

Young scribes get the inside scoop on Games

By MICHELLE FEI
CHINA DAILY

SHENZHEN — Young Italian reporter Marco Mugnaioli had a wonderful day on Aug 13.

He witnessed the first gold medal of the 26th Universiade go to compatriot Simone Ruffini, who won the men's 10-km open-water swimming event.

Mugnaioli then got the chance to interview the champion.

"It was so exciting to see Simone Ruffini win the medal, and it was even more exciting to do a face-to-face video interview, although he acted pretty calm as he was exhausted," Mugnaioli said.

The reporter's face lit up when he showed the video on La Gazzetta dello Sport's website.

Mugnaioli, who is completing his masters in journalism at a university in Milan, was among 44 young journalists to join the FISU-AIPS Young Reporters' Program in Shenzhen.

Most of the participants have a year or two of university or local media experience.

The program was organized by the International Sports Press Association (AIPS), the International University Sports Federation (FISU) and the Shenzhen Universiade 2011 Organizing Committee.

Most participants are visiting China for the first time.

Costa Rican Natasha Campos Mendez swapped clothes with a volunteer to gain access to the delegates' zone, which was off limits to media.

"As a journalist, I wanted to make a difference. I wanted to bring people something unique, something fresh," the 20-year-old, who was once crowned Miss Costa Rica, said.

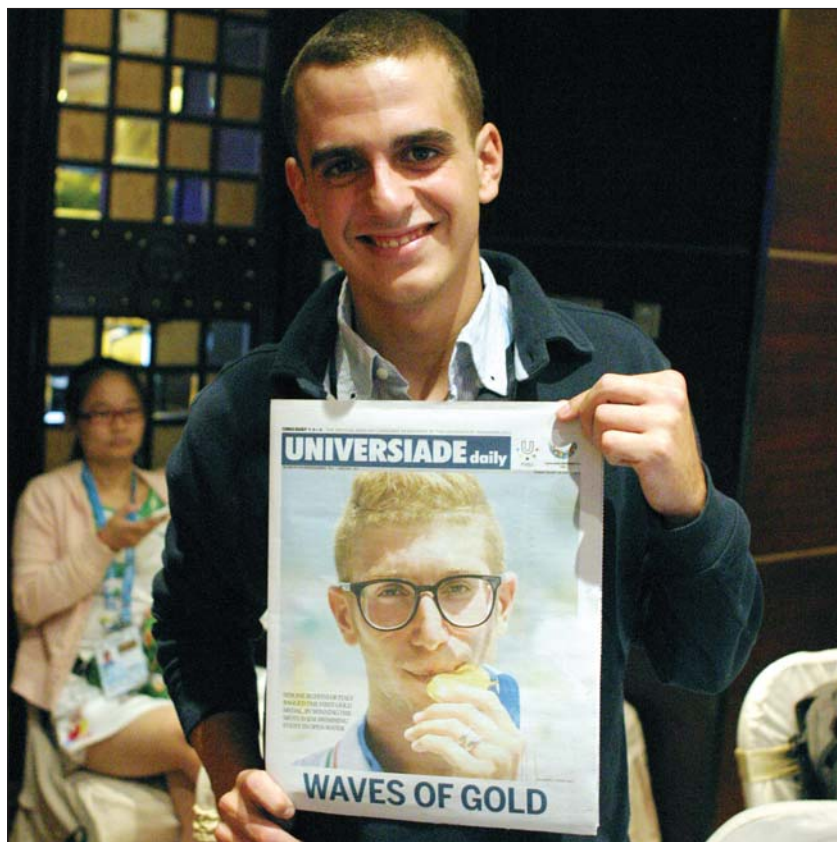
"I know (sneaking into the delegates' zone) is not the right thing to do, but I just wanted so desperately to walk into the stadium with my team," she said.

"When the giant door opened, everyone among the delegates from all countries yelled loudly. They were all very excited."

Mendez was surprised by the reaction of compatriot athlete Joshua Tercero Loria, who comes from a poor family of nine in a small city.

"Loria cried after the ceremony," she recalled.

"He explained that he never imagined himself being involved in something so big."



CHEN XIAO / CHINA DAILY

Top: Italian reporter Marco Mugnaioli shows a copy of *Universiade Daily*. Above: Costa Rican journalist Natasha Campos Mendez listens to a speech during the FISU-AIPS Young Reporters' Program.

QUOTES >> FIRST TIME IN CHINA!

"This is my first visit to China. Everything is so different from my hometown. There are lots of people, and the infrastructure is great."

MWAILKENDA MWITA, a university junior in Tanzania who works for the school newspaper, *The Hill Observer*, and the local *Express* newspaper.

"I've never visited China before. I went to the famous Luohu market yesterday to buy some souvenirs for my boys, and I was impressed by how vibrant and bustling the place is."

STEVE MCALLISTER, managing director of *Yahoo! Sports (Canada)*.

"This is my first trip to Shenzhen and to China. I was impressed by the warmhearted volunteers and citizens. Every place I went, or every time I had a question, there would be more than five people who'd come to me to offer help."

JONATHAN MISHAL, an Israeli reporter for the *Yedioth Ahronoth* newspaper.

Journos learn fair play about sports and reports

By MICHELLE FEI
CHINA DAILY

SHENZHEN — The atmosphere at the FISU-AIPS Young Reporters' Program course is less like a traditional classroom than a news conference.

Students fielded questions — some even grabbed the stage microphones — and battles of the mind played out.

"The training program is absolutely a great opportunity to exchange ideas with young people from all over the world," Italian student Marco Mugnaioli said.

"You have to grab the essence to meet your own needs. You can't take it all in."

A total of 44 foreign reporters and 16 students from mainland universities are participating in this program, which started on Aug 12 and will finish on Aug 23.

"The Universiade is a great chance for these young reporters to practice their journalism, as it's much easier for them to gain access to athletes, big sports and world champions... whereas such chances are rare in other sports events," *Yahoo! Sports (Canada)* managing editor, Steve McAllister, who is among the instructors, said.

"Universiade athletes also deserve more media coverage. Their stories are also worth reporting."

World Anti-Doping Agency (Great Britain) senior manager of media relations Terence O'Rourke talked about credibility issues journalists and athletes face.

"Doping can help performance... however, it can also damage athletes' health, and it is against the spirit of sports," O'Rourke said.

Young Reporters' Program director and award-winning sportswriter Allan Abrahamson told the students: "Sports figures can, and will, lie to you right in front of your face. Stay skeptical."

Abrahamson had visited China many times. This time, he brought his son, who has been studying Chinese for two years.

"China has proved its ability to hold major sports events since the Beijing Olympic Games, especially with great opening ceremonies," he said.