



# An effort full of polish

By GAO CHANGXIN  
CHINA DAILY

SHENZHEN — Polish judoka Zuzanna Pawlikowska said her victory over Korean Seo Ha-na at the Universiade has boosted her confidence.

The 20-year-old said she previously felt intimidated when competing with judokas from South Korea and Japan, the martial art's two power-houses.



JUDO

But after beating a Japanese in the semifinals and a Korean in the final, "I can beat anyone", she said.

"After winning in the semifinal, I think that — if I am not afraid — I can win again in the final," Pawlikowska said.

Pawlikowska took the gold in the under-52kg division yesterday after defeating Yuki Hashimoto from Japan and then finishing off Seo Ha-na with an ippon in the final.

Pawlikowska had never beaten a Korean or Japanese judoka before yesterday's victory. The gold was her first in an international competition.

But her celebration plans were modest.

"I just want to eat everything in the cafeteria," she said.

"I'm really hungry".

Pawlikowska, whose brother inspired her love of the sport when she was 10, does not plan to attend the World Judo Championships in France next week. Her schedule is too tight, and she needs rest, she said.

But she hopes to make it to next year's London Olympics.

"I will work hard and improve myself to go to London," she said.

"But if I fail to qualify it is OK, too. I can go to the next and the next Olympics."



ZOU ZHONGPIN / CHINA DAILY

Zuzanna Pawlikowska of Poland celebrates her win over South Korean Seo Ha-na in the under-52kg class yesterday.



GAO ERQIANG / CHINA DAILY

China's Tang Yi won the gold in the women's 100m freestyle in 54.24 sec at the Shenzhen Universiade yesterday.

# Japanese swimmer makes splash out of the pool

BRONZE MEDALIST MASAYUKI WOOS JOURNALISTS WITH HIS SILVER TONGUE

By SUN XIAOCHEN  
CHINA DAILY

SHENZHEN — He may not have earned big applause at the pool after finishing third in the men's 50m butterfly, but Japanese swimmer Kishida Masayuki certainly stole the limelight at the post-race press conference with his fluent English.



SWIMMING

"My English? Oh, it's not 'great', it's just OK," Masayuki said after clocking 23.93 sec, 0.42 of a second behind winner Timothy Phillips of the United States yesterday.

Italian Paolo Facchinelli grabbed the silver in 23.85.

Moving to the US in 2006 after finishing high school, the quiet Tokyo native started his undergraduate course at the University of Arizona, where he not only learned an American accent but also fully experienced the huge impact of college sports on society there.

"Definitely, it's huge. Sport means much more on an American campus than in Asia countries. It was a good experience for me to feel the difference," said Masayuki, who

majors in economics.

The swimmer, who also took part in the 2008 Beijing Olympics and the 2009 Rome World Championships, found sport could also be a "major" at college in terms of participation and popularity.

"Swimming is not so big in our college, but when you go to the basketball court or the football field you will find out how much they (the US students) love the events," said the 25-year-old who will graduate next year.

Despite their enthusiasm for sports, student athletes in the US still have to meet the academic requirements of the school without any special treatment.

Masayuki studies late into the evening after four-hour training sessions almost every day.

"It's kind of hard to balance school life and training. You have to get the required marks, pass every exam and then be allowed to head to the pool. Sometimes I even have no time to sleep," he said.

Apart from swimming, Masayuki played basketball when he was a child and worshipped NBA icon Michael Jordan. He then switched allegiance to Los Angeles Lakers all-star guard Kobe Bryant after MJ retired in 2001.

"I am a big Lakers fan right now and I will go to the Staples Center to watch their games when I go to LA for holidays.

"In Asia, the best player and my favorite is definitely Yao Ming. But he has retired. It's a pity for young guys in Asia because we have lost a player to be proud of," Masayuki said in the swimmers' lounge after the race.

Getting ready to graduate next year, Masayuki has to divide his time between qualifying for the London Olympics and doing his thesis.

"Right now I am just focusing on qualifying for the London Games and see what happens from there. Then I will try to decide to continue in the pool or hunt for another job," said Masayuki, who holds Japan's 50m freestyle record (22.1 sec).

Meanwhile, emerging Chinese star Tang Yi, who claimed six gold medals at the Youth Olympic Games last year, clinched gold in the 100m freestyle in 54.24 sec while compatriot Liu Jing finished third in the women's 200m individual medley.

Kiwi talent, Lauren Boyle, bagged her second gold at the meet in the women's 400m freestyle after winning the 800m on Sunday.