

## Young Olympian Daily

2010

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THU  
19  
AUG  
2010

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to clinch medals*

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*I love the Village so much!  
Cause the Village is where  
everything comes together. :)*

@chanrara

Clara Chan, Student Reporter



# Young Olympian Daily

The official Singapore  
2010 Youth Olympic Village  
newspaper



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



## GALLOP, TROT, TRIP AND TUMBLE

*Most riders at the Singapore Turf Club  
yesterday were still getting used to their horses*

BY CANDICE NEO

Equestrians struggled to keep their mounts under rein yesterday at the Jumping Round One team event. Many competitors also incurred penalties as their horses knocked down the fences during the jump.

Kazakhstan's Timur Patarov, 17, even fell off after his horse, Chatham Park Rosie, tripped over a fence. He was disqualified as a result.

There were 12 fences that each pair had to jump over. Knocking down one fence earned the rider a penalty of four points.

For the first time in Olympic history, riders competed on assigned horses as the Games' Organising Committee felt that this would make the competition as fair as possible. Their horses were determined in a draw on August 14.

Athletes had just over three days to train with the Australian thoroughbreds, and many were still trying to keep them under control during the competition.

"It was a rather difficult horse," said 17-year-old Nicola Philippaerts from Belgium. He chalked up a four-point penalty while riding on Gippisland Girl.

For others like Panamanian athlete Alejandra Ortiz, 17, the lack of chemistry between rider and steed was to be expected, given the short practice time.

"I think it was very good," she said, adding that this could be one

of her best performances. Alejandra received a total penalty of 8 points.

Two competitors also had to compete with horses that had been changed just 24 hours before the competition. Chilean Alberto Schwalm's previous mount, Teddy Waffles, was injured while Italian Valentina Isoardi's Noblewood Cinzano was too strong for her to handle.

During the timed competition, equestrians had to guide their horses over obstacles of up to 1.2 metres in height.

As jumps were attempted, the audience as though in unison, held their breaths. Unsuccessful jumps were met with groans of disappointment while triumphs received cheers and shouts of encouragement.

But the home crowd reserved their biggest cheers for local athlete, 18-year-old Caroline Chew. As she rode Gatineau into the arena, the stands erupted with support.

While the Asian team is eight points out of medal contention, Chew believes that the competition is still wide open. "It will be a true test of all the horses' fitness as the competition wears on."

Europe, Australasia and Africa are currently tied in the lead with four penalties.

The equestrians will have another practice session today before the second round of the team event on Friday. Individual competition begins next week.



ABOVE: Marcelo Chirico of Uruguay heaves a sigh of relief after completing his jumping routine without incurring any penalties. In the stands, the South American officials cheer wildly. PHOTO: LAM YARN

LEFT: Patarov Timur of Kazakhstan falling off Chatham Park Rosie when attempting a jump.

PHOTO: XINHUA/SYOGOC-POOL/ DUAN ZHUOLI

**"It will be a true test of all  
the horses' fitness as the  
competition wears on."**

– Caroline Chew, Singaporean Equestrian



COLUMN

Remaking the Olympic spirit



BY BHAVAN JAIPRAGAS

It is hard to put a finger on what the true Olympic spirit is. For many, modern Olympics founder Pierre De Coubertin’s famous French saying underlines its essence: “L’important n’est pas de gagner, mais de participer” (The important thing is not to win, but to take part).

For some, the true Olympic spirit is found away from the podium and the medal winners. Instead, they look to athletes who showcase a great amount of selflessness and compassion for fellow athletes as shining examples.

One such athlete immortalised in Games folklore is the late Italian bobsledder Eugenio Monti, dubbed “The Flying Redhead” for his successes on the Alpine slopes. In the 1964 Winter Olympics, Monti famously lent British bobsledders a bolt from his sled after they broke theirs. The British team went on to clinch the gold medal while Monti’s team finished with a bronze.

When criticised for his act, Monti said: “Nash didn’t win because I gave him the bolt. He won because he had the fastest run”.

For his act of selflessness, Monti was awarded the first ever Pierre de Coubertin medal, a medal created to honour athletes who demonstrate the spirit of sportsmanship in Olympic events.

For our young athletes who have converged here in Singapore, there is no better time than now to walk in the footsteps of such Olympic heroes. Never mind his act of sacrifice, Young Olympians can start with small gestures. They all mean the same thing when done with the right intentions.

A pat on the back of a deserved champion, an offer of consolation to a defeated athlete, befriending an athlete from a country at war with yours — these potentially can leave an eternal legacy in the same way Monti and his team have.

Perhaps, searching for a perfect Olympian who embodies the true spirit of the Olympic Movement might be a futile effort. Nonetheless, with a YOG that has departed from the ‘Citius, Altius, Fortius’ (Faster, Higher, Stronger) obsession of the senior Games, we might be in luck of witnessing special and touching moments in the days to come.

NEWS IN NUMBERS

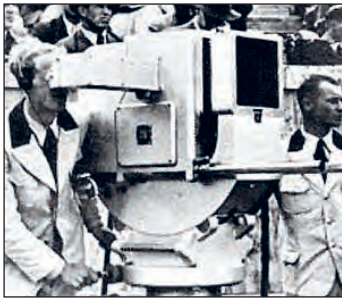


PHOTO: INTERNET

4

The number of times the United States has hosted the Summer Olympic Games. No other country has hosted more Summer Olympic Games.

80

The maximum number of seconds a national anthem can be played at the Games, according to Olympic rules. This has caused some countries to create a shortened version of their national anthem.

1928

The idea of an Olympic flame burning from the start of the Games to the closing was first introduced at the 1928 Amsterdam Games.

1936

(Above) The Berlin Games in 1936 was the first Games to be televised.

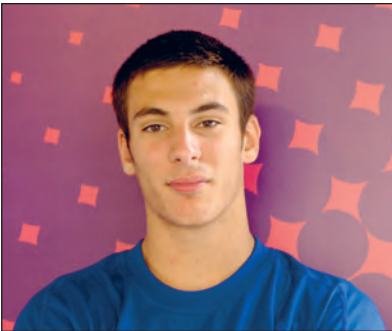
YOVoice Shout-outs and dedications



TO TEAM USA

Keep competing hard! We wish all the best to everyone... Go USA Volleyball!

Tiffany Morales and Crystal Graff, Volleyball, USA



TO CECILE WOLLER (DENMARK)

I support you and I wish you good luck to win a medal in the competition.

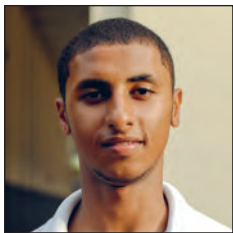
Hugo Descat, Handball, France



TO AMERICAN SAMOA

I ♥ Singapore. TEAM WORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK!

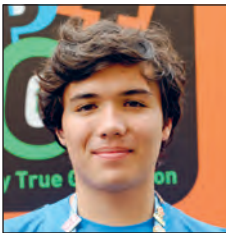
Manu Sualevai, Wrestling, American Samoa



TO ALL ATHLETES

Everyone has a talent, once you find it, go for it!

Sultan Al Tooqi, Equestrian, Oman



TO COSTA RICA

Give your best and make Singapore remember Costa Rica!

Julian Godoy, Fencing, Costa Rica

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PHOTOS: GELLE SIA



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FACTS OF THE WORLD

**USA**

Volleyball was invented by William George Morgan of Holyoke, Massachusetts in 1895.

**GREECE**

Ilias Iliadis won Greece’s first-ever gold medal in judo.

**RUSSIA**

The record for the most Olympic medals ever won is held by gymnast Larissa Latynina. She competed in three Games, between 1956 and 1964, and won 18 medals.

**JAPAN**

A sport similar to football (also known as soccer in the United States and elsewhere) was played 3,000 years ago in Japan.

**BANGLADESH**

Bangladesh competed in the 1984 Summer Olympics for the first time ever.



# STORMY DAY FOR ROWERS

Multiple upsets define rowing finals at Marina Reservoir

BY CASSANDRA YEAP

Rain pelted down, turning the waters of Marina Reservoir dark grey and choppy. Just above, rowers’ fortunes were unfolding in a manner as capricious as the waves they stroked through.

Surprises were at every turn for yesterday’s rowing finals.

Lithuanian Rolandas Mascinskas produced the most major upset, upstaging two time junior world champion Felix Bach from Germany to claim the Junior Men’s Single Sculls gold. He maintained a strong lead from the start, finishing a good 2.41 seconds ahead of second-placed Felix to incredulous cheers from Lithuanian fans.

Head of Lithuania’s delegation Algirdas Raslanas said Rolandas was expected to win a medal due to his strong performance this season. However, he noted the challenge that Felix posed, saying it was “a very big fight”.

Said Rolandas at a press conference later: “It feels good because I am the champion.”

The Pairs contest was no less dramatic. The winners of the Junior Women’s and Junior Men’s Coxless Pair finals, Great Britain and Slovenia respectively, were both the fifth slowest teams to qualify in the semi-finals.

Great Britain’s Georgia Howard-



Athletes row in the rain at the Junior men’s pair final. PHOTO: XINHUA/SYOGOC-POOL/LIU JIE

Merrill, one of the pair that beat favourites Australia, said staying focused on their performance and not the other teams’ was key.

“Because the race is so short, if we had our eyes on another boat we would fall behind. So we had our eyes in the boat the whole way and had a really good start,” she said.

“We focused on performance not result. Results come if you have the performance so it worked out really well.”

The standard Olympic rowing distance of 2,000m has been halved for the Youth Olympic Games.

About the overcast conditions, Georgia said in amusement: “The weather was what England’s like every day, it’s standard.”

Even junior women world champion

Judith Sievers from Germany had a near scare in her Single Sculls race. The Ukrainian and French rowers pulled away from her for the majority of the race. The distance was only made up in the last stretch, with Ukrainian Nataliia Kovalova coming in a mere 0.42 seconds behind her.

The spirits of the raucous crowd at the finals could not be dampened by the wet weather. Opening umbrellas and donning ponchos, they cheered on their favourites.

Physical Education teacher Chia Taiyu, 29, said his favourite race was the Women’s Single Sculls because of the close finish.

His young charges from Kent Ridge Secondary School were just as enthusiastic, saying the Men’s Single Sculls was their pick for race of the day.

## BRIEFS

### Weightlifting heavyweight



PHOTO: SPH-SYOGOC/CHIA TI YAN

Winning the women’s over-63kg category yesterday was Russian Olga Zubova, one of the lightest weightlifters in the competition. She lifted a weight of 251kg, along with Thai weightlifter Chitchanok Pulsabsakul. The latter had to settle for silver as she is heavier. Competitors of the heaviest women’s category ranged from 69-119kg. Olga weighs 71kg.

### China’s golden touch

China now has seven swimming golds after winning two more golds yesterday. Tang Yi finished first in the women’s 200m freestyle category with a timing of 1:58.78. She was 2.21 seconds ahead of Boglarka Kapas from Hungary who finished second. Liu Lan won the women’s 50m fly with a timing of 26.97s, finishing just 0.09 seconds ahead of Elena di Liddos from Italy.

### Double win for South Korea

South Korea added two gold medals to their medal tally in the women - 63kg and the men - 73kg Taekwondo events yesterday. Yesterday was also the first day that both gold medals in the Taekwondo events went to one single country.

### Singapore’s first silver medal

18-year-old Rainer Ng won Singapore’s first swimming medal after finishing second in the Boys’ 50m backstroke final yesterday evening. His timing of 26.45s was slower than his qualifying time of 26.37s. This will be the host country’s third medal of the YOG.

### Second food-related incident

Last Sunday, 21 YOG volunteers were struck with diarrhoea and abdominal pains. After investigation, the National Environment Agency has confirmed that hygiene standards and procedures of the caterer to the venues are in order. The volunteers, who are based in East Coast Park and Singapore Indoor Stadium have since fully recovered.

## T-30 MINUTES TO...

# The sport of ladies and gentlemen

In search of real prancing horses, photojournalist Lam Yarn went to the Singapore Turf Club Riding School to catch the elegant riders of the equestrian team jumping event.



10.08am  
Noticed a row of boys in the stands with shaved heads! How curious!

8.57am  
Heading out from Kranji MRT Station. I’m early!

9.08am  
I am heading the wrong way! Making an about-turn towards the riding school in sweltering heat.

9.18am  
Lyo and Merly are at the entrance greeting

spectators! What if I pull Lyo’s tail? Just kidding.

9.28am  
The first rider, Mohamad Alanzarouti of Syria, rides Van Diemen into the arena. The bell rings for him to start and kicks off the jumping competition.

9.44am  
Switzerland’s Martin Fuchs

posts the first clean sheet of the competition! He breaks into a wide smile.

9.58am  
The crowds gasps as Kazakhstan’s Timur Patarov falls from his steed!

10.56am  
Last rider Marcelo Chirico of Uruguay also finishes his routine without penalties.





CHAT WITH A CHAMPION



Alexander Popov  
Swimming  
Russian Federation



Although afraid of water when young, Alexander Popov took on swimming competitively and went on to break records. He held the 50m freestyle world record for almost a decade until it was broken in 2008.

8

The age Popov began swimming at the Children and Youth Sports School of Fakel Sports Complex in Lesnoy.

21

The number of gold medals Popov won in the European Swimming Championships from 1991 to 2004.

2000

The year Popov set the long course men’s 50m freestyle world record with 21.64s.

“If you have a chance, you should use it and take it now. Don’t wait for the future, it might never happen.”  
– Alexander Popov on seizing opportunities

PHOTOS: INTERNET

PROFILE

JOSEPH ‘JOE’ WARD  
BOXING  
IRELAND

Middleweight boxer Joe Ward has been hailed by international media as the name to look out for in amateur boxing.

Hailing from Ireland, Joe says: “I would say Damien Hooper is the best opponent I have ever met, but I believe I am better.”

He is the reigning Middleweight World Youth Champion, after triumphing over Damien, and is looking for his third major title at the Games.

“I want to win all the time. I have beaten many competitors before, including those who are here in YOV, so I am pretty confident in winning the Gold medal,” he says.

The 16-year-old claims that being the only child, his boxing family was what influenced him to start training when he was eight.

“All along I knew I wanted to be a boxer and even when I retire, I want to be a professional boxing coach,” he says. Besides being committed to boxing, Ward also enjoys watching tennis and hockey.

He trains seven days a week and visits the gym twice a day. He also studies his opponents on his laptop, analysing their moves and taking note of their strengths and weaknesses.

His motivation is to make Ireland proud. “I gain respect from people around me. The benefits of being an athlete is so great and so I always encourage my friends to get into sports so as to stay out from trouble like drinking and drugs,” he says.



HOT CONTI

In May, both boxers competed at the International Boxing Association’s World Youth Championships in Singapore. Joe Ward defeated Damien 6-1 to clinch first place. They met again on August 21 when boxing preliminaries began.

BY YU SHASHA AND DAPHNE LIM

DAMIEN HOOPER  
BOXING  
AUSTRALIA



PHOTO: LAM YARN





PHOTO: IVAN TAN

# ENDERS

ternational Boxing  
hips, and Joe beat  
may face off once  
minaries start

Despite losing the title of World Youth Middleweight Champion to Joe Ward of Ireland, Damien Hooper has high respect for his competitor.

Touted as Australia’s rising star in boxing, 18-year-old Damien is a strong contender for the Men’s Middleweight (75 kg) category.

Prepared to put up a good fight, he is confident of his chances of winning a medal.

Growing up in Queensland, he was first introduced to the sport by his uncle and older cousin — both boxers. Damien attributes his success to a second chance offered to him.

“I was hanging around with some mischievous teenagers and met Chris, a policeman who took me under his wing.”

Chris Seng was a former national amateur boxing champion who now acts as Damien’s coach, role model and friend.

Within three years of competitive boxing, Damien managed secure several titles under his belt. He clinched the silver medal in the Middle Weight Category at the Youth World Championship 2010, the highest Australian achievement ever.

Beneath his cool demeanour, Damien displays a soft spot for his family through the tattoos on his body. Tattooed on his right arm and neck is a tribute to his grandmother and his aboriginal culture.

Through boxing, Damien hopes to be an inspiration to indigenous children in Australia. He believes it is important to give youths a chance to prove themselves and not give up on them.

Damien will be competing at the October 2010 Commonwealth Games in Delhi, and has also set his sights on the 2012 Olympic Games in London.

TEAM PROFILE FOOTBALL, HAITI



Undaunted by obstacles encountered, the Haiti football team is all set for YOG. PHOTO: LAI JUNJIE

## Of football and laughter

BY LAI JUNJIE

Enter into the presence of the Haiti Boys Football team and you will be greeted by the sound of boisterous laughter.

The boys are gathered around each other playing football on the video game consoles in the Youth Olympic Village. Occasional slaps on each other’s back punctuate the noisy atmosphere.

It is hard to believe that this very upbeat group comes from the nation which was hit by a 7.0 magnitude earthquake merely eight months ago.

The widespread devastation may have taken life as they knew it from the Haitian people, but it has not taken the one thing that

brings them happiness — football. It is through this very sport that the Haitians have managed to regain the smiles on their faces.

“Football is a part of the culture in Haiti,” said Jean Roosevelt Ducasse, 35, one of the assistant coaches. “Wherever you see people playing football in Haiti, everybody will be watching. Sometimes music accompanies the whole game using Haitian musical instruments.”

The Haitian Boys’ Football team have had a tough time even before their first match at the YOG. The team was formed only three months ago, and due to problems caused by the earthquake, it was difficult to organise them. It was with the help of the FIFA Goal Programme

that the national football academy in Port-au-Prince was upgraded, giving the boys a venue to train and eat together. The YOG will be the first official competition that the team will take part in.

“We want to show all the teams and other countries that Haiti plays football with good technical knowledge like the Brazil team,” Mr Ducasse declared. “We want to show what Haiti is.”

Besides enjoying the game, the boys simply want to play good football. Or as Mr Ducasse puts it: “We want to play very beautiful football.”

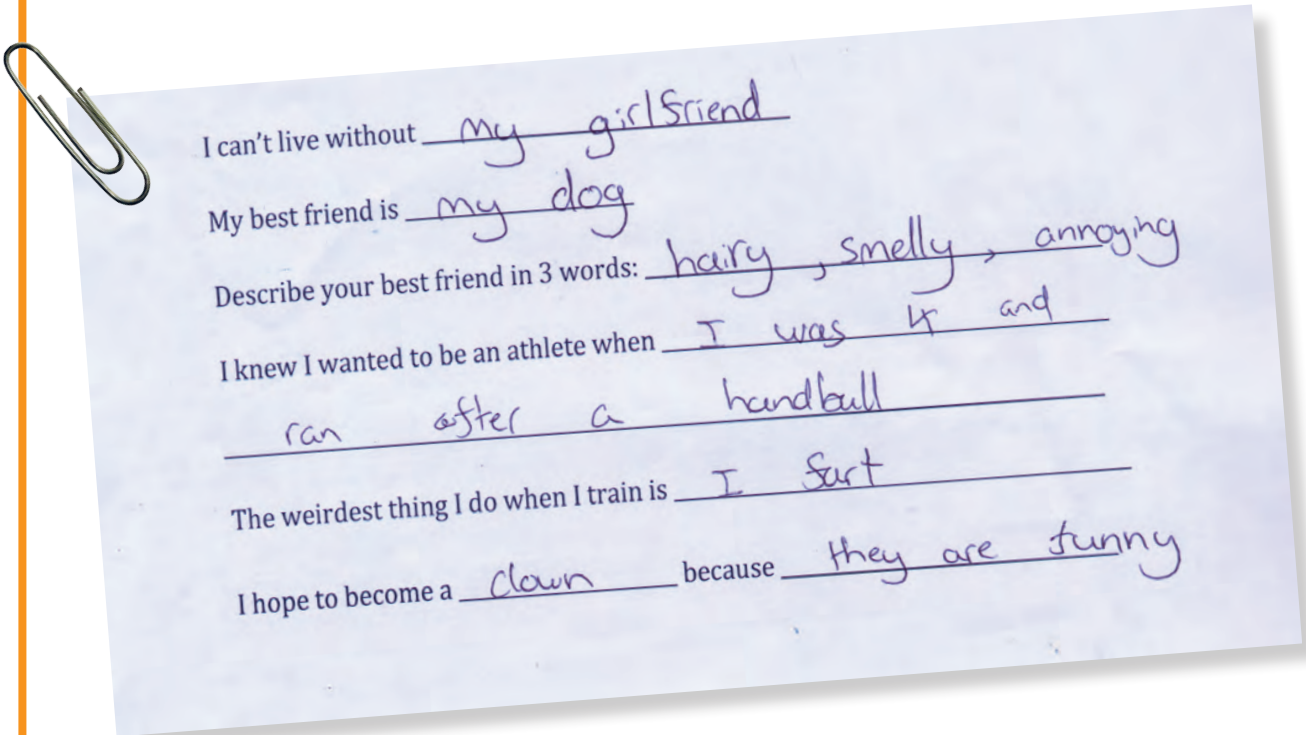
In Haiti’s opening game against Bolivia on August 16 at the Jalan Besar Stadium, the team was beaten 9-0. Their second match against Vanuatu is on today.

ATHLETE DNA

## MOSTAFA SADEK

## HANDBALL

## EGYPT





# THE ART OF SPORTS

BY CANDICE NEO

Throughout centuries, there has been a close correlation between sports and the arts.

Like the arts, sports bring people together in a universal appreciation; both bind the heartstrings of people from all over the world, as they cheer for a common goal despite cultural differences.

Sports-related arts not only brings out the emotions behind sporting moments, but is also symbolic of the unifying sporting spirit. Now at the heart of the Youth Olympic Village, the arts is the platform that highlights the values of YOG.

At the Olympic Gallery, electronic screens feature photographs of athletes at their trainings, competitions and around the village. "This can be shown as memories for athletes," said Mah Rui Qin, 17, a Photoscape Archiving Assistant.

"Arts paint out a picture of sports, and both need enthusiasm," she added.

The Cultural Education Programme (CEP) is a fusion of different forms and aspects of the arts, involving cultural performances, evening festivals, exhibits and games at the World Culture Village, exhibits of the Olympics history at the Gallery and many others.

The YOG sculptures at Marina Bay Promenade also promote the universality of sports. 'A World United' depicts sportsmen engaging in the 26 sports of YOG in a circular shape, symbolising the unifying spirit of peace and sports.



Croatian swimmers Ivan Capan (left), 18, and Ivan Biondic, 17, visit the Olympic Gallery in the Youth Olympic Village for the first time. PHOTO: WANG SIMIN

Another sculpture, 'Breathe', is a kinetic artwork that captures wind by day, converting this energy to tiny lights at night. It serves as a reminder of the importance of protecting our environment and keeping 'green'.

The performing arts too highlight the YOG spirit. The Chinese dance troupe from Bedok South Secondary expresses the importance of unity through its dance performed at various YOG events. It fuses together Indian, Malay, Chinese and contemporary elements, underlining Singapore's multiracial community.

Team leader Abigail Hwan, 16, also feels dance and sports are similar in some ways.

"They are both physically demanding and require a lot of teamwork," she said.

At the World Culture Village in the YOV, athletes have fun at the booths, where they learn about cultures from around the world. At the Moldova booth, Lucky Nelela and Mncendisi Gumede from Zimbabwe's football team feel being at the village is an interesting experience. "We have never seen some of these games before," Lucky said.

Booth volunteers Nigel Kun and Darren Low, both 14, feel arts and sports highlight the equality of people from all over the world. "It is also important for the athletes to know more about one another's culture and beliefs," Darren said.

"The athletes will also respect the different cultures as they learn about them," added Melissa Iype, a volunteer at the Slovakia booth.

## It's time for Africa

BY SHARIFAH FADHILAH  
ALSHAHAB  
AND NUR ASYIQIN

Step into the World Culture Village and a traditional African cheer greets you.

"Jambo! Hakuna matata!" students chant, as they thump on drums, shake their maracas and clap their tambourines.

Jambo is a greeting in the Swahili language, a loud "Hello!" to welcome visitors to the Kenyan booth. Kenyan officials explained the meaning of the Kenyan song to Nan Chiau High School students manning the booth.

The Village Square has been buzzing with music, dance and art — the lifeblood of African culture.

Everywhere, children in ethnic costumes add colour to the already vibrant culture.

Bedok West Primary School students wrapped in tribal cloths attracted crowds as they danced to "Waka Waka", the South African FIFA World Cup anthem.

They waved cardboard spears and did cartwheels, drawing loud whistles from the audience.

Across the square, a group of Boon Lay Secondary School girls entertained the crowd with an energetic traditional dance from

Zambia. These Malay dancers learnt the dance from Miss World Africa and have been training for nearly a month.

"It's very different because you use a lot of energy. The movements are very sharp," said Nadiah, who is used to the gentle swaying motions of Malay dance.

Research combined with actual experiences related by their African friends provided volunteers with a better understanding of the country they were twinned with.

In the Togo booth not too far away, Togoan official Kokou Nagbla conducted an impromptu lesson on Ewe, one of the languages spoken in his country. The student volunteers attempted to mimic him, stumbling over the pronunciation.

Mr Nagbla speaks five languages: German, English, French, Kabiye and Ewe. While Kabiye is primarily spoken in the North of Togo, he explained that Ewe is largely used in the South.

Other African representatives also dropped by their country's booths to share about their culture with the Singaporean students.

Traditional pieces of art such as sand paintings and sculptures donated by the Angolan embassy were on display in the Angolan booth.



Clad in tribal garb, students from Bedok West Primary dance outside the Burundi booth at the Village Square. PHOTO: SHARIFAH FADHILAH

## Jambo

A greeting in Swahili, it means "Hello!"

Angolans were happy to share more about their experiences and customs with all visitors coming to their booth.

"Most of the artefacts are of women. In Angola, men respect women a lot and portray that in the form of art," said 15-year-old Lucretia Lucias Jeraled.

These artefacts will be displayed in the school after the exhibition.

Senegal Chef de Mission Seydina Omar Diagne and its twinned school, Hua Yi Secondary, exchanged gifts significant to their

respective countries.

Student Hui Ting Siew worked on a painting of Vanda Miss Joaquim, Singapore's national flower, for over a month. The painting was presented to Mr Diagne who, in exchange, donated four ethnic woodcarvings from Senegal.

Although the Africa theme of the World Culture Village will end today, Africa's lively culture will continue to beat in our minds, like the lingering sound of traditional drums.

**"Most of the artefacts are of women. In Angola, men respect women a lot and portray that in the form of art."**

- Lucretia Lucias Jeraled, 15, sharing about Angolan artefacts in the booth



# “THE CORROSIVE EVIL OF SPORT”



South African weightlifter Ramela Phello John having a go at the “Play True Challenge” game at the WADA Play True Generation Center. PHOTO: SHAWN SEE

## Doping centre in Village Square to educate young Olympians on the perils of doping in sport today

BY SHAWN SEE

To educate budding athletes on the perils of doping, the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) has set up a centre in the Village Square at the heart of the Youth Olympic Village.

The agency is advocating its Play True Generation Programme, an initiative that provides young athletes with a platform to demonstrate their commitment to the ideals of fair play and to learn more about doping-free sport.

“The Play True Generation Programme will be a unique experience for WADA and the young athletes attending these Games,” said WADA Director General, David Howman.

WADA hopes to reach out to and

educate the youths through this interactive and fun game.

It is a computer simulation where participants have to alternate between a sport based video game and make life decisions that affects the ability of their character in the video game.

“The game was really interesting and educational,” said Turkish swimmer Bertug Coskun, who coincidentally was the first athlete to

undergo a doping test after his 400m freestyle heats at the Singapore Sports School.

Doping is strictly prohibited during the course of the Youth Olympic games and measures have been undertaken by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to ensure that all athletes are clean.

“The fight against doping has always been my number one priority and we have shown that we mean business in the traditional Olympic Games, both winter and summer,” said President of the IOC Jacques Rogge, who labelled doping as a “corrosive evil of sport”.

Many doping officers have been

recruited by the IOC, and Jasper Blades is one of several international officers who was specially flown to Singapore to perform the doping tests. Along with a band of locally trained officers, they form the backbone to ensure the clean status of the athletes. “It is imperative that there are anti-doping measures in place and it is a requirement that the athletes are to be tested,” said Mr Blades, who hails from Barbados.

Echoing the importance of anti-doping and fair play, French boxer Tony Yoka, 18, said: “Doping is a very bad thing for sports. I’m concerned because I lost in the finals at the recent AIBA Youth World Championships 2010 to (Croatia’s Filip Hrgovic) who was alleged to have taken performance enhancing drugs.”

Australian hurdler Nicholas Hough felt that it is very important to say no to doping. “It is good to keep sports clean. If doping was allowed, it will only be a matter of who has the best chemist available,” he said.

“The fight against doping has always been my number one priority and we have shown that we mean business in the traditional Olympic Games, both winter and summer.”

- Jacques Rogge, President of IOC

## Hall of shame: Athletes who competed, cheated and eventually lost

**MARION JONES**

Once the female darling of American athletes, Marion Jones was a talented sprinter and long jumper who won 3 gold and 2 bronze medals at the 2000 Sydney Olympics. After she confessed to taking performance enhancing drugs in October 2008, the medals were stripped from her and she faced charges.

**BEN JOHNSON**

Canadian sprinting sensation Ben Johnson’s reputation took a huge nose dive in 1988 despite beating his own world record en route to his Olympic Gold in the 100m sprint. He was caught doping and subsequently admitted to have taken steroids. In the end, he was disqualified and his world record was revoked.

**MICHELLE SMITH**

Triple Olympic gold medalist Irish swimmer Michelle Smith’s success in the 1996 Atlanta Olympics in which she also won a bronze medal was shrouded in controversy as she was accused of doping. Although she was not officially charged, Smith received a four-year ban in 1998 after being found guilty of tampering with her urine sample.



# A NATION OF CHEERS

*For millions, the Olympic Games is a television programme. Beyond the glass of the camera lens lies the eyes of men and women, waiting for that moment of victory. Yet in many ways, the critical player is that man amidst the rows of spectator stands. A dose of patriotism is an energy boost; a chorus of it becomes a force to behold. Some days, win or loss matters little when you know, behind you, a nation of cheers await.*



TOP: Irish fans cheer on the hockey girls after they equalise with New Zealand in a stiff first half. PHOTO: IVAN TAN

ABOVE: Young ambassador Kwanieze John and athletes of Trinidad and Tobago getting ready for the women's soccer match against Chile. PHOTO: EUNICE CHAN



Families of the New Zealand girls' hockey team roar in triumph as the team seals the match with a decisive goal in the final three minutes. PHOTO: IVAN TAN

A Turkish fan dances and waves her flag moments after her home team scores in the women's soccer match against Iran. PHOTO: EUNICE CHAN

