

# Cross-country course too hot to handle

By TANG YUE  
CHINA DAILY

SHENZHEN — The biggest challenge for the cross-country cyclists was not the terrain or competition from their rivals — it was the heat.

Riding 21 kilometers in Shenzhen's 34 C weather and high relative humidity was tough.

"It is really very, very hot here," Swiss cyclist Melanie Gay, who took the bronze,

said.

"In Switzerland, the maximum is only 29 degrees. But

here, 29 means pretty cool."

The 22-year-old wore a specially designed "cool vest" after the race.

"Actually, I tried to do what I do normally in Switzerland," Gay said.

"I don't want to change my habits. I didn't put it on before the competition because you would have to pass from cold to very hot. It would be a shock to the body."

She said it was her first time wearing such gear.

"It really felt cold at first," Gay said. "But it helped a lot and I feel a lot better now."

Estonian Maaris Meier also felt hot but could not afford any gear to help her stay cool.

"I hope it is cloudy all the time," the runner-up said.

"I was struggling with the heat, especially during the climb... I wish I had a shower on the mountain. I had ice to cool down after the race."

The Swiss team's doctor, Jungen Phillip, said the cool vest costs about \$150 and a smaller version is \$60. He suggested athletes should use the garment before and after competitions.

"It is really good for them to keep healthy and reduce the influence of the heat to a certain degree, especially when they compete in such demanding conditions," Phillip said.

"It helps relax your muscles quickly after the event. But some athletes like it very much while some are not so used to it. In athletics... they use it more often and even jump into big container full of ice after the competition."



LI GA / XINHUA  
Pavel Pryadein of Russia crosses the finish line to win the men's cycling cross-country gold medal on Monday.

## Tired tires leave some of the riders flat

Tires can mean everything in cycling — especially flat ones.

The demanding route and broiling heat created several flats in the women's cross-country race in the Longquan Sports Center in Shenzhen yesterday. A deflated tire cost Lithuanian Tatjana Kaliakina a medal.

"Of course, I'm very sad now, because I lost the medal. It is really a big pity for me," the 23-year-old said, after finishing fourth.

"It happens all the time — not only during mountain races but also in road races. But it was just not the right time."

Kaliakina had a solid

third-place lead until the middle of the last lap, when the tire stopped her for a few minutes. That was when Swiss Melanie Gay overtook her to claim the bronze.

Gay said she felt sorry for Kaliakina, but flat tires are just part of the sport.

"I could have ended up in fourth place if she hadn't

had a flat tire," Gay, 22, said.

"It was just that luck was on my side this time. But it also could have been me (who suffered a flat tire). It was only that it occurred to her this time."

But not everything came down to luck, Gay believed.

"I just didn't ride too fast. I didn't risk too much," she said.

## With a medal around his neck, weightlifter now wants a wife

By TANG YUE  
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SHENZHEN — Having achieved his goal of winning a medal, Mohamed Sultan now wants to get married.

After winning a bronze medal in the men's 69kg weightlifting class, the Egyptian athlete revealed his next dream is to marry a Chinese woman.

After commenting on his performance in the competition at a news conference on Monday, the 22-year-old took

the initiative and revealed his secret to reporters.

"The Chinese girls are so beautiful. I like them very much and I want to marry one in the future," said Sultan with a big smile.

A big fan of Jackie Chan's kung-fu films and Chinese culture, Mohamed said he had wanted to visit China for a long time. He said that now he is here, he has been most

impressed by the people.

"The girls are very shy and very polite," he said. "That's why I think they are very lovely. If I have money one day, I will come back to China and find a wife here."

The Egyptian said that not only was the Universiade his first international competition, but also this was his first trip abroad.

"I am very pleased to visit another country for the first time, but it also made me nervous when I was competing," said Sultan, who failed

with his first two snatches in the Complex Training Hall of the Shenzhen Sport School. "My standard at home is higher than what I have shown here today."

"Fortunately, I adjusted in time and I'm very happy to win a medal in my first major event. I'm enjoying the Universiade very much, the competition, the life in the Village. Now the competition is over, I will explore the city and I'm sure there will be more interesting stuff for me to see."



GAO ERQIANG / CHINA DAILY  
Mohamed Sultan of Egypt won bronze in the men's 69kg weightlifting class.