

China makes it 3-for-3 in diving

Awesome Asian pool machine just keeps churning out gold medals as sweep nears

By PAUL NEWBERRY in London
Associated Press

With stunning precision and dazzling athleticism, the duo of Chen Ruolin and Wang Hao led China to another gold medal off the big tower in women's 10-meter synchronized diving on Tuesday.

The Chinese were tied for second after the first round behind the British team, giving the home crowd a brief thrill. It quickly faded and no one could keep up with Chen and Wang, neither of whom has any fear of the 10-meter-tall tower.

The 19-year-olds earned at least 8.5 from the judges on each of their five dives, and even picked up a perfect 10 in the final round for synchronization. They sliced through the water side by side, leaving barely a ripple as their tiny bodies disappeared beneath the surface.

China won going away with 368.40 points, making the country three-for-three at the Olympics — nearly halfway to its goal of sweeping the eight diving events.

"They can make mistakes," said Canada's Meaghan Benfeito, who

teamed with Roseline Filion to take the bronze. "We try to say we can win the gold. But they're amazing divers."

The only mistake came when the Chinese marks for the final round were posted. The announcer initially said "5.5, 6.0" — then stopped as the crowd gasped. She corrected herself and gave out the glittering numbers that secured the gold.

That was about the only stumble involving the gold medalists.

"I felt nervous when I saw others competing," Chen said through a translator, "but when I was on the platform I didn't feel that nervous. I think I was very calm. I just performed as I trained."

Which leaves everyone else performing for silver.

Chen defended her Olympic title in platform synchro by following up the win she had at the Beijing Games with a different partner. She is also the defending Olympic champion and heavy favorite in the women's individual event off the platform.

The Chinese bowed and smiled when they saw their scores, but they clearly knew this one was in the bag. The bigger celebrations broke out in the Mexican and Canadian camps when they realized their teams had earned spots on the medal podium.



Gold medalists Wang Hao (right) and Chen Ruolin from China pose during the medal ceremony for the women's synchronized 10 meter platform Diving final at the Aquatics Centre in the Olympic Park during the London Olympics on Tuesday.

"I expected the gold medal," said Wang. "That's why I was so calm during the medal ceremony."

She has teamed with Chen for two years, which is not a bad way to make your Olympic debut.

"I just told her, 'Don't be too nervous,'" Chen said. "But I think having moderate amounts of stress has its advantages."

Mexico's Paola Espinosa and 15-year-old Alejandra Orozco took the silver with 343.32, sticking with their country's strategy of using dives with a higher degree of difficulty. It paid off a day earlier for the men in synchro platform, who also won silver behind the Chinese.

"This was a great competition for us," Espinosa said. "We're very happy

with the results. Our expectation for the day was to be among the medalists, and we made it."

Filion and Benfeito finished with 337.62, improving on their seventh-place finish in Beijing and giving the Canadians their second diving bronze of these Games. The country also finished third in women's springboard synchro.

"We gave it all we had and we came away with a bronze medal," Benfeito said. "We're pretty happy with that."

Filion said the duo felt good about its chances after an "amazing" morning practice. They were calm and confident they could pull out a medal, if not necessarily a gold.

"We were ready," Filion said. "We talked to each other and said, 'There's nothing more we could have done, either here or at home. We're prepared. We did everything we could.'"

The United States, which won medals in the first two synchronized events, failed to qualify a team in women's 10-meter synchro. This is the only diving event the Americans will miss at the London Games. They hope to resume their medal-winning ways with Troy Dumais and Kristian Ipsen competing in men's 3-meter springboard synchro on Wednesday.

The US — and everyone else, for that matter — will have to come up with a huge effort to snatch away a diving gold from China.

Germany rides off with two golds in eventing

By SARAH EDMONDS in London
Reuters

Germany's Michael Jung celebrated a golden 30th birthday on Tuesday, taking home both team and individual gold in the close-fought Olympic eventing contest.

The world and European champion produced two flawless and commanding rounds on mount Sam in the final phase of the multi-discipline competition that tests horse and rider across dressage, cross-country and jumping.

Teammate Sandra Auffarth, riding Opgun Louvo, took bronze.

Britain emerged with team silver in front of a roaring home crowd hungry for a chance to see royal Olympian Zara Phillips, granddaughter of Queen Elizabeth.

It was a day of mixed fortunes for Britain.

Mary King went into the final round in third but had two rails down and dropped to fifth while Kristina Cook, also in contention in fourth, fell to sixth after two knock-downs.

Phillips jumped a confident clear in the individual, vaulting her to eighth spot from 14th going in.

Prince William and his wife Kate, Prince Harry, the Duchess of Cornwall and brother Peter Phillips were all on hand to cheer Phillips as she cleared the last fence and gave her mount, High Kingdom, huge pats of approval.

Phillips's mother Princess Anne, a fellow equestrian, who rode for the British team at the Montreal Games, hung the medal around her daughter's neck and kissed her on



It's hard to believe I am back here after 28 years with another medal."

MARK TODD
EQUESTRIAN FROM NEW ZEALAND

both cheeks. "When you get one of these put around your neck ... you realize everything was worth it," Phillips said.

"It is amazing obviously to get it from your mom."

It was also an outstanding Olympics for individual silver medalist Sara Algotsson Ostholt of Sweden, who went into the second round in top spot and was only knocked out by a knock-down at the last fence.

Her grey mare, Wega, was bred and raised on her home farm.

New Zealand took team bronze and Andrew Nicholson put in a very strong showing in the cross-country and jumping to finish fourth individually.

Team veteran and double gold medalist Mark Todd, who came out of retirement after eight years to ride in the Beijing Olympics, said it was an emotional moment for him.

"It's hard to believe I am back here after 28 years with another medal," said Todd.

He finished joint 11th after the individual having knocked down two fences.

The final score is an accumulative total of penalties notched up over the three disciplines.



Michael Jung of Germany competes in the equestrian eventing individual show jumping phase on Tuesday. Jung took the gold medal in the event.

Fencing officials say appeal had no chance

By ASSOCIATED PRESS in London

Olympic fencing officials said on Tuesday they had no choice but to reject an appeal by South Korea following the defeat of Shin A-lam in the semifinals of the Olympic women's individual epee.

The South Koreans claimed Shin's match against Britta Heidemann was

already over when the German was awarded the decisive point in the final second on Monday, earning her a 6-5 victory.

Fencing officials said in a statement that determining how much time remains in a match is up to the referee. They said they could not "change a question of fact."

The South Korean Olympic Committee said the sport's governing body has offered to recognize

Shin's sportsmanship.

"They are very sorry and sympathetic to her and they have to recognize her fairness and following the Olympic movement spirit," committee president Park Yong-sung said. "They are going to recognize it with some kind of event."

The appeal delayed competition more than an hour. Competition rules forced Shin to wait on the fencing strip, leaving the South Korean

crying before a crowd of 8,000, before the decision was announced.

Officials said on Monday they needed the time to make sure they were following procedures correctly in what they called a "delicate situation."

In its appeal, South Korea questioned the timekeeping toward the end of the match. With one second left on the clock, the match was restarted four times as both players scored simultaneously each time,

automatically stopping the clock.

The South Koreans said in their appeal that it is impossible for all for actions to happen during one second. "Who can believe this situation?" they wrote.

Shin later lost her bronze medal match to Sun Yujie of China, while Heidemann, the defending Olympic champion, went on to lose the final 9-8 to Yana Shemyakina of Ukraine.



HOTONWEB

@KevinLove42

"Really bad economy!!! Google Facts: The Olympic Gold medal is only 1.34 percent gold."

American basketball player Kevin Love

@Feng Zhe

"A really bad thing! That's not good! I find my Weibo on Sina has become a hot hit. I do expect a worse consequence because coach Wang is very angry. He blamed me that so many people know I play tricks on him. I told him I was innocent. Most content on my Weibo is transferred from the Internet. If you want to blame me, you should blame them. For example, @Gudabaihua @Laibao ... My friends, please turn off your mobile. Coach Wang's phone number is 0086..."

Chinese gymnastics athlete Feng Zhe, after China's men's team gold

@Women's Basketball No 8

Miaomiao

"My idol, I am angry about your performance. How can you shoot so accurately and tackle so much? Once you take the ball, you play so well. I am not happy."

Chinese women's basketball player Miao Lijie, on Chen Nan's performance at the game against Croatia

@Qian Hong

"I do not really like raising our national flag this way."

Former Chinese swimmer Qian Hong on raising the Chinese national flag under the Korean national flag

@TomDaley1994

"#guttled so sorry everyone but we tried our best and you can't afford to miss a dive at this standard ... bring on individual!"

British star diver Tom Daley after placing fourth in the men's 10m synchronized platform with Peter Waterfield



@Guo Weiyang

"It's so stimulating experiencing the ups and downs in my life. Only one word: Cooooooool! Our team is the best. Long live the brothers! Long live Chinese gymnastics. Also, long live people who support Chinese gymnastics!"

Chinese gymnast Guo Weiyang on the men's team victory

@Jiao Liuyang

"Big Yang, you are too amazing! Another silver at hand. Please, please, please — you give me some power!"

Chinese swimmer Jiao Liuyang, on Sun Yang's silver in the men's 200m freestyle

@sebcoe

"History made in the gymnastics tonight ... Team GB win bronze." London organizing committee chairman Lord Seb Coe, after watching the British gymnastics team win bronze

@ryanlochte

"The greatest athletes suffer the hardest defeats before the biggest and best moments of your life ... God has a plan for everyone :)"

US swimmer Ryan Lochte, after losing the men's 200m freestyle

@juanmata10

"Thanks for your support! It's been a pity. I do believe that this team deserved more ... We have to learn ..."

Spanish soccer player Juan Mata, whose team crashed out of the Olympics after losing to Honduras 1-0

@justingatlin

"Wish @lololjones would real follow me! I'm reaaaaaaaaa lmbol!"

US sprinter Justin Gatlin, expressing his appreciation for US 100m hurdler Lolo Jones

@McKaylaMaroney

"Separated at Birth Olympian McKayla Maroney & @victoriabeckham ... I love when ppl say I look like Victoria Beckham! Haha!"

British gymnast McKayla Maroney, says she enjoys being likened to British pop star Victoria Beckham