



# Duo dives back into partnership

OLYMPIC CHAMPIONS REUNITE TO CLAIM GOLD IN THE MEN'S 10M SYNCHRO PLATFORM EVENT

By TANG YUE  
CHINA DAILY

SHENZHEN — Olympic-winning duo Lin Yue and Huo Liang partnered for the first time in two years and won the men's synchronized 10m platform diving yesterday.



DIVING

“We haven't dived as a pair for a long time,” Lin said. “We just started to pair up again a few weeks ago for the Universiade. But apparently, years of cooperation before helped a lot. We didn't feel strange at all.”

The duo claimed gold in its international debut at the 2006 World Cup, and at the 2008 Beijing Olympics. It also won the World Championships titles in 2007 and 2009.

The Rome Worlds marked their last appearance as partners before the Universiade.

At last month's worlds in Shanghai, Huo teamed with Qiu Bo to win his third consecutive title at the prestigious tournament.

Lin said the coach told them to pair for the Universiade, but he hopes it is not the end.

“I don't know whether we will be partners again after the event,” Lin, 20, said.

“We have to listen to the coach.



Lin Yue and Huo Liang won the men's 10m platform synchronized diving gold medal yesterday.

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But personally, I enjoy diving with him. I hope we can be partners again and defend our title in London.”

Russia's Victor Minivaev and Llya Zhakharvo won silver at the Universiade while Mexico's Rommel Pacheco and Jonathan Ruval-

caba took the bronze.

In an earlier competition, China's He Zi and Wang Han emerged victorious in the women's synchronized 3m springboard.

Russia's Olena Fedorova and Anna Pysmenska finished second, and Americans Bianca

Alvarez and Carrie Dragland were third.

China again proved its diving dominance by winning 11 out of the 12 Universiade titles, while Mexican Paola Espinosa triumphed in the women's 10m platform.

The Universiade also offers men's and women's team titles, according to the combined scores of each team.

China was followed by Ukraine and Russia on the men's side, and by the US and Malaysia in the women's rankings.

## Russians prove too strong for brave Ukrainians



GAO ERQIANG / CHINA DAILY

Evgeny Sivozhelez of Russia spikes the ball against Ukraine in the Universiade men's volleyball final last night.

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SHENZHEN — Ukraine lifted its game from its previous encounter against Russia in the men's volleyball group match, but still failed to seriously challenge the Russians in yesterday's final.

After losing the first two sets yesterday by small margins, Ukraine staged a rally to win the third set but too many errors cost it the fourth and the gold medal.

Russia won 25-21, 25-23, 22-25, 25-14. However, the captain of the runner-up remained upbeat about the result.



VOLLEYBALL

“Today we tried very hard and it was really close in the first three sets,” said Ukraine captain Oleksiy Klymar. “But Russia was too strong for us.”

“I'm happy that we made the final and won the silver medal. That is already a big achievement for us.”

Ukraine's silver medal was its first volleyball medal at a Universiade.

“We are very happy that we won the gold medal,” said Yury Panchenko, Russia's head coach.

“The competition at the Universiade was tough. There were many strong teams but there was only ever going to be one winner. Fortunately it turned out to be us.”

Russian captain Konstantin Lesik said: “We played against them in the group match so we knew them well. Although we lost

the third set tonight, we refocused in the last part of the game and went on to win.”

In the earlier match, Brazil defeated Canada 25-20, 25-15, 19-25, 25-19 to take the bronze.

However, the Brazilians said it was not the medal they had expected to win.

“We came here for the gold medal. Now we're leaving with the bronze but we are still happy because we learned a lot at the Universiade,” said player Luiz Fonteles.

Head coach Roberley Leonardo agreed.

“Actually our target was to make the final, but we met a very strong Russia in the semifinals,” he said. “It was a difficult match for us. It was really like a final for us, and we lost it.”