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Young Olympian Daily

2010

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TUE
24
AUG
2010

Singapore 2010

QQQ

AN EASY VICTORY AT TABLE TENNIS

Host country fell to China after 4 quick sets

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Weightlifter believes in self-improvement

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SUNNY ISLAND SET IN THE SEA

CEP activity takes athletes to Pulau Ubin

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TWEET OF THE DAY

The Italian team is so well-dressed on and off the field!

@anjaliragu Anjali Raguraman, Student Reporter

> The official Singapore 2010 Youth Olympic Village newspaper



A publication by the Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information, NTU

Olympian Daily

NO RAIN ON THEIR PARADE



Robin Reynolds from the USA helping her team clinch gold in the girls medley relay despite the rain. PHOTOS: XINHUA/SYOGOC-POOL/MENG YONGMIN AND XINHUA/SYOGOC-POOL/LIAO YUJIE

The downpour on the last day of athletics was no problem for some, but too much for others

BY ANJALI RAGURAMAN

Team Americas snatched a victory in the girls and boys medley relay event, winning gold in both races by a single second yesterday evening.

The first of its kind, the medley relay saw runners from the five continents pitted against each other in a team event where each ran in legs of 100m, 200m, 300m and 400m.

Robin Reynolds from the USA gained her second gold of the Games, having won the 400m event earlier in the week. The wet weather turned out to be a blessing for her.

"The rain did not affect my performance. I ran even faster because I wanted to get out of the water," she said. The team, also comprising Myasia Jacobs (USA),

Rashan Brown and Tynia Gaither of the Bahamas, managed a timing of 2min 5.62sec.

Recently titled the fastest boy in the world, Odane Skeen ran for the boys team who clinched the gold in the boys event. Odane said that the rain did not affect his performance. "It was just pretty cold and I had to keep warm," he added.

The boys race also saw a rematch



between David Bolarinwa (Europe) and Masaki Nashimoto (Asia), who had gone against each other just two days ago in the 100m blue ribbon event. Europe finished second, while Asia came in last. The rain did not adversely affect his race, David said. "(I am) absolutely satisfied with my performance."

In the 1000m steeplechase finals earlier in the evening, it was a double victory for Kenyans Virginia Nyambura and Peter Matheka Mutuku. They were clear favourites going into the event, having qualified at the top of their groups. Despite the rain, both Virginia and Peter registered personal best timings to bag the gold medals.

"The race is a tradition for Kenya

and I must win," Peter said.

On the field, it was a shock victory for Spaniard Didac Salas in the boys pole vault A final. Together with Brazilian Thiago Da Silva, they were the only ones to clear the 5m

mark. Thiago said: "It was scary. I was afraid that the pole might slip off from my hand because it was slippery."

"The rain has helped me in winning," he said without elaborating.

Besting his own personal timing, bronze medallist Greek Theodoros Chrysanthopoulos acknowledged that he was "not used to competing in rainy conditions".

Other athletes struggled with the wet conditions. It was rain on his parade for pre-event favourite pole vaulter Ivan Horvat of Croatia. All medallists cleared at least 4.95m, while Ivan only managed 4.7m after struggling with slippery grip, finishing last.

It was the "worst conditions" to compete in for Ivan, but certainly not for everyone.

ADDITIONAL REPORTING BY TAN YAN XI AND DAPHNE LIM

MFDAIS WON YESTERDAY

MEDALS WON YE	STERDAY		
COUNTRY IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER			
Africa*	0	1	0
Americas*	2	0	0
Australia	0	1	0
Belarus	0	1	0
Belgium	1	1	0
Brazil	0	1	0
Bulgaria	0	0	1
China	4	2	1
Chinese Taipei	0	1	0
Croatia	0	1	0
Cuba	2	0	0
Cyprus	0	1	0
Denmark	0	1	0
Ethiopia	1	2	0
Europe*	0	1	1
France	2	1	1
Germany	0	1	1
Greece	0	0	2
Guatemala	0	0	1
Hungary	0	0	1
India	0	1	0
Japan	2	0	0
Kenya	2	0	2
Korea	1	0	1
Kyrgyzstan	0	0	1
Malaysia	0	1	0
Oceania*	0	0	1
Serbia	1	0	0
Singapore	0	1	0
Slovenia	0	0	1
Spain	1	0	0
Sweden	1	0	0
Switzerland	0	1	0
Uganda	0	0	1
Ukraine	0	0	5
United States	0	0	1

*Mixed teams from different countries participating by continent



1960

Singaporean Tan Howe Liang won Singapore's first Olympic Games medal in the Summer Olympics in Rome. The weightlifter also won a silver medal in the lightweight category.

The first opening ceremony was held during the 1908 Olympic Games in London.

1988

YOG comes as a successor to the World Youth Games, a competition of a similar format which was held only once in Moscow in 1998. Singapore beat the Russian capital to the hosting rights of the first YOG.

COLUMN

The youth, our hope for the future

BY ASHLEY MAK



Dear youths, the world needs you to save it. And the Games could be the first step. Youths are our hope for the

future. You do not need to be a politician or world leader – you already have the power. Like Neo from The Matrix, your generation might be The One to save us. Call me a geek but I reckon the Internet is your weapon of choice.

There is no better time, with the world so interconnected and no better place than the Internet to let your ideas be heard by the masses.

Charlie McDonnell, shaved his head live on the Internet to raise funds for Cancer Research UK on his 18th birthday. He raised £5,000 in donations from his viewers on YouTube.

The Internet is your platform.

Online petitions can help world leaders make better decisions such as reducing poverty and hunger, fighting AIDS, and protecting human rights.

These are issues that many feel the youth of today do not care about. But the truth is far from it. There are many, like Charlie McDonnell, who wish for world peace.

Contrary to popular belief that the Internet is evil, it really is more like a community, the foundation of which is friendship. This is why social media is important in spreading ideas effectively.

The movie "Inception" said that an idea is like a virus, resilient and highly contagious. An idea is a powerful seed that grows into action.

This is also why you should make as many friends as you can during the YOG.

Stay in touch and share your ideas. In the future, you might just solve the world's problems together, with the Olympian friendships that you made.

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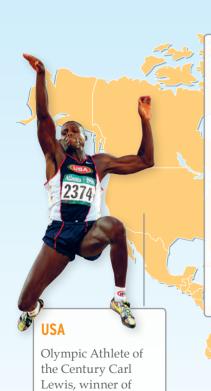
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9 Olympic golds

jump and 200m respectively, collects

and 1 silver in long

crystals as a hobby.

ITALY

In the 1960 Rome Olympic Games, two close friends Rafer Johnson of USA and Yang Chuan-kwang of Taiwan mesmerised the world as they competed fiercely in the exhausting decathlon. Many competitors embrace in mutual respect at the end of the gruelling 1,500m event.

CROATIA

YOG paddler Luka Fucec is the highest ranked table tennis player entering the Men's Singles



SINGAPORE

AUSTRALIA

It is said that in Australia, Aboriginals used to hold competitions to see who could jump the furthest over the huge mythical rainbow serpent. Aboriginal legend has it in some tribes that this is how the Olympic long jump commenced.

Singapore 2010 is expected to see 1,200 media personnel, 20,000 local and international volunteers and more than 450,000 spectators.

YOUNG OLYMPIAN DAILY YOV 360

GU POWERS TO 4-0 VICTORY



BY CLARA CHAN AND LAI JUNJIE

hinese paddler Gu Yuting took home the women's singles gold yesterday as she batted Singaporean Isabelle Li aside with a 4-0 victory with no reply.

Yuting continued her winning streak after her 4-1 victory against South Korea's Yang Ha Eun earlier in the day, winning the four sets 11-8, 11-5, 11-8, 11-9.

Touted as the player to watch prior to the start of the Games, Yuting certainly lived up to the hype. Calm and focused, her powerful smashes and aggressive style of play proved too much for Isabelle to handle.

Despite winning the gold, Yuting was not too pleased with her performance, lamenting the errors that she made, especially during the early stages of the game.

"Because I was nervous, there were a few times I missed the ball when I should have obviously caught it," she said.

Silver medallist Isabelle can keep her head high despite failing to deliver what would have been



Singapore's first gold medal. The packed stadium, which included Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, rose to its feet after the match in a rousing round of applause.

Singapore Youth Olympic Games Organising Committee chairman Ng Ser Miang praised and congratulated Isabelle on her accomplishment.

"She has done very well at the first Youth Olympic Games," he said. "We are very proud of her."

Isabelle is undeterred by her defeat, choosing to look forward and work towards achieving her goal of playing at the 2016 Summer Olympic Games.

"(I'm) very excited that I got the silver medal for Singapore. It's very meaningful for me. I want to thank the crowd for their support," she said.

TOP: Gold medallist Gu Yuting of China hugs her coach after her exhilarating win.

LEFT: Singapore's Isabelle Li puts up a good fight.

PHOTOS: XINHUA/SYOGOC-POOL/ FAN JUN

"Because I was nervous, there were a few times I missed the ball when I should have obviously caught it."

- Despite her win, China's Gu Yuting found flaws in her game.

4:20PM

Despite Russia's

BRIEFS

A perfect diving record



PHOTO: XINHUA/SYOGOC-POOL/ LIU LIHANG

The evening rain yesterday did little to affect China's diving performance as they went on to bag another gold. With a total of 511.35 points, Liu Jiao took home a second gold medal from the 3m springboard event. Coming in a distant second was Malaysia's Pandelela Pang, with Viktoriya Potyekhina from Ukraine in third place.

Guatemala wins first medal

The Central American country won their first medal in the Games yesterday when shooter Geraldine Kate Solorzano won the bronze medal in the women's 10m air pistol event.

Geraldine lost in the shootout with China's Fang Xue. Korean Kim Jang Mi took home the gold medal.

Another gold for China

China held off a spirited Australian fightback in the second half to win the girls basketball final 33-29 at *SCAPE park yesterday.

Despite Australia's scoring of 16 points in the second half, China's win was sealed by Jin Jiabao when she sunk a free throw.

Closing ceremony on eBay

Tickets for Thursday's soldout closing ceremony have surfaced on eBay. Four tickets are being auctioned at \$143 each.

The tickets, which were originally sold for \$80, \$40 and \$15, have been completely snapped up.

Cuba fought hard for semi-finals place

Cuba's volleyball team was up against Iran yesterday for a place in the semi-finals. Cuban powerhouse Leon Wilfredo and Iran's Shahab Ahamadi delighted the crowd with thundering smashes throughout the match, which Cuba won 3-1. They will meet Serbia in the semi-finals on Tuesday.

T-30 MINUTES TO...

Russian handball domination

With a final score of 41 to 19, Russian handball girls thrashed neighbouring Kazakhstan in the women's semi-final.

Photojournalist
Ng Jun Sen
was on hand
to witness
the Russian
onslaught.





3:15PN

The match begins, and the players are ready to go.

2.27DM

It is clear Russia has the upper hand. They lead the scoreboard by 16 to 6.

3:30PM

Kazakhstan's Yevgeniya Latkina tries for a counterattack but fouls. She is suspended for two minutes.

3·5**⊿**PM

A long pass from the goalkeeper gives Russia a chance to score again. They now lead 25 to 13.

∕1.15DM

Veronika Garanina heads back to the Russian bench, where her coach scolds her. She cries while teammates console her.

4:16PM

The match ends, with Russia winning convincingly.

CHAT WITH A CHAMPION



Wilson Kipketer Athletics Denmark



PHOTOS: INTERNET

Born in Kenya, Wilson Kipketer became a Danish citizen in 1990. He represented Denmark at the 2000 and 2004 Olympics, claiming a silver and bronze respectively

1:41.11

Kipketer's personal best timing for 800 meters, a world record achieved in 1997.

13

The number of years Kipketer's 800 meters world record stood. It was broken by Kenyan David Rudisha on 22 August 2010, with a new timing of 1:41.09.

28

The number of consecutive races Kipketer won between 1996 and 1997.

"I was pushed by myself because I have my own rule, and that is that every day I run faster, and try harder."

 Kipketer when asked if prize money motivated his running.

PROFILE

BOYANKA KOSTOVA WEIGHTLIFTING BULGARIA



ANATURAL TALENT

To keep herself ahead of her competitors, Bulgarian weightlifter Boyanka Kostova competes in as many competitions as possible to gain valuable experience. Photo by Eunice Chan

BY DEBORAH LEE



TEAM PROFILE TABLE TENNIS, JAPAN



Japan's table tennis coach with his dynamic duo, Ayuka and Koki. PHOTO: CHLOE TANG

Eyes fixed on gold

BY CHLOE TANG

Possessing a lethal combination of technical excellence and speed, Koki Niwa and Ayuka Tanioka from Japan will be giving other players much to worry about in the table tennis mixed teams event

Being younger at 15 years old, Koki is the more outspoken of the two, enthusiastically answering questions whilst Ayuka, 16, is more soft-spoken outside of

When posed with the question of their goal in the Youth Olympic Games, Koki says confidently: "We are aiming for a gold."

A typical day for Koki and Ayuka begins with training at 9.30am, before they take a lunch break and get back to work on their strokes. They end the day's work at 6.30pm to ensure sufficient rest.

"The practice was good, I have a good feeling about the team," says Ayuka, who carried Japan's flag at the YOG Opening Ceremony.

Ayuka's chopper style confounds her partner, who admits that he is not able to grasp the same style, as his is an attacking style.

This interesting combination of differing styles will prove complementary.

Both have their fair share of accolades in singles events, with Koki clinching International Table Tennis Federation Junior Circuit finals' silver medal and Asian Youth Games bronze medal in 2009.

Just yesterday, he clinched a gold medal for the mens' singles table tennis event at the Games.

Ayuka was named the most successful player at the International Table Tennis Federation Cadet Challenge in 2008 after picking up three gold medals.

This will be the second time they will compete alongside one another since Asian Youth Games last year.

When asked to describe each other, Koki says: "Her chopping and cutting serves are very good." Ayuka replies: "He has a strong will."

The mixed teams table tennis event starts today at the Singapore Indoor Stadium.

It was Boyanka's uncle, a former weightlifting world champion, who first piqued her interest in weightlifting. Just before the games, he had wished her success in becoming the first gold medallist for the event.

As soon as Boyanka returns home, she intends to show her medal to her family and friends.

It is not by luck that Boyanka has reached her current status as a weightlifting champion. The gold medallist is a firm believer of self-improvement. She says: "It is important and helpful to compete in as many competitions as possible. That way, I can study to become a better weightlifter."

For Boyanka, losing weight and maintaining her weight before every match is the hardest thing to do. "I usually have to reduce my weight by 3 or 4 kilograms," says Boyanka. To do so, she keeps to a diet of salad and meat as her source of protein.

Because of the humidity in Singapore, Boyanka has had to drink copious amounts of water to prevent dehydration. But water retention has made her weight increase, forcing her to put in even greater effort to keep her weight down.

After the YOG, Boyanka will start preparing for the qualification rounds of the Olympics. She hopes to etch her name in history once again by emerging champion at the London Olympics in 2012.

"It is important and helpful to compete in as many competitions as possible. That way, I can study to become a better weightlifter."

– Boyanka on why self-improvement is important to her

ATHLETE DNA

CADELL LYONS SWIMMING TRINIDAD

The weirdest thing I do when I train is Come out and eat

When I'm not training, I'm usually Playing video games

When I'm not training, I'm usually Playing video games

My hero is Aquaman because Ine is unboatable in water

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

Carefree

I discovered my passion in Swimmun since sage 5 years old

I hope to become a geologist because I am interested in the Earth

ISLAND ADVENTURE POPULAR AMONG ATHLETES

Trip to Pulau Ubin brings athletes together through team games and individual challenges

BY CLARA LOCK

arlene Gomez fears heights, but the German triathlete stepped up to the challenge of scaling a 36m high inverse tower.

She managed to conquer about two-thirds of the wooden structure, when most of the other athletes fell out long before. The inverse tower comprises a series of vertical obstacles like a rope ladder, rock climb, and a series of large logs the athletes have to navigate.

Marlene Gomez was one of approximately 200 athletes who went on the island adventure to Pulau Ubin on Sunday. The island adventure, highly popular among the athletes, was held at the Outward Bound Singapore campsite. Participants went through four different elements of outdoor activities — the inverse tower, raft building, rowing, and team games.

The number of participants per session went beyond the original limit of 144 to 200 to cope with the increase in demand.

"I'm very proud of myself. I was nervous about falling but I wanted to challenge myself," said the 17-year-old, who added that she felt safe with her teammates belaying her and directing her. "I want to do it again. It was a fun experience, because they all supported me," she said.

For most of the athletes, ascending the inverse tower was a new experience, having never



A team of athletes jump rope together, attempting to execute ten consecutive jumps without anyone tripping. PHOTO: CLARA LOCK

tried anything like it in their home country. Many were apprehensive before climbing the tower. Jalil Salmon, a runner who hails from Antigua and Barbuda, said: "There's always the thought: What if I fall? But I just ignored it and climbed."

Athletes also built rafts in teams of 12 to 14 from rope, plastic tubes and large plastic barrels. Instructors introduced the basic structure of rafts and taught them how to tie knots. After the construction, the athletes put their work to the test and paddled the rafts out to sea.

"Ît tests your character and leadership," said South African swimmer Pierre Keune, as he worked with his teammates to tie the frame of the raft together.

The rowing activity proved to be a challenge for some athletes such as Heshan Unamboowe, who deemed it "more challenging than swimming". The activity saw about seven athletes rowing out together to retrieve a flag in the sea.

Said the Sri Lankan swimmer: "Rowing under the sun was quite tough. It definitely wasn't as easy as I expected but we managed to communicate well and work together. I enjoyed every minute of it"

A series of team games had athletes working together to

accomplish tasks, such as guiding a blindfolded partner through a series of obstacles and trying to jump rope simultaneously as a team. The participants whooped enthusiastically and exchanged hugs upon successfully completing each stage, in a show of solidarity.

The island adventure received a decisive stamp of approval from five time Olympian and Olympic silver medalist Charmaine Crooks. She lauded the lessons which athletes would take away from their time on the island and at the Youth Olympic Games.

The Canadian runner said the activities might not have been easy, with the circumstances not always under control, but it was "all about supporting one another".

Outward bound professional Mr Sin Soon Ho said: "The adventure aims to perpetuate the Olympic values while showing a different side of Singapore."

"We cooperated and worked together even though we are all from different countries. There was no language barrier."

– Heshan Unamboowe, Swimming, Sri Lanka

YOVoice Shout-outs and dedications



TO TINASHE & AFRICAN TEAM

Best of luck for the athletics relay. We know you will make us proud!:) Andrea Brown & Boyd Littleford, Triathlon, Zimbabwe

PHOTOS: LAM YARN



Good luck, Africa, make us proud please.

Fatou Sowe, Athletics, Gambia



TO TEAM NEW ZEALAND

Good luck and go hard! Samara Dalziel, Hockey, New Zealand



TO ABDUL DAYYAN

Nice shooting see you next match,

Tanapat Harikul, Archery, Thailand



TO POLAND

Good luck. Have a good day. Konrad Kulpa, Table Tennis, Poland

Leave a message for someone on facebook.com/youngolympiandaily

GRACE IN DEFEAT

In any sporting event, a millisecond could mean the difference between winning and losing. Nevertheless, these athletes prove that it is possible to emerge as better people. By Lim Yi Han and Daphne Lim



PHOTO: LAM YARN

Elina Svitolina TENNIS, UKRAINE

Top-seeded tennis player Elina Svitolina faced defeat early in the competition, crashing out of girls' singles competition after falling 2-6, 3-6 to Russia's Daria Gavrilova.

Ranked second in the International Tennis Federation junior rankings, The 15-year-old is one of the most promising players in the junior circuit.

She won the French Open junior title in June this year and was the first runner-up at the Wimbledon junior doubles tournament.

Undeniably, the pressure of being the top seed has gotten to her.

She said: "It's so difficult to be the top seed in matches, it's a lot of pressure."

Despite her disappointing performances in the matches, the aspiring professional tennis player is not giving up.

"Tennis is my life. And I think you need to always believe in yourself."



PHOTO: LAM YARN

Oliver Hegi **GYMNASTICS, SWITZERLAND**

or Swiss gymnast Oliver Hegi, a score difference of 0.05 cost him a place in the Singapore Youth Olympic Games Men's Artistic Gymnastics

The 17-year-old made his first blunder when he fell during the floor exercise of the preliminary round. He was conscious not to commit any more mistakes. Unfortunately, he fell again during the parallel bars

Though upset, the gymnast remained hopeful. He said: "I pray that I could get into the finals till the

And when he found out he did not get past the qualification rounds, his first thought was that he wanted to go home.

He was ranked 19th with a score of 81.00, a mere 0.05 below Amr Ahmed from Egypt. Only the best 18 gymnasts will proceed to the Individual All-Around

Missing the qualifications for the finals by just one position must have been heart wrenching for Oliver. But throughout the interview, his positive outlook was apparent. And that cheerful demeanour proved

him a winner in his own right. Oliver took up gymnastics when he was seven because his brother started doing it and it seemed "fun". He quipped: "The way it looks like, it's like you're flying in the air!"

As the winner of two silver medals in the European Gymnastics Championships (Juniors) earlier this year, he is naturally disappointed about his performance in the Games. But he took it the right way, with an optimistic attitude to boot.

"I'm just trying to do it better. I'd train harder and work on my concentration, strength and my emotions. Just never give up."



PHOTO: NG JUN SEN

Apostolos Koustavas GYMNASTICS, GREECE

reek gymnast, Apostolos Koutavas, 16, who specialises In trampoline, came close to holding a medal. But he only managed to secure a fourth placing in the trampoline event.

"Getting the fourth placing in the first Youth Olympic Games is something really a great achievement for me. Of course, I'm a little disappointed since I've come so close to getting a medal," said Apostolos.
In the second routine of the

qualifying round, Apostolos had a mishap that caused him to slip from the rankings.

Undeterred, he continue giving his best efforts till the end of the competition.

When quizzed about his feelings after the slip, Apostolos shared: "I personally did not think I could go qualify for the finals. But when I had the chance to go to the finals, I wanted to do the best I can."

Despite being the youngest participant in his category at the Youth Olympic Games 2010, he sees this challenge as a motivation for him to do

He will be participating in the Junior European Championships next year at Birmingham, which is also the qualifying competition for the London Olympic Games 2012.

Again, he will be the youngest participant in the trampoline event at the age of 17.

Apostolos is honoured to be the first torch-bearer in the first Youth Olympic Games, and is happy that the experience at the Games has given him the opportunity to mingle with other athletes from around the world.

4X100m medley relay SWIMMING, CHINA

¬he Chinese girls relay team, made up of Bai Anqi, Liu Lan (pictured at right), Tang Yi and Wang Chang, was also disappointed after being disqualified from their 4 x 100m medley relay

Liu Lan, who made a false start in the third leg of the medley event, blamed herself for the disqualification. But her teammates and her coach

encouraged her to learn from the mistake.

"I'm thankful for them. My coach said that all athletes make mistakes, and it so happened that my mistake was during this event."

The 17-year-old also urged other athletes to press on.

She said: "Work hard. As long as you are determined, you will have your chance to shine."



PHOTO: SPH-SYOGOC/JOSEPH NAIR

"My coach said that all athletes make mistakes, and it so happened that my mistake was during this event."

Liu Lan (pictured left) who made a false start during the medley event.



ABOVE: In a trust-building exercise, USA's Kaitlyn Jones falls onto a canvas sheet held by athletes from USA, Finland and the Cayman Islands. BELOW: Oriol Cunat Rodriguez from Germany overcomes his initial trepidation to scale the inverse tower.



ABOVE: Pierre Keune (left) and Dylan Bosch from the South African 4x100m freestyle relay team tying plastic tubes together to form a sturdy frame for their team's raft.

BOTTOM: Athletes from Costa Rica, Guatemala and Kiribati raise their oars in success after paddling their makeshift raft back to shore.



