



Chinese shooting for gold

By TANG ZHE
CHINA DAILY

SHENZHEN — China's shooters will be aiming for a cluster of gold medals on Thursday.

Thirty-six gold medals will be up for grabs, with 10 coming from the skeet competition.

The Chinese team will attract the most attention with several sharp shooters, preparing for the London Olympics, in the lineup. Led by Olympic champion Pang Wei, Guangzhou Asian Games gold medalist Wang Chengyi and rising star Wang Weiyang, the host team is expected to shoot down at least 10 gold medals at home.



SHOOTING

Pang Wei, who has slipped since reaching a career high by claiming the men's 10 meter air pistol title at the Beijing Olympic Games in 2008, is keen to rediscover his form and should be one of the favourites at the Universiade. He will take part in 10m air pistol and 50m pistol.

After marrying two-time Olympic champion Du Li, who won the women's 10m air rifle at the Athens Olympics and 50m rifle three positions, in 2009, Pang lost his sharpness due to, as he said, devoting most of his time to his family.

At the 2010 World Championships, Pang finished 15th in 50m pistol and ranked 16th in 10m air pistol. The 25-year-old did not even qualify for the 10m air pistol final after finishing ninth in the qualifying round at the 16th Asian Games in Guangzhou last year.

Early this month, Pang failed to



Beijing Olympic shooter Pang Wei will lead China's Universiade team in Shenzhen.

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qualify for the London Games' 10m air pistol event during an Olympic qualifying event.

On the women's side, the Chinese are expected to be regular visitors to the podium, though the team features no Olympic champions.

However, Wang Chengyi grabbed a bronze in 50m rifle three positions at the Athens Olympics

and also claimed the title at the Guangzhou Asiad. Xie Jieqiong was the winner of the 10m air rifle event at the World Cup held in Germany in June.

Despite the participation of some Chinese champions, national team youngster Wang Weiyang might steal the show. The 19-year-old is the daughter of Wang Yifu, a former

Olympic champion and head coach of Chinese team, and Zhang Qiuping, the rifle coach of the squad.

Under the guidance of her parents, Wang Weiyang has made steady progress after breaking into the national team in 2009 and is expected to warm up for the London Olympics with strong results at the Universiade.

Another rising star worth keeping an eye on is Nur Ayuni Farhana of Malaysia, who is expected to break that country's medal drought at the Universiade.

The 10m shooter gunned down a gold medal at the International Junior Shooting Championships in 2009 and is tipped to bag Malaysia's first medal.



AFF

Chinese youngsters hope to dominate the badminton court over the next seven days in Shenzhen Universiade.

Host to shuttle for more glory

By TANG YUE
CHINA DAILY

SHENZHEN — Two days ago, Chinese shuttlers proved their dominance in badminton by sweeping all five titles at the World Championships for the third time in London.

Now, it is time for the Chinese younger generation to shine at the Universiade in Shenzhen, where the sport will be staged from today to next Monday.

Although superstars like Lin

Dan will not be here, students of the Beijing Jiaotong University, which boasts some national team players, are expected to dominate the court.



BADMINTON

At the Pan-Indian Ocean Games two years ago, the team collected the team titles and all the medals in the individual events.

Wen Kai, 23, will lead the men's

charge in Shenzhen, the 23-year-old enjoys a winning record against Chen Jin, the singles champion of last year's World Championship.

He was also poised to upset Lin, the reigning world and Olympic champion, at April's Asian Championships after winning the first set, but a lack of experience kept him from victory.

Wen's biggest threat should come from teammate Zhou Wenlong, winner of the National Championships and a gold med-

alist at last month's Russia Open.

On the women's side, Shi Qiaoqian, who beat newly-crowned world champion Wang Yihan in last year's domestic league, is the hot favorite.

As one of the most popular sports at the Universiade, players from about 30 countries and regions will participate in the badminton event.

The team competition ends on Thursday while the finals of the five individual events will be held on Monday.