



Cai shooting for a professional career

By TANG YUE
CHINA DAILY

SHENZHEN — Most of the athletes at the Shenzhen Universiade find it is difficult to balance study and training.

Not so for Cai Wenfei.

The 22-year-old golfer is also a golf management major at Shenzhen University. Unsurprisingly,

she said what she learns on the course and in the classroom complement each other.

"I had already played golf for 10 years before college, so I knew much more about the sport, including the history, the tournament-organizing and the business, than those who were not familiar with it in my class. That was my advantage," Cai said.

"Meanwhile, we learn about the courses, the grass in great detail at school. I also had some knowledge before, but not at such an in-depth level. And it gives me better understanding of the game."

A frequent player on the domestic amateur tour, Cai is used to playing with a caddie and said it was a challenge to shoulder the bag this time.

"On the tour, the players just focus on the game and don't have to take care of the rest. Now we have to

do everything on our own. It takes time to adjust to that," Cai said.

"It will be a demanding task as the competition continues, especially here in Shenzhen as the temperature is so high."

Cai started the women's individual event with a 10-over-82 at the Mission Hills Golf Club on Wednesday. But she said she enjoyed playing at home.

"Maybe I was too excited playing on my home course, I didn't fall asleep until very late last night. I did struggle a lot at the beginning," she said.

"Actually, I have only played the course once or twice before. But a lot of the volunteers and working staff are my schoolmates, so I was very happy and relaxed during the round."

With some solid results in previous events, Cai is planning to turn professional in the near future.

"That is for sure, I want to be a professional player. It is only on the pro tour that you can savor the best of the game, and see how the top tournaments are organized," she said.

"However, I am not that ambitious. I never want to be world No 1 or some big name. I just want to learn more. I will dedicate myself to golf education after a few years on the tour."



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Cai Wenfei, a golf management major at Shenzhen University, says playing golf and academic study complement each other.

Last of the lifters, but by no means the least

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SHENZHEN — He was up on the stage first, second and third.

Due to a patent strength gap, Sri Lanka's Sujan Duminda Maddumage Don finished all three of his attempts in the snatch and clean and jerk before the second lifter stepped onto the platform in the men's 85kg weightlifting class on Tuesday.

Maddumage Don opened the snatch at 90kg and made it, but failed in his next two attempts at 101kg, which was still 14kg less than the next lifter, Canadian Pascal Plamondon's successful opening weight.

The Sri Lankan finally lifted a total of 210kg, 155kg less than champion Rinat Kireev of Russia.

However, Maddumage Don said he was not embarrassed or daunted by the huge gap in class.

"I don't think about it. I know

they are strong, but I am not scared at all. I feel I'm doing well as long I show my best," Maddumage Don said.

"I really don't have a problem with it (the gap). The only thing that can bother me is my technique. If I make a mistake with my technique, I feel upset. Otherwise I'm pretty OK," said the 23-year-old, whose performance in Shenzhen was only 5kg less than his personal best.

His teammate, Basuru Gunathilake, suffered a similar fate. Gunathilake finished dead last of the 12 lifters in the men's 69kg on Monday with a total of 175kg, almost half the winner's weight of 321kg.

But he held his head high, too.

"I just started weightlifting one year ago and this is my first international competition. I really had nothing to lose," Gunathilake, 22, said.

"Actually I improved my personal best here. I could only do 170kg at home but I lifted 175kg this time. It gave me a big surprise," he said.

"Also we see how strong they



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Sri Lanka's Sujan Duminda Maddumage Don shows despair after dropping the barbells in one of his failed attempts.

(the other lifters) are and it encourages us to work harder to be as good as them."

A pharmacy major at the University of Peradeniya, Gunathilake said he has been pretty busy with his studies and has had little time for training.

"In Sri Lanka, you must finish your studies first. I can only go to the gym in the evening. I train only three times a week and for two hours each time. I think the other athletes train much more than us," he said.

For Maddumage Don, it is even

harder. He doesn't have a coach at the University of Moratowa, where he studies information technology.

"I used to have a coach in my hometown, but in the college I don't have one so I can only train by myself. That is a really big problem," he said. "That is why I am not making much progress. I could lift 205kg in 2006 and now only 215kg, not much progress at all."

He said training conditions were also a challenge for him. "I have only one bar in the university gym and it is very old. It is not smooth anymore and it is hard to change the discs," Maddumage Don said.

"This is the first time I have trained and competed in such good conditions. So I really enjoyed it very much. I love the sport, even though I lost," he said.

"Although we have finished our events, we will come and train every day before we leave Shenzhen. We come from different universities so it is hard for us to get together and we love the gym here so much," Gunathilake said.