-card worthy foul on the Singapore midfielder at the Jalan Besar stadium two nights ago, there was outrage from the crowd. But in that exact moment was the realisation that no athlete is perfect — because in the end, we are all human.

So regardless of your standing in the games — laugh, cry, smile, and vent if you must. Do what you please — because this is your Games and your time to shine, in victory or defeat.

FACTS OF THE WORLD

ENGLAND

England’s national sport is cricket.

CAMBODIA

Kickboxing, Cambodia’s most popular sport was suppressed during the Vietnamese Occupation and the Khmer Rouge regime.

SINGAPORE

Joscelin Yeo is the only athlete on record to have won 40 gold medals at the Southeast Asian Games.

SOUTH AFRICA

Josia Thugwane was the first man of colour from South Africa to win a gold medal. His win was in the Marathon event in the 1996 Olympics.

NORWAY

A well-known Norwegian story tells of a man who saved the Norwegian prince Haakon Haakonsen in 1296. He then carried the baby 95km on skis. This route has now become a cross-country track, and 6,000 people join this race every year.
KOREAN DOMINATES ARCHERY ONCE AGAIN

Living up to expectations, Korean archer Kwak Ye Ji takes home the junior women’s gold medal

BY KHOO FANGXUAN

O

Korean archer Kwak Ye Ji proudly took home the junior women’s gold medal yesterday, continuing her roll since breaking the outdoor world record for junior women’s last Wednesday with an impressive score of 670 in the 70m (72 arrows) ranking round.

Playing against Tan Ya-Ting from Chinese Taipei, who scored 648 points in the ranking round, the bespectacled 17-year-old maintained her lead with a score of six set points against two in the final match.

Her overall win would not have raised too many eyebrows back home as the Koreans have been dominating the outdoor event, especially for women’s divisions and the 70m Olympic distance.

But for Ye Ji, the game could have easily swung in the opposite direction.

The first set started on a positive note for Ye Ji. She scored three consecutive bull’s eyes, earning her a nod of approval from her coach, who is known for being strict on her.

After Ye Ji won the first set, Ya-Ting chased up to claim the second set with a score of six set points against two in the final match.

Ye Ji’s coach Choi Seung Sil said after the game that he was satisfied with Ye Ji’s performance but believes there is still room for her to improve. But all is well now that she has clinched the gold medal.

“I’m happy about winning the first Youth Olympics gold medal, it will be a good memory for my teenage years,” said Ye Ji.

On the last day of the swimming competition, photojournalist Lam Yarn hung around the Singapore Sports School pool cheering with the raucous crowd.

5.47pm
There is a long queue at the box office for tickets that are already sold out.

6.05pm
Athletes are in the pool warming up. The countdown reads 7 minutes 38 seconds.

6.12pm
Spotted the ceremony assistants being put through their paces.

6.30pm
The girls take their places on the blocks for the Youth Women’s 50 metre Freestyle final. The crowd roars for Singapore’s Amanda Lim.

6.31pm
Unbelievable! Tang Yi from China and France’s Anna Santamans come in at exactly the same time and share the gold for the 50 metre freestyle.

6.38pm
Peter Bernek of Hungary on his way to claiming Hungary’s first of three gold medals of the evening!

6.43pm
At the end of the Youth Women’s 100 metre butterfly race, Rachael Kelly of Great Britain looks disappointed.

8.15pm
Drummers escort the final swimmers into the arena for the mixed 4x100 metre medley relay.

T-30 MINUTES TO...

Jumping to victory

The Equestrian Team finals on Friday, August 20 led Teams Australasia, Africa and Europe to a tie at the top position again, as with the results on Wednesday. However, a jump off after the match won Europe the gold medal, with a timing of 144.03s, followed by Australasia, with a timing of 154.2s. Team Africa clinched the bronze medal. Asia, South America and North America came in 4th, 5th and 6th respectively.

Another gold for China

Following the Chinese girls’ 4x100m freestyle gold on Thursday, China has once again clinched the highly coveted gold in the 4x100m mixed medley relay. With a consistent lead, the team emerged victorious with a timing of 3:52.52. Their winning formula consisted of He Jian Bing, Wang Xi Ming, Liu Lan and Tang Yi.

BRIEFS

Daley in just one dive

British diver Tom Daley has announced that he will be withdrawing from his specialty, the 10m platform. This is a direct result of the tripel injury that Tom sustained last week. Despite that, he will still be competing in the 3m springboard.

A smashing victory

Russian Daria Gavrilova clinched the first tennis gold yesterday. She came from a set down to overcome Chinese Zheng Saisai in the girls’ singles finals. Daria and Saisai are both unseeded players. Daria beat top seed Elina Svitolina earlier in the week; Saisai beat the second and third-seeded players.

Tickets sell like hotcakes

Tickets for all events have been sold out, with the exception of Girls’ Soccer. This comes amid fears of low ticket sales in the beginning of the Games.
Malawi’s table tennis star Patrick Massah served his first ball eight years ago, having picked up the sport from his father Floriano. However, as Patrick steps into the Olympic limelight, his father would not be there to witness it.

Mr Massah, Malawi Olympic Committee president, died after collapsing in his home in May this year. Nearly three months has passed since, and Patrick is ready to give his best at the Games.

“All I can do is train and train, so I can get my mind off his death,” the 16-year-old said. “This is the first major overseas tournament for me. I feel excited but sometimes I am nervous.”

**Profile**

**Patrick Massah**

**Table Tennis**

**Malawi**

**KEEPING THE DREAM ALIVE**

Despite his father’s death a few months earlier, Patrick Massah refuses to let it get him down and is raring to go at the Games.

*Photo and story by Xue Jianyue*

---

**Barbara Kendall**

**Sailing**

**New Zealand**

“**When you have one single ambition it’s easy to make decisions - it’s all about the one goal.**”

— Barbara on a champion’s focus

---

**Paras:**

- The age at which she started sailing competitively
- The number of years she has been sailing before her retirement this year
- The age at which she retired
- The number of children she has. They are Samantha, 9, and Aimee, 5.
“Getting to be part of the first Youth Olympic Games is just like you’re somewhere, like you’re important.”

— Patrick, on being part of the inaugural Youth Olympic Games

Patrick and the rest of the Malawi Team arrived in Singapore on August 11 after nearly 13 hours in the air. He has been training daily at the National University of Singapore since Sunday to prepare for his first match today.

While Patrick has moved on since his father’s passing, his feelings have not totally worn away.

“My relationship with my father was very good,” Patrick said. “He was a good man, because he would tell me what to do right and what to do not.”

Mr Massah also has a special place in the heart of Malawi table tennis, having done much to popularise the sport there. Back in 2002, he even turned any table in Malawi into a table tennis table due to low budget and lack of equipment.

Malawians have defied expectations since then, bagging numerous medals at international meets and establishing themselves as one of the best paddlers in African Table Tennis.

Last February, Malawi had more to cheer when Patrick was given a spot in the Youth Olympic Games via the National Olympic Committee Universality scheme.

Upon hearing the news, Patrick described his feelings as “great” and “awesome.”

“Getting to be part of the first Youth Olympic Games is just like you are somewhere, you are important,” he said.

Today, Patrick will face the best paddlers around the world in the Singapore Indoor Stadium. He aims to bring his table tennis around the world in the Singapore Indoor Olympic Games via the National Olympic Committee Universality scheme.

BY CERLYN CHIA AND SHARIFAH FADILAH ALSHAHAB

Mexican archers Mariana Avitia and Jafet Farjat may be young but they are among the most experienced archers in town. They exude a sophisticated confidence and poise when armed with bow and arrow.

This is hardly surprising, considering that Mariana had competed in the 2008 Beijing Olympics at 14.

Despite being one of the youngest competitors then, she managed to reach the quarterfinals of the women’s individual competition.

Teammate Jafet is no slouch either, having participated in as many as 40 competitions, both in Mexico and internationally.

Mariana first took up archery at the tender age of seven. “It is an individual sport… it is like a competition with myself,” said Mariana, on why she likes archery.

Jafet started at a slightly older age. At the age of nine, he saw a man with a bow and arrow in his hometown, and asked to try it out. And so, Jafet shot his first arrow.

Wanting to compete in the London Olympics as well, he sees his fellow Mexican archer Mariana as an inspiration.

Jafet finds these competitions crucial. Apart from gaining necessary exposure, he also wants to find out where he ranks internationally and learn from his mistakes.

“I learn to calm myself down and to think only about myself and especially to have fun,” he added.

Both teenagers’ parents are supportive of their pursuit in archery and Mariana’s parents have flown to Singapore to watch her compete. Although Jafet’s parents were unable to come, they passed him a necklace to symbolise their presence as a form of encouragement.

As the only archer here to have taken part in the Beijing Olympics, all eyes will surely be on Mariana to perform well at the Youth Olympic Games.

But the 16-year-old appears to be coping with the pressure well.

“I have never thought about that, I am competing with myself,” she added. “I believe that my strongest competitor is myself.”

FUN FACT

To prepare for the YOG, Mariana and Jafet came to Singapore last year for a training camp.

Mariana shoots approximately 200 arrows in the morning and the same amount in the afternoon. She also goes to the gym to work on her arms and back as well as run.

ATHLETE DNA

SIRILUCK WARIPIANG

CYCLING

THAILAND

The weirdest thing I do when I train is... I visit the buddhist temple for protection & good luck for the competition.

When I’m not training, I’m usually... surfing the internet on the internet.

How will you describe yourself in one word or phrase? Why?

beautiful because everyone says so.

I discovered my passion in cycling since 15 years old.

I hope to become a famous cyclist because it has been my dream.
SPLASHING GOOD LEARNING JOURNEY

BY SHAWN SEE

Rolling up their jeans and getting ankle deep in the water needed little persuasion for athletes present at the Marina Barrage Exploration Journey. For many, it was sheer joy to get their hands on solar-powered mini jet boats that could be manoeuvred using controllers.

This all happened at the Clean Energy station at the Marina Barrage for almost 80 athletes and members of National Olympic Committees (NOCs) on Thursday.

The Exploration Journey to Marina Barrage is one of the three day-trips that are part of the Culture and Education Programme (CEP).

The other two trips bring athletes to Hort Park and Pulau Ubin. Held between 15 to 25 August, the educational and fun-filled trip seeks to educate athletes about water and environmental conservation.

Through exhibits, the Clean Energy station also introduced the athletes to some of the common renewable energies that are being harnessed throughout the world.

Fijian weightlifter Charlie Lolohea thoroughly enjoyed himself. “The programme was good and educational and I enjoyed the game very much, I wanted to keep on playing,” he said with a hint of disappointment when the session ended.

The half-day programme also consisted of two other stations, the Clean Water Game and the Gallery and Green Roof Tour.

At the Clean Water Game, athletes were put to the test in various challenges. They first experienced the laborious task of collecting water from the sea and Marina reservoir. After that, they were divided into teams to compete in creating the best filter to keep out pollutants.

At the Gallery and Green Roof Tour, participants first explored the Sustainable Singapore Gallery which highlights the threats the environment is facing and the measures taken towards achieving environmental sustainability.

The athletes were then ushered to the iconic Green Roof and “Solar Park” where they got to admire the breathtaking view of the city’s spectacular waterfront.

“Balloon sculpting is one of the popular Culture and Education Programme activities,” said Benny Cheng, one of the balloon sculptors. “The first day saw over 90 people crammed in our tiny booth,” he exclaimed.

Many of the non-English speaking athletes were intrigued by the hats. All managed to walk away with a self-made one without even communicating in a common language.

“They simply follow our actions,” explained Ernest Khoo, a balloon sculptor working at the booth. “But it’s nice to see the joy in their faces once they have learnt the balloon sculpting skill.”

YOVoice Shout-outs and dedications

TO TEAM AUSTRALIA
Rep up the goals :-) Morgan, Sumner, Fothini & Soriah Gymnastics, Australia

TO ALL
Good luck and have fun! Jay McCarthy, Cycling, Australia

TO SANTA CLAUS
Don’t bring me any medal, I’ll take it by myself. Toziano Suran, Shooting, Croatia

TO ALL ATHLETES
To all athletes out there, bring glory to your country! Xie Jianu, Weightlifting, China

TO CHRISTOPHER (GUAM)
All the best! Riley Nassajmal, Wrestling, Federated States of Micronesia

Leave a message for someone on facebook.com/youngolympiandaily
PHOTOS: EUNICE CHAN AND GELLE SIA
Southeast Asia and China prove that weightlifting is not just a European sport

BY SHAWN SEE

The Asian weightlifters certainly did not disappoint as they put on a magnificent show to bag 12 medals out of the 11 different categories. It was a great show of athleticism and power on their part in the sport that is usually dominated by Europeans, confirming that they are certainly no pushovers.

Traditional powerhouse China led the Asian contingent with two gold and two silver medals. The impressive Chinese female pair of Tian Yuan and Deng Wei both smashed the International Weightlifting Federation’s junior world records, en route to their eventual victory in the +63kg category. While China’s wins were not much of a surprise, considering their long-standing prowess in the sport, it is the region of Southeast Asia that caught the eye of many.

The Southeast Asian athletes stamped their mark on the world stage with a total of four medals. Vietnam’s Thach Kim Tuan got the ball rolling with a goliath performance that clinched the region’s only gold. It was a historic moment for Thach Kim Tuan as his sweet victory clinched Vietnam’s very first gold medal in the Olympics. “I have been preparing for the competition for a long time and training every single day,” Thach said. “I have not missed a day and I am proud to meet such stiff competition from China.”

Thailand’s Pulabsakul Chitchanon came within a whisker to attain gold in the women’s +63kg competition, falling short just behind her Russian rival Olga Zubova due to heavier weight. As both of them finished with identical 251kg totals after the Snatch and Clean & Jerk, the win was awarded to Olga who was almost 50kg lighter than Pulabsakul.

Despite being second in place, Chitchanon was satisfied with her sterling performance. “I have to accept the regulations of the competition, 136kg is my personal best and I am very happy,” she said.

The Russian weightlifters were standing tall between Thailand and the gold medals as Artem Okulov pipped Chitchanon’s compatriot Chinnawong Chutphum for the gold in the men’s 77kg event. Chinnawong showed plenty of fighting spirit as he tried to outdo Okulov in his final lift in the clean and jerk, attempting to hoist 183kg. Although he failed, his valiant efforts cannot be faulted as he delivered Thailand’s second silver in weightlifting.

“I know I might not be able to lift 183kg to beat the Russian. I’ll gladly compete with him again and try my best to beat him,” said a defiant Chinnawong.

Southeast Asia’s fourth medal came from Indonesia’s Dewi Safitri third placing in the women’s 53kg category. The Asian weightlifters certainly dazed and shined in the Youth Olympic weightlifting event and it remains to be seen if these young aspiring athletes can once again showcase their strength, to lift above their own weights to attain glory in the upcoming 2012 London Olympics.

Circus at the Games

BY DEBORAH LEE

With multi-coloured twirling ribbons and beanbags flying in the air, the carnival-like celebration at the Youth Olympic Village was elevated to a high. The Community Circus Arts booth was at the Village Square on Tuesday and Thursday and participants picked up a variety of circus skills at the station.

Featured circus skills included devil-sticking, diabolo tossing, plate spinning, juggling, ribbon twirling and as well as poi spinning. In poi spinning, water or sand balls are suspended from a length of cloth and are swung about in circular motions. Simple poi tricks like the butterfly are taught by local students who have been training since last year.

The circus acts are meant help build both the athletes and students’ self-confidence as they interact with one another. The students involved are underprivileged youth under the charge of Beyond Social Services. According to Mr Iskandar Latiff, one of the booth’s facilitators, the students have come a long way from the beginning, where there were punctuality and disciplinary problems.

He added: “A lot of them have come up to me wanting to contribute more. They are excited at meeting people from all over the world.”

Algerian table tennis player, Islem Laid was spotted spinning plastic plates, said: “This is my favourite activity because I am good at it!”

It was the first attempt at such circus acts for many of the athletes. They were also given a bag of juggling balls as a souvenir for their participation and support in the activities.

The final session to be held on Sunday from five to six in the evening.
Sport is a contest of mind, muscle and spaces. Space is negotiated by athletes, opponents and the ground they sweat on. These venues become the canvasses for victory or agony. Like miniaturised figures, they play to their crowds and the sound of rapturous applause. Photos by Zakaria Zainal