



Xiao worth her weight in gold

By TANG YUE
CHINA DAILY

SHENZHEN — Winning the first weightlifting gold at a Universiade does not satisfy China's Xiao Hongyu.

With great support from the home crowd, Xiao fought back in the clean and jerk from third place in the snatch to win the title in the women's 48 kg division with a total of 188 kg in the Complex Training Hall of the Shenzhen Sports School on Saturday.

But the perfectionist said she was upset by her "poor snatches".

"This is the first time weightlifting has been introduced to the Universiade and my event was the first on stage. I feel very lucky. However, it also put extra pressure on me," she said.

"Although I won the gold today, to be honest, I'm not satisfied with my performance in the snatch. But that made me determined in the clean and jerk, because I knew I had to be better in the second part."

The silver medalist was not pleased with her result, either.

"Actually, I came for the gold medal but I only finished as the runner-up. It disappoints me," said Pyang Chun-hua of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, who lifted a total of 186kg.

"I will try my best to win a gold next time."

By contrast, Thailand's Pensiri Laosirikul, who was the hot favorite for the event, was happy with bronze.

A bronze medalist at the World Championships and the runner-up at last year's Asian Games, Laosirikul failed to keep the 2kg advantage she earned in the snatch.

But the result did not upset her.

"Yesterday was the queen's birthday and also Mother's Day in Thailand. I'm happy with a medal to bring back home. It will be a great gift for the queen and my mother," Laosirikul said.



EDMOND TANG / CHINA DAILY

China's Xiao Hongyu competes in the women's 48kg Group A weightlifting at the Summer Universiade in Shenzhen.



ZOU ZHONGPIN / CHINA DAILY

China's Qin Qian (white) grapples with Kim Na-young of South Korea in the women's judo over-78kg event on Saturday. Qin beat Kim to win China's first Shenzhen Universiade gold.

CHINESE JUDOKA SETS THE PACE IN LEADUP TO THE 2012 LONDON GAMES

By GAO CHANGXIN
CHINA DAILY

SHENZHEN — Judo isn't Qin Qian's first love, but she's certainly making the best of it.

Qin won the first gold medal for China at the Universiade on Saturday, defeating South Korea's Kim Na-young in the over-78 division.

Not bad for someone who took up the sport eight years ago.

The 23-year-old started when she was 15, much later than most world-class judokas. Before that, she was a swimmer who once won a city-wide swimming competition.

She abandoned the sport after finding herself unable to control her weight and jumped into judo, a sport many girls aren't eager to participate in.

But Qin seems OK with it.

"My value is embodied on the judo courts — I think I am beautiful," she said earlier this year.

Despite weighing about 110kg and standing 186cm tall, Qin can run 100 meters in about 13 seconds and runs 400m in 75 seconds.

Qin's natural athleticism helped her quickly become one of the country's best female judokas.

And on Saturday, she brought the first gold to a delegation that is setting its eyes on breaking its mark of 54, set a decade ago.

"I am really happy that I won the first gold for the Chinese delegation. It is the result of my intensive training," she said.

Qin entered the final after three straight wins, over Turkey's Kaya Belkis Zehra, Japan's Yamabe Kanae and France's Andeol Emilie.

Qin added she still has room for improvement and is making preparations for the upcoming World Judo Championships this year in Paris and the London Olympics next summer.

"I'm not feeling a lot of pressure in the competition this time, but I'm able to find my shortcomings through competitions and make improvements," she said.

Qin's coach, Song Qitao, attributed Qin's success to the tactics she adopted.

"We prepared specific tactics, targeting the rival's advantage in power and stature," he said.

Qin is known to have a strong body, but is working on improving her attack skills.

"I need more training to raise the level of my skills and make more positive attacks," Qin said.

Kim said Qin is improving.

"I have met her a couple of times, and every time she becomes better. It seems that she has already become one of the best in the world," said Kim.

Qin's biggest rival in the Olympics is expected to be Chinese veteran Tong Wen, who won gold at the 2008 Beijing Olympics and went back to the arena this year after the International Judo Federation revoked her two-year ban for doping.

"As for the Olympics, I don't care if it's me or Tong Wen who wins. As long as the winner is Chinese, I am OK with anybody," said Qin.

Qin made herself known after winning gold at the Junior Judo Championships in 2006.

Three years later, she won gold in the Universiade.

Qin defeated a Mongolian athlete in just 13 seconds in the East Asian Games, also in 2009, where she won two gold medals.

In the Asian Games in Guangzhou last year, Qin lost to Japanese judoka Mika Sugimoto in an 8-minute final in the open weight division.