

# New age-group mark set

■ BY GERARD WONG

WHEN Goh Weining crossed the line during the women's Under-18 100m hurdles final during Sunday's Singapore Athletic Association (SAA) All-Comers' meet at Gombak Stadium, she did more than just win the race.

The 15-year-old Singapore Sports School student also became the first athlete to set a national record this year.

Her time of 15.13sec broke the national girls U-17 mark of 15.14sec set by Inez Leong at last year's Schools National Championships.

Despite that distinction, Weining was not satisfied.

"I was hoping to go below 15sec," said the Secondary Four student, who is trying to qualify for this year's Youth Olympic Games (YOG).

"I'd been training since November and I felt on form before the race. So I was not too happy with the time."

But her coach Viatchelsav Vassiliev said: "It was raining, there was a headwind and Weining knocked the eighth hurdle, so yes, she could have gone faster.

"But as this is her first race of the season, I'm happy with her time."

Still, to make the YOG, Weining must clock at least 14.5sec by May. Although the YOG's qualifying time for her event is 13.82sec, the SAA will nominate an athlete if her time is just off the qualifying standard.

"I know I will go under 15sec soon," said Weining, who lost out to Inez for a place in last year's Asian Youth Games, where Inez won a bronze.

Another athlete who impressed on Sunday was 15-year-old Shashi Kumar Hazra.

The St Joseph's Institution student's winning distance of 6.67m in the Boys'

**Goh Weining's new 100m hurdles mark is 15.13sec but she needs to improve to 14.57sec for the YOG. PHOTO: SINGAPORE SPORTS SCHOOL**

U-18 long jump was a huge leap from the 6.04m he posted at last year's School Nationals en route to finishing last.

The meet was Shashi's first event since coming under national jumps coach Valeri Obidko last August. To qualify for the YOG, he must reach 6.86m.

"Thanks to his previous coaches Patrick Zehnder and Kamarulzaman Tahir, Shashi's foundation was already there. I've just been working on his speed and strength and techniques," said Obidko. "This boy is very promising and I am confident he can make it to the YOG."

