

Young Olympian Daily

2010

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TWEET OF THE DAY

Korea beats Italy in Men's Sabre match by 15-8. The crowd is cheering excitedly!

@junjielai

Lai Jun Jie, Student Reporter



Young Olympian Daily

The official
2010 Youth Olympic Village
newspaper



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Information,
NTU



China's Ma Mingxiu (left), Korea's Kim Heesun (centre) and Singapore's Wong Wan Qi Clara (right) crash at a turn during the cycling leg of the Women's Triathlon held at East Coast Park.

PHOTO: SPH-SYOGOC

CRASHED, BUT NOT BURNT

BY DARREN TAN

She was on course for her personal best in the women's triathlon final. But in a cruel twist of fate, Singapore's representative Clara Wong ended up being last in the race.

During the cycling leg, Cristina Luizzet Betancourt de Leon of Puerto Rico slipped on the wet road and fell. South Korean Kim Heesun, who was following closely, crashed into her and Clara could not avoid the chain collision. She said: "It was beyond my control."

The 17-year-old's hopes of a personal best were high after finishing third in the under-19 category of the Hangzhou International Triathlon

Union Premium Asian Cup two months ago. Her aim for Games was a timing of under 1:06:46 hours.

The crash resulted in Heesun being sent to hospital and Cristina unable to finish the race.

"It was unfortunate but inevitable," said spectator Lin Zhiyun, 23. "Crashes do happen. The course was very technical, the turns were sharp and conditions wet."

This was not the end of Clara's ordeal.

After she recovered, she realised that the crash had caused both her tyres to be flat. This meant that she had to exert more strength to cover the same distance. While making a right turn, she fell again.

"That was when I think I lost the chance of a personal best," she said.

However, the gutsy girl, who took up triathlon because it posed a greater challenge than swimming, never gave up. She continued cycling for 3.3km to a wheel station, but another roadblock was in store.

As neutral wheels did not fit, she spent five minutes replacing her wheels by herself, as the rules require.

"It was frustrating. I was telling myself to just finish the race. Good thing the organisers did not disqualify me."

But she bears no grudges about the accident that resulted in her dismal placing, calling crashing "part and

parcel of cycling and triathlon".

"I'm just relieved that the race I've been training for is over, but disappointed that I did not achieve what I expected," she says.

The crowd, however, thought differently. As she headed for the finish line, the local spectators reserved the loudest cheers of the day for her.

Said student Wilson Li, 24: "It was her ability to pick herself up time and again, and the fulfillment of the Olympic value of excellence in adverse circumstances that made her a winner in my eyes."

Despite all that has happened, Clara still hopes to qualify for the mixed relay on Thursday.

COLUMN

A tender touché to the heart



BY LAI JUNJIE

Do you remember how it felt when you first fell in love? The rest of the world disappears, an irrepressible smile adorns the face, the feet spring to life. It is a feeling of

uneasiness, and yet, of incomparable euphoria.

That is exactly how I feel every time I step onto a fencing piste.

The fencing events of the YOG have begun, and I can only watch wistfully. But I trust there will be many eager eyes,

besides my own, watching the youths engage each other and their own humanity.

It has been 10 years since I first meekly shuffled into place among many others at my school's fencing club. Even now, that bespectacled little boy is still very much in love with that feeling of flying down a fencing piste.

Fencing is, perhaps, the most intimate way to understand another human being. A fencing bout reveals a plethora of wonderful intricacies about another through the many instinctive and subtle movements.

A tentative feint is like a question, a fast parry is a sharp retort, the riposte is an




argument demanding an answer. Fencing is all about communication, breaking down the barriers between the human body, as a passive medium, and our minds, as sentient beings.

Just as dancing is communication through the body, fencing bouts are intimate conversations between two fencers. For just that moment in time, you truly understand your opponent as a fellow human being.

When you have engaged another both physically and mentally on the fencing piste, one can truly comprehend the human condition.

So, as all referees say at the beginning of a bout, "En garde, Prêt, Allez!"

MEDALS WON TODAY

COUNTRY	  			TOTAL
	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	
RUSSIAN FEDERATION	2	2	1	5
CHINA	3	1	0	4
UNITED STATES	1	0	2	3
AZERBAIJAN	2	0	0	2
ITALY	1	1	0	2
KAZAKHSTAN	1	0	1	2
KYGRYZSTAN	1	0	1	2
AUSTRALIA	0	2	0	2
UKRAINE	0	2	0	2
IRAN	0	1	1	2
TURKEY	0	1	1	2
UZBEKISTAN	0	1	1	2
VENEZUELA	0	0	2	2
ISRAEL	1	0	0	1
JAPAN	1	0	0	1
KOREA	1	0	0	1
VIETNAM	1	0	0	1
CUBA	0	1	0	1
EGYPT	0	1	0	1
SOUTH AFRICA	0	1	0	1
THAILAND	0	1	0	1
ARGENTINA	0	0	1	1
ARMENIA	0	0	1	1
CZECH REPUBLIC	0	0	1	1
FRANCE	0	0	1	1
GERMANY	0	0	1	1
HUNGARY	0	0	1	1
TAJIKISTAN	0	0	1	1

“I made it. I knew this would be the first contest in the Youth Olympic Games which really got me motivated to go for gold.”

– Yuka Sato, 18, gold medallist, Women’s Triathlon

CORRECTION

In “Let the Games Begin” (15th August 2010), one of the eight athletes carrying the Olympic flags was named as Frankie Frederiks. It should have been Frankie Fredericks. We apologise for the error.

YOVoice Shout-outs and dedications



To all the athletes competing, best of luck and hope you all are living the dream like all the Aussies are.

Grant Gwynne, Steeple Chase, Australia



Do your best, go all out. Show everyone how hard you been working. Good luck! (=

Karlene Theodora, Swimming, Netherlands Antilles



他們都很厲害！在台灣的家人和朋友請再幫我加油！！

Chen Ting, Swimming, Taipei



Germany is the best team!!!

Florian Wager, Table Tennis, Germany



Never give up!

Simone Scherer, Trampoline, Switzerland



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NEWS OF THE WORLD



NOT YOUR TYPICAL BASKETBALL GAME

BY SHARIFAH FADHILAH

Five minutes per half, four teams, three players in each and two basketball games on one court. This was not your typical basketball game.

The 3-on-3 basketball matches were off to a shaky start yesterday with most teams and spectators unsure of the rules.

Spectators observed the ten-second shot clock rule had caught the players off guard. This was confirmed by Angelo Chol from the USA Boys team who said ten-seconds was too short.

To the dismay of spectators as well as Angelo from the USA Boys team, his legendary dunk – with 4.39s left on the clock – was disallowed, as dunking is not allowed in FIBA 33.

The preliminaries yesterday marked the start of the Basketball Tournament. FIBA 33, or street basketball as it is affectionately known, features a total of six instead of ten players on half court.

In addition, during the first Girls’ match, both Canada and Vanuatu were confused over the change in possession. When the ball is intercepted, the team must move the ball behind the three-point arc, make a pass to a teammate before they can shoot.

The rule surprised many other players including Burak Can Yildizli of the Turkish Boys team who lost the ball to the USA team when he went for a spectacular three-pointer.

Spectators were also taken aback by the new format. About refereeing whistles from two concurrent matches, Mr Ken from the USA said: “It’s confusing me. But they (the players) seem to be doing fine.”

Prior to the tournament, Alanna Lim from the Singapore Girls’ team was sure her team would be focused on their game.

“We won’t let anything distract us.”

Despite the initial uncertainties and absence



Kanoute M'bamakan (left) of Mali attempts a shot in a girls' preliminary basketball match of the Singapore 2010 Youth Olympic Games (YOG) at the *scape Youth Space in Singapore, Aug 15, 2010. Czech Republic beat Mali 33-8.

PHOTO: SPH-SYOGOC / AHMAD ISKANDAR

of the ever exciting dunks, many described the new format as fast-paced and felt the teams put on a nail-biting performance. For instance, the Girls Team from Italy had eight points in the basket one minute

into the first half.

Moreover, most of the boys’ matches were close fights, with the first match between Greece and New Zealand going into over time as they were tied at 17 points.

BRIEFS

Diver Tom Daley injured



Britain’s star diver Tom Daley suffered a “slight tear” in his tricep, said British Olympic Association chairman Colin Moynihan. Tom pulled out of European Championships competitions yesterday but it is still unsure if he will pull out of the YOG.

First medals of the Games awarded

Japan’s Yuka Sato created history by winning the first ever gold medal of the YOG in the Women’s Triathletes Finals. She dashed to the finish line ahead of 63 other competitors, clocking in a time of 1hr 49.69s. Triathletes had to swim 750m, cycle 20km and run 5km.

Singapore weightlifter withdraws

Singaporean weightlifter Joel Law has had to withdraw due to injuries. He is suffering from a hairline crack on his rib and was declared medically unfit to compete in the YOG.

Surprise fencing upset

Korean sabre fencer Song Jong Hun defeated Italy’s Affede Leonardo 15-8 in the Boys’ Sabre finals last night. The Italians have traditionally been the world powerhouse in fencing, so yesterday’s win comes as a pleasant surprise for the Asian fencing scene.

“It’s strange at first, but a nice experience. It is weird to see a guy next to you swimming and competing.”

-Brazil’s Alessandra Marchioro, 17, of the new 4 x 100 mixed freestyle relay yesterday

T-30 MINUTES TO...

AN 18 SECOND K.O.!

Curious to learn about a new sport, photojournalist Lam Yarn was at the International Convention Centre bright and early to catch some one-on-one Greco-Roman wrestling action!



10.18am

Spectators stream in to the stands, waving the flags of competing nations enthusiastically. Dance music is blaring.

10.29am

An announcer calls for officials to take their places. Anticipation is building.

10.31am

The first wrestlers enter the arena. It must be a nerve-wrecking time for them.

11.13am

Solomon Islands’ Teia Mweia and Lucas Sheridan from the United States acknowledge each other on the mat.

11.14am

Sheridan throws Mweia down. The umpire drops to his knees and counts the points. Sheridan proves too strong! It is all over for Mweia in 18 seconds. The crowd sits in awe of the briefness of the bout. The announcer calls for the next bout to start.

10.45am
Urmatek Amatov of Kyrgyzstan has Hungary’s Adrian Kranitz pinned in a neck-lock.

CHAT WITH A CHAMPION



At home at the Youth Olympic Village.

PHOTO: WANG SIMIN

C. Kunalan
Track & Field
Singapore



In action at the 1964 Olympic Games.

PHOTO: INTERNET

Deputy Mayor of the Youth Olympic Village, Mr Canagasabai Kunalan, affectionately known as C. Kunalan, is no stranger to the Olympics. He represented the nation at the 1964 and 1968 Summer Olympic Games.

20

The age at which he first took up running.
His first love was soccer.

10.38

His 10.38-second national record for 100m was clocked at the Mexico Olympic Games in 1968.

33

Number of years his 100m record stood as the national record.

“It was advice from a champion to an unknown that was most memorable. This reflects the friendship aspect of the Olympic values.”

– Mr Kunalan on how Bahaman runner Tom Robinson approached him to offer advice on his technique at the 1968 Mexico Games.

PROFILE

MEENAPRA JIRAPONG

ATHLETICS

THAILAND

ASIA'S FASTEST BOY RACES TOWARDS HIS GOLD

‘Asia’s fastest boy’ wants to push his limits, break his Asian Area Qualifiers record and learn from his heroes. Photo by Lam Yarn



“Usually athletes will be nervous before the race, but at competitions he’s always so happy and relaxed.”

– Meenapra on his idol Usain Bolt

BY CANDICE NEO

The Champion at the Youth Olympic Games (YOG) Asian Area Qualifiers for the Boys’ 100 metre Dash has been nicknamed ‘Asia’s fastest boy’ by international media.

“I hope to get into the finals of the 100 metre dash,” says Meenapra Jirapong, 17, in fluent Thai. With his skill and speed, which he started honing since he was 13, his supporters and competitors all hold high expectations for another outstanding performance.

However, his focus is not only on the Boys’ 100 metre dash. He mentioned that the medley relay, which he is not competing in at the Games, is an event that he wants to improve in.

As an athlete who constantly strives to challenge his own record, Meenapra says that he does not strive to perform better than anyone else, but only that he wants to run better than he did at the Asian Area Qualifiers. He hopes to improve his skill at the YOG, from all the intense competition.

When quizzed about his closest competitor, Masaki Nashimoto from Japan, whom he defeated at the Asian Area Qualifiers, Meenapra good-humouredly says that they are good friends, and adds that there is only friendly competition between them.

Masaki Nashimoto was the runner-up at the Asian Area Qualifiers, and champion at the Asian Youth Games 2009, where Meenapra nabbed a Silver despite suffering from a leg injury.

Meenapra also shared about the people he looks up to, namely Thai runner Sittichai Suwonprateep and fastest man on Earth Usain Bolt.

The former represented Thailand for the 4x100 metre relay at the Beijing Summer Olympics, and is a Southeast Asian Games champion. Meenapra admits that he enjoys running because of his wish to learn from his idol Suwonprateep.

The talented sprinter is also enthusiastic about his respect for Usain Bolt, the famed Jamaican sprinter who holds World and Olympic records. “I like his style – it’s so different from the other athletes,” Meenapra chirped in rapid Thai. “Usually athletes will be nervous before the race, but at competitions he’s always so happy and relaxed.” He adds that this is an art that he wants to learn from Bolt.

When asked which young athlete he wants to meet the most, he shyly says: “Ye Jiabei, from China.” Ye Jiabei was the champion for the Girls’ 100m Dash at the Asian Area Qualifiers.

It is unfortunate that Ye Jiabei is not coming to Singapore for the YOG. She is missing out on an opportunity to meet one of the best young sprinters from Asia.

TEAM PROFILE WRESTLING, GUAM



The Guam NOC: (from left) Wrestling coach Luis Ting, wrestler Arianna Eustaquio, Chef De Mission Maria Dunn, wrestler Christopher Aguon, runner Michael Gaitan and NOC secretary Kelly D Blas. PHOTO: TAN YAN XI

Breaking the wrestling mould

BY TAN YAN XI

Wrestlers have often been stereotyped as big sweaty men, but Arianna Eustaquio is here to change that.

Though only 16, she comes across as genuine and mature, looking at people straight in the eyes when talking to them. Though she picked up the sport just 10 months ago, she has already won a gold medal in the Oceania and South Pacific Wrestling Championships earlier this year. Arianna is representing Guam in the Women’s Freestyle 52kg wrestling event.

She believes that there is no easy way to gain experience, and aims to take part in

the 2016 Olympics because she will have gained more exposure after college.

But when talking about her wrestling idol, Maria Dunn, one is reminded of her age as she cheekily confesses that she is very excited that Dunn is also Chef de Mission of the Guam National Olympic Council (NOC).

Another wrestler Guam has fielded is Christopher Aguon, who will be competing in the Men’s Freestyle Wrestling 76kg event. Having topped the Youth Olympic Qualifiers for the Oceania category, Christopher is a force to be reckoned with. While Mongolia is a strong competitor, he looks forward to the match

with USA the most.

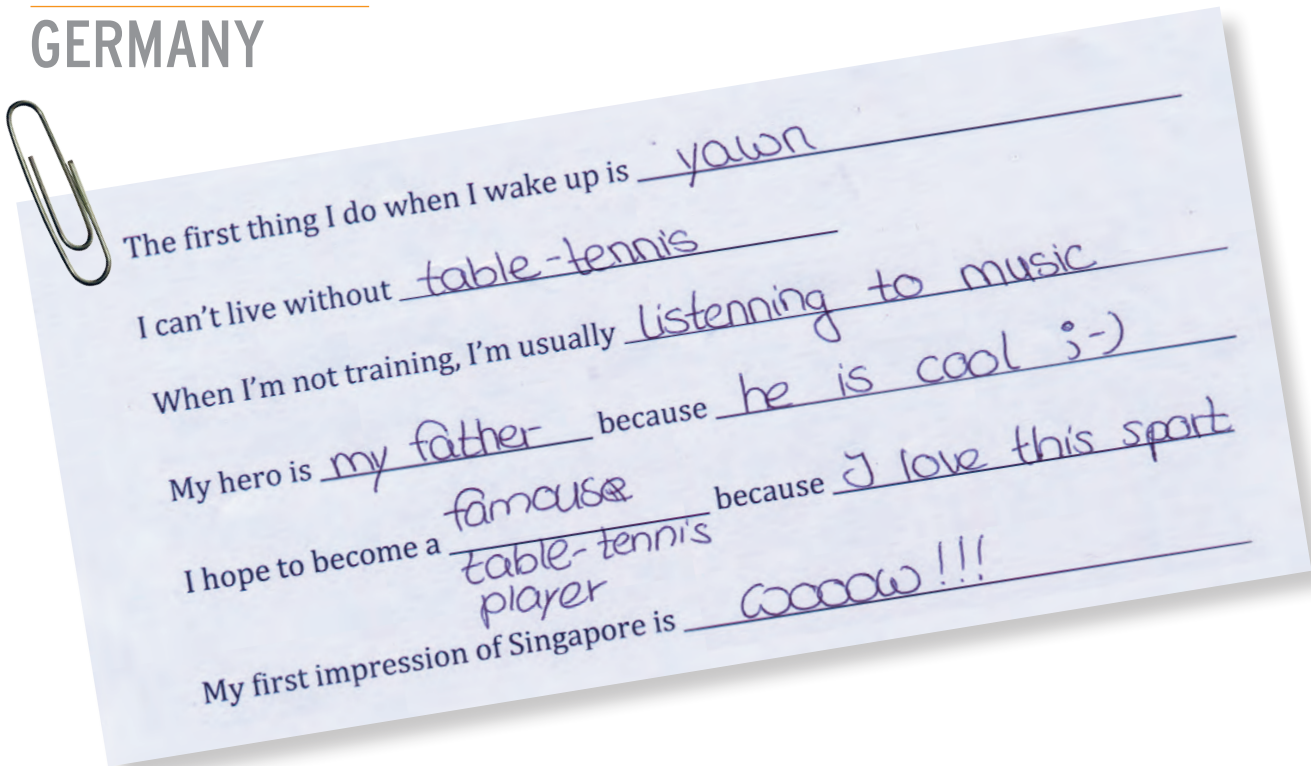
Christopher took up wrestling two years ago and has never looked back. Besides having the potential to bring back a gold medal for Guam, Christopher was also the flag bearer for the Guam NOC. He is well-prepared for his first match on August 17 and has promised to put on a “good fight” for his country.

Luis Ting, the coach of the Guam wrestling team is a jovial man in a tough sport. He does not believe in comparing with other countries; instead he describes the YOG as a psychological battle.

“The worst opponent [for the Guam athletes] is themselves. It will be hard to win a game with self-doubts.”

ATHLETE DNA

PETRISSA SOLJA
TABLE TENNIS
GERMANY



MAKING FRIENDS WITH THE WORLD

BY MELISSA LIN

The barefoot Jamaican athletes kicked the soccer ball around, their slippers abandoned by the roadside. A few metres away, several Spaniards huddled together to take a group photo with their new Singaporean friends.

Across the field, a group of Ethiopians practiced their dart-throwing skills at the Montenegro booth. At every turn, athletes from all round the world can be spotted in the heart of the Youth Olympic Village Square – the World Culture Village.

As pop music blared from the loudspeakers, athletes visited the different booths that exhibited information about a country and played games. However, it was not all fun and games. Puerto Rican sailor Alejandro Monllor, 16, who was at the Germany booth with his trainer, explained: “Each game teaches you a thing about the country. It helps us learn about the different cultures.”

The World Cultural Village was officially opened by Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Home Affairs, Masagos Zulkiflion August 15.



Ethiopian athletes try their hand at playing darts at one of the World Cultural Village booths. PHOTO: EUNICE CHAN

Said Mr Masagos of the booths: “They provide a platform for athletes and local students to make friends and deepen their understanding of different cultures.”

Ahmadsei Ibrahim, 17, was one of the athletes who took the opportunity to expand his network of friends.

The German taekwondo athlete, who was at the Poland booth with a teammate, said: “I made friends from all over the world, such as USA, Iran, Turkey.”

Each booth was manned by Singaporean students from the country’s twinning school. This

meant that the students manning the booths were of similar ages as the athletes visiting them.

It was thus no surprise that as the day in the World Culture Village came to an end, some local students were spotted chatting together with foreign athletes.

A few of them even engaged in a friendly game of basketball next to the empty booths.

When asked about the one thing they will remember about the World Culture Village once YOG ends, Spain athlete Anna Marti, 16, said: “We’ll definitely remember our kind Singapore friends.”

“I made friends from all over the world, such as USA, Iran, Turkey.”

-Ahmadsei Ibrahim, 17, Taekwondo athlete from Germany

Let's eat!

BY BENEDICT YEO

Fourteen days. 3,600 hungry athletes. 22,000 meals.

Even Jamie Oliver would quake in his boots.

The planning that went into feeding this army of appetites—including Village officials and volunteers — began a year ago.

Head of Food and Beverage, Kenneth Francisco, revealed that the team consulted two nutritionists and eight caterers during planning. Sixteen different menus were considered before the buffet line-up was finalised.

Approximately 60 dishes will line the buffet table at each meal, showing why Singapore is dubbed a “food paradise”.

So what does “Olympic food” look and taste like? Athletes from different sports require different meal types, depending on whether they need to bulk up, sustain their energy or stay lean. But in general, all items contain less than 30% fat, with optimum levels of

protein and carbohydrate.

If this sounds bland, think again. Mouth-watering hungarian goulash, African *piri-piri* fish and Singaporean *rojak* beckon from the buffet.

For religious concerns, special arrangements have been made to provide kosher food for Jews as well as pre-dawn meals for the Muslim athletes and officials who are fasting during this Ramadan month. Ramadan, during which Muslims abstain from all food and water from dawn to dusk, coincides with the Games this year.

Because of this, the dining hall will be open from 4am in the morning for breakfast.

Then there is the Sandwich Box Meal, available for athletes and officials who will not be in the Village during meal times, due to competition schedules.

So the next time you pile up your plate, spare a thought for the cooks and servers who run the kitchen almost 24 hours a day.



Athletes getting a taste of the international buffet offered at the dining hall. PHOTO: CHLOE TANG

Special food for special people

Halal Food

WHO EATS IT?
Muslims.

WHAT IS IT?
Certain types of food, such as pork or blood, are considered “unclean”, and are strictly forbidden.

HOW IS IT PREPARED?
Animals must be slaughtered with a prayer and in accordance to Islamic requirements.



Army Rations

WHO EATS IT?
Army personnel.

WHAT IS IT?
Food that is given to the army when they are out in the field.

HOW IS IT PREPARED?
Usually vacuum-packed, so that they can be opened and eaten right from the pack.



Space Food

WHO EATS IT?
Astronauts.

WHAT IS IT?
“Freeze dried” food that is rehydrated before consumption.

HOW IS IT PREPARED?
Vegetables are chopped, sauces stewed and meat cooked just like any meal before they are “scientifically” prepared.



TRADING PINS, COLLECTING FRIENDSHIPS

One-of-a-kind pins are an unusual ice-breaker for meeting people from all over the world in the Youth Olympic Village. Photos by Clara Lock



'Bud the pin man' trading some of his 30,000 pins in the Youth Olympic Village.

BY CLARA LOCK

At the Central American and Caribbean Games four weeks ago, Mr Simon Orella gave a brand new basketball to a young female player in exchange for a rare pin.

As the basketball was worth USD60, the girl might have thought she had the better end of the deal, said Mr Orella, who hails from Venezuela.

"But I did it because I wanted to. She's a basketball player, so she deserved the ball," said the 41-year-old avid pin collector.

Such is the spirit of friendship and camaraderie that characterises pin trading.

It is a permanent fixture at every Olympic Games, where athletes often trade pins from their home country with newfound friends.

But serious pin collectors like Mr Orella take the hobby to a whole new level.

The sports physiotherapist, who started collecting pins during his college days, is so devoted to his hobby that he eventually wants to be buried with his pins.

"When I get to the other side, maybe I can trade pins with God," he said with a chuckle.

While Mr Orella trades as he interacts with athletes and coaches during mealtimes, other enthusiasts can be found at the pin-trading centre. Located next to the merchandise store at the Youth Olympic Village, the centre is a bustling hub of trade, chatter and activity.

Managing the pin-trading centre is Mr Bud Kling, himself an enthusiast with over 30,000 pins to his name. The American has brought 1,500 spare pins to the Youth Olympic Games to trade.

The outgoing 59-year-old was spotted by this reporter patiently explaining the significance behind a Poland pin to a young Guatemalan athlete. "Pins are a great tool for social networking," said Mr Kling, who enjoys travelling and meeting new people.

"When I get to the other side, maybe I can trade pins with God."

– Mr Simon Orella, avid pin collector

The tennis coach and President of Sports Consultants International embarked on his hobby 26 years ago while working as a television interview coordinator at a basketball venue. He became intrigued when he saw some people trading pins there.

"After my shift I ran out to three stores and bought as many pins as I could. I've been trading ever since," said Mr Kling, affectionately known as 'Bud the pin man'.

Olympic fan Mr Larry Grulichnch is another pin collector present at these Games. The 48-year-old American has been at his hobby for 20 years, and collects only Olympic-related pins.

He recalls a touching experience in Vancouver, Canada, when a woman got emotional over a pin she saw, as it reminded her of her late father.

Said Mr Grulichnch: "It's a small moment in time, but it's a good moment in time."



Mr Orella, sporting a vest full of memories.

THE GUTSY TROOPER

Having the lowest ranking amongst her competitors did not stop Singaporean Stefanie Tan from fighting with tenacity and spirit in her first match of the Games

BY CLARA CHAN

Pretty, with infectious laughter and a vivacious personality, 17-year-old Stefanie Tan hardly comes across as an ardent tennis player, much less the one who went against all odds to become the sole representative of Singapore for tennis in the YOG.

With an International Tennis Federation junior world ranking of 177th, she did not meet the criteria to participate in the Games.

Spurred by her strong desire to represent the nation and her burning passion for the sport, Stefanie made numerous sacrifices to boost her rankings. She took a year off school, a move almost unimaginable in the academically-obsessed Singapore, to travel the globe and participate in various tournaments — all in a bid to gain valuable ranking points.

Despite rising in ranking by more than 60 rungs, she was still unable to break into the top 150. Her only hope was to appeal to the International Olympic Committee, who eventually granted her a host nation spot.

And after all that she had been through, Stefanie was unfazed by the momentous task she had of performing in the YOG.

“I don’t think it will help to think of all its significance and stuff. I just have to play a good match rather than think about all the things happening,” she said.

True to her word, Stefanie was focused and determined in her first YOG Tennis Girls’ Singles match yesterday. Up against Russian Daria Gavrilova, ranked 16th in the International Tennis Federation Junior Rankings, Stefanie gave it her all.

In the first set, Stefanie fought her way up from 5-0 down to win two games.

The second set saw a slight improvement. With a game to go to Daria’s victory, Stefanie pressed on to win another two games before the Russian finally overpowered her with a final score of 6-2, 6-3.

While she acknowledged she could have played better, the loss did not affect Stefanie’s passion for the sport.

She said matter-of-factly: “No matter what I’ll still be playing tennis. It’s just whether I’ll compete professionally or just play tennis in school.”

And she is far from the end of her YOG journey. On her thoughts about the overall experience, she said immediately with a smile: “Not yet, I still have doubles.”



PHOTO: IVAN TAN