

TAKING AIM

Japan's defense report targets Chinese naval activity > p23

NEW HORIZONS

Program allows students from China, US to go on study tours > CHINA, PAGE 9



FILM CAMPAIGN

War movies being updated for a modern audience > LIFE, PAGE 20



OLYMPIC SPECIAL

CHINADAILY

中國日報

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1, 2012 chinadaily.com.cn

Issue No 8 £1

YE ADDS TO GOLD COLLECTION

Teenager flies home in freestyle leg of 200m individual medley to win second Games title in three days



China's Ye Shiwen competes in the women's 200m individual medley final during the Olympics on Tuesday. She won gold.

FABRICE COFFRINI / AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

By AGENCIES
in London

Chinese swimmer Ye Shiwen survived a late challenge from Alicia Coutts to win the 200m individual medley final on Tuesday and collect her second gold medal at the London Olympics.

The 16-year-old followed up her incredible win in the 400m medley three days earlier with another impressive display of power and perfect technique.

But this time she had to work much harder. She was third when they turned for home but overhauled her rivals to win the multi-discipline event in 2 min 07.57 sec.

Coutts, who won a relay gold for Australia on Saturday took second place, just ahead of America's Caitlin Leverenz.

Stephanie Rice, the gold medalist in Beijing four years ago, was fourth while world record holder Ariana Kukors was fifth.

Ye won the Asian championship as a 14-year-old in 2010 then added the world title last year but her performances in London, where millions of people around the world are seeing her compete for their first time, have triggered thinly-veiled accusations of doping.

Also on Tuesday, Michael Phelps won a record 19th Olympic medal on Tuesday when he joined forces with his US teammates to win the 4x200m relay at London's Aquatic Centre.

Following his shock defeat in the 200 butterfly final an hour earlier, Phelps surpassed Soviet gymnast Larisa Latynina as the most decorated Olympian of all time.

The win provided him with

his 15th career gold medal to go with his two silver and two bronze medals.

The Americans were overwhelming favorites to win the relay and the result was never in doubt after Ryan Lochte gave them the lead after the lead-off leg.

Conor Dwyer and Ricky Berens kept America's lead by the time Phelps dived in for the anchor leg and he brought them home in 6:59.70.

Lochte captured his second gold medal in London after winning the 400 individual medley on the opening day of competition and the fifth of his career.

France, who upset the Americans in the 4x100 freestyle final on Saturday, took the silver medal while China grabbed the bronze after Sun Yang anchored them home.

Sports chiefs leap to defense of Chinese swimming star

By ASSOCIATED PRESS
in London

Olympic organizers and swimming's governing body leapt to the defense of China's world record-breaking teen sensation Ye Shiwen on Tuesday, with the sport's president saying suspicions that she doped were "crazy" and motivated by jealousy and the IOC stressing its confidence in the drug-testing program.

"We need to get real here," said International Olympic Committee spokesman Mark Adams. "These are the world's best athletes competing at the very highest level. We've seen all sorts of records broken already all over the place."

Adams said the top five athletes in each event, plus two others, are tested as part of "a very, very strong drug-testing program, and we are very confident if there are cheats we will catch them."

"We can't stop speculation. It is inevitably a sad result of the fact that there are people who dope and who cheat," Adams said. "It's very sad we can't applaud a great performance. Let's give the benefit of the

doubt to the athletes."

Ye won the 400-meter individual medley on the opening day of the Olympic swimming competition, and claimed the gold medal in the 200 IM on Tuesday evening.

The 16-year-old Ye sliced through the last lap of the 400 in 28.93 seconds — faster than the 29.10 American winner Ryan Lochte posted in the last 50 of the men's race. Ye's time was 4:28.43, more than a second faster than the previous world record set by Australia's Stephanie Rice at the 2008 Beijing Games in a now-banned bodysuit.

John Leonard, head of the American Swimming Coaches Association, but not a member of the US Olympic staff, was among those openly questioning Ye's legitimacy. The Guardian newspaper quoted him as saying the last 100 of her race "was reminiscent of some old East German swimmers."

"History in our sport will tell you that every time we see something, and I put quotation marks around this, 'unbelievable', history shows us that it turns out later on there was doping involved," Leonard was quoted as saying.

Asked about Leonard's comments, FINA President Julio Maglione said people are free to say "stupid things" if they want.

"It's a big mistake," Maglione said of Ye's doubters. "The people that say this are crazy."

He said FINA spends \$1 million to drug test the top 30 swimmers in the world two or three times a year and "swimming is absolutely clean".

He said he has absolutely no suspicions about Ye and her critics are jealous because China is becoming a swimming power.

"It's best for the swimming," Maglione said. "Not only two or three countries. We have now 15 countries that take medals, 20 countries. It is important that many countries in the world take medals."

The anti-doping chief for China's General Administration of Sport, Jiang Zhixue, said Chinese athletes, including swimmers, have passed nearly 100 drug tests since they arrived in London. FINA's website shows Ye also underwent three out-of-competition drug tests from June 2011 to February this year.

SEE "DRUGS" PAGE 3

Games provide a golden time for micro blogs

Olympics turn tweets into roars as athletes and fans crank up volume

By CHEN XIANGFENG
in London
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After winning the first gold medal of the Olympic Games on Saturday, shooter Yi Siling posted a photo of herself holding a bouquet on her Chinese Tencent Weibo micro blog.

Her tweet created a huge

splash. About 5,000 users added her every minute for the first few minutes, and the number of followers grew almost instantly from 100,000 to 800,000. It now stands at 940,000.

"That's amazing," said Wang Yongzhi, who heads the Olympic program for Tencent, which boasts more than 400 million micro-bloggers.

About half of the 396 Chinese athletes in London have a weibo account, Wang said. The numbers of followers have been skyrocketing since the opening ceremony on Friday.

Tencent's competitor, Sina Weibo — widely recognized as China's answer to twitter — also provided its micro-blogging service to hundreds of Olympians,

including Sun Yang, China's star swimmer who won the men's 400m freestyle and a silver in the 200m. He now has more than 8.8 million followers.

Social media have proven a game-changer for Chinese athletes, who traditionally kept low profiles.

"Weibo provides a good and free tool for Chinese athletes to communicate with friends, teammates and even strangers," Wang said. "They're young and love weibo. It's fashionable and more interactive than traditional media."

Wang pointed to the women's 3m synchronized diving golden girls, Wu Minxia and He Zi, as good examples.

The duo talked to each other

on weibo ahead of the Games, offering encouraging words online although they spent almost every day together. And thousands of followers also commented on their chats.

"We can see them chat and encourage each other on weibo after winning the gold," Wang said. "They love the exposure weibo provides and to get everyone involved."

He Zi called micro-blogging "fun".

"It's so interesting," He said. "It's convenient and free. Sometimes, writing is easier and makes me more comfortable than saying something under the spotlight."

SEE "WEIBO" PAGE 5



KIM KYUNG-HOON / REUTERS

Young spectators show their true colors at the Games on Tuesday.

In this issue

NEWS 2,8,9,11,12
OLYMPICS 3-6
COMMENT 7
COVER STORY 10
BUSINESS 13-17
LIFE 18-21
WORLD 22-24

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Advertisement (86-10) 6491-8631
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iPhone app chinadaily.com.cn/iphone



9 770253 954030
国际标准编号:ISSN0253-9543