# Women 'aiming to shock'

**GUANGZHOU** — The Chinese women's sepak takraw team suffered a tough opening to its Asian Games campaign on Tuesday, but morale is still high in the young squad's camp.



TAKRAW

The host country lost 3-0 to powerhouse Thailand in its Group B clash.

Sepak takraw, a traditional game in Southeast Asian

countries, became an official Asian Games sport at the 11th Asiad in Beijing in 1990.

Zhang Ya'nan, 18, one of nine members of the women team, told China Daily the team is still aiming to "shock the Asian Games".

"What we care most about is making every effort on the court when we are playing," said Zhang.

The teenager, born in Qiqihar, Heilongjiang province, took part in the women's Contest Event 2010 where China won the gold medal.

"I was converted as soon as I saw my first game," Zhang said. "I started playing sepak takraw in primary school."

Zhang used to get hurt due to the "heavy ball" and her poor technique. But, after surviving the tough initiation, Zhang fell in love with the demanding sport.

"When people see it, they really enjoy it and then they start supporting us (the national team)," she said. "But we still have a smaller fan base than other sports. Our job here is to not only compete, but attract more public interest."



CARLOS BARRIA / REUTERS Malaysia's Norshahruddin Mad Ghani goes up to the net to challenge China's Jin Jie.



Japan's Tomoko Fukumi fights China's Wu Shugen during the women's -48kg gold medal judo match in Guangzhou on Tuesday.

## China's judo drought finally ends

### PAIR OF GOLD MEDALS WON ON FINAL DAY OF COMPETITION

By CUI JIA CHINA DAILY

JUDO

**GUANGZHOU** — After three days of disappointment, China's judo team finally struck gold on the last day of the competition at the Asiad, thanks to the women's judoka.

#### Defending

champion Liu Huanyan won gold the in women's open while category Wu Shugen beat

Japan's Tomoko Fukumi during added time in the final of women's -48kg category.

"I was under lots of pressure because we didn't have any gold medals after the first three days," said Liu. "Most of the pressure I put on myself."

Fans had high hopes for China's judo team, which claimed five gold medals at the Doha Asian Game four years ago and three at the Beijing Olympics, but the team was unable to maintain those lofty standards at Guangzhou.

"No one is happy about only winning two gold medals on home soil," said head coach Fu Guowen, who was also a part of the team's glory days in Doha. "But I hope people understand our circumstances."

About 70 to 80 percent of the national team's judoka retired after the Beijing Olympics, including all three Olympic champions, said Fu. The young Chinese team lacks international experience.

"We are definitely not the team we used to be," Fu said. "The team needs to grow up fast before the London Olympics in 2012."

China's 19-year-old Wang Hao missed out on a bronze medal on the last day of the competition after being defeated by Mohammad Reza Rodaki of Iran in the men's open category. It was the first time the teenager competed at the adult level.

"I was not prepared well mentally," said Wang, who weighs 120kg. "It is very difficult to handle this kind of pressure."

Wang said his loss was due to inexperience at the senior international level.

Kenji Mitstmoto, Wang's Japanese coach, was not satisfied with his performance.

"He could have done better because his physical condition is good. He lost because he is mentally weak."

Wang is studying and training in Japan's Tokai University, which is a powerhouse of the sport in Asia.

Japan has won more judo medals than any other nation in Olympic Games' history and no team was able to break its hold on the sport in Guangzhou.

Japan won seven gold medals in judo - the most among all countries. The Republic of Korea, which appears to be catching up fast, won six gold medals.

#### **GOLD RUSH** >>> **TODAY'S MEDAL EVENTS**

### **Artistic Gymnastics**

19: 30 Men's Vault 19: 30 Women's Balance Be 20: 20 Women's Floor 20: 20 Men's Parallel bars 20: 20 Men's Horizontal bar

**Billiard Sports** 13:00 Men's Carom 3 Cushion Singles

Bowling 14: 30 Men's Doubles

**Cycling Track** 10: 00 Men's Sprint 10: 06 Women's Sprint 11: 16 Men's Points Race 12: 26 Men's Keirin

Equestrian 13:00 Dressage Individual

Shooting 9: 00 Men's 25m Standard Pistol 9: 00 Men's 25m Standard Pistol Team 9: 00 Men's 10m Running Target Mixed 9: 00 Men's 10m Running Target Mixed 9: 00 Women's 50m Rifle 3 Positions

12: 30 Women's 50m Rifle 3 Positions

Soft Tennis 14:00 Women's Singles 15:30 Men's Singles

Swimming

18: 00 Women's 100m Freestyle 18: 06 Men's 100m Freestyle 18: 23 Women's 200m Breaststroke 18: 40 Men's 200m Individual Medley 18: 58 Women's 100m Backstroke 19: 14 Women's 800m Freestyle

Taekwondo 18: 00 Female 46kg 18: 16 Male 54kg 18: 32 Female 62kg 18: 48 Male 74kg Final

Water Polo 15: 55 Women's Tournaments

Weightlifting 16: 30 Men's 85kg 19: 00 Women's 69kg

Wushu

19: 35 Women's Sanshou 52kg 19: 43 Men's Sanshou 56kg 19: 51 Women's Sanshou 60kg 20: 23 Men's Sanshou 60kg 20: 31 Men's Sanshou 65kg 21: 03 Men's Sanshou 70kg 21: 11 Men's Sanshou 75kg