



Shooter leaves her rebel ways behind

CHAMPION'S DAUGHTER TAKES UP THE CHALLENGE OF FORGING A CAREER IN SPORT

By ZHANG CHUNMEI
CHINA DAILY

SHENZHEN — Wang Weiyang only took up shooting last year.

Still, it made sense that a mob of reporters watched her in the individual elimination round of the women's 10m air-rifle at the Universiade on Sunday.

That'll happen when your father is head coach of the Chinese shooting team and your mother has coached several world champions.

Wang — the daughter of former Olympic champion Wang Yifu and former world champion Zhang Qiuping — shot 396 and placed ninth, failing to move on to the next round.

So many photographers were at work behind her at one point, her mother asked them to stop.

Wang was surprised to see so many reporters waiting outside the range.

"I do not hate anyone anymore," Wang said. "All experiences are precious to me. I will be much better than what you have imagined."

She only allowed herself to be interviewed after her coach agreed to it.

"I think I prepared well for the Universiade, but I was nervous during the competition, and also was disturbed by some people," she said. "The result is regretful - anyway, I will take today as (a lesson in dealing with disturbances).

"My parents only gave me some professional tips. They did not set a target for me, and not any pressure."

Even coming from a shooting family, Wang shunned the sport when she was younger, and exhibited a rebellious streak.

"I liked (ignoring) limits. I was impatient if someone wanted to discipline me," she said. "I did not like to have breakfast or listen to others. Sometimes I didn't even finish my homework. I skipped class and got into fights. I have played online games crazily, and I blew up the garbage can with firecrackers on Christmas Eve... I did all the crazy things."

But her life took a turn at the end of last year when she took up shooting.

"It was like an accident," she said. "I started shooting for fun, but I found that I was not bored with it after 80 days."

The road to the national shooting team wasn't smooth, but she



PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

Top: Wang Weiyang competes during the women's 10m air-rifle competition at the Universiade last Thursday.

Left: Wang Yifu (left) and his daughter Wang Weiyang take part in an awards ceremony for sports celebrities on Sept 6, 2009.



took the shooting exam on the morning of Feb 25.

"I was very afraid... I nearly forgot my surname," laughed Wang.

"I gritted my teeth and continued to pull the trigger. I forgot the scores, but at least my mom said I did great, and I was brave. Maybe things will go well if I can always be brave like that."

Wang began life both as a student at Tsinghua University and a shooter on the national team in

February. Though she is only 20, she thinks of herself as closer to 30.

"I know growing up means you need to be more mature, and experience more things, or even accidents, so I should have the ability to deal with them, or at least to accept them," Wang said.

Her father can probably give her some pointers.

In 1996, at the Atlanta Olympics, Wang Yifu earned only 6.5 points on his final shot.

At that level, anything below 9.0 is considered a very bad shot, and he lost the gold by 0.1 point.

He had collapsed that day from a medical problem coupled with the extreme heat.

When Wang Yifu returned home with that silver medal, Wang Weiyang, who was only 5, waited at the airport and told him what he needed to hear: "Dad, you are so great!"

Now, 15 years later, she has taken up her father's sport — as well as the responsibility of gunning for glory for her country.

It seems tough, but she never retreats.

"One of my best friends told me that since I chose the road, I must walk on, even crawl," Wang said.

"I need to train harder every day and every shoot, while studying hard every question and every

word. I need to assign my time and energy better. I want to be the best."

Her campus life is fulfilling. She still likes to read novels, listen to music and gossip with friends.

Universiade is a beginning, not an end.

"My parents are my role models, as they are outstanding," she said. "Someone might think I rely on them, but I want to show my ability. I will enjoy both the competition and campus life. I will not set a certain target for myself. No one knows what we will gain and lose in the future."

"I am working hard and do not want to give up. I always believe that however long we walk, we will finally be happy. I work hard for the people who always accompany me, and I will let you see that I will be successful and happy, finally."