

Shahrir stakes YOG claim

The Straits Times 14 Mar 2010 © Singapore Press Holdings Ltd

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Shahrir Mohd Anuar, the forgotten boy of athletics, reminded everyone of his existence yesterday.

A season-best time of only 11.48sec meant that last year's Asian Youth Games bronze medalist looked set to miss out on the Youth Olympic Games (YOG).

But, yesterday, the 17-year-old Raffles Institution student showed just why he was previously feted as Singapore's fastest schoolboy.

He clocked 11.10sec to win the Boys' Under-18 100m event on the opening day of the Junior Athletics Championships.

Though some way off his personal best of 10.90sec, it was enough to pip Hwa Chong Institution's Donovan Chan (11.16sec).

His coach Remy Gan explained that Shahrir was just returning from injury, adding: "You'll start seeing the best of him in May or June."

Just in time for August's YOG, if he makes it to the provisional squad.

Staking a claim for a YOG spot alongside Shahrir was R. Avinash, also 17.

The Anglo-Chinese Junior College student won his 400m race in a stunning 49.86sec.

He is the first junior athlete to run below 50sec this year.

The feat is doubly impressive considering that he was planning to pace himself with close rival Sewow Yeong Yang, only for the RI student to be disqualified after a false start.

Said Avinash: "It shook me up when he was disqualified, but I decided to just go all out and keep pushing."

His time was more than a second faster than ACS (I)'s pre-race favourite Ng Chin Hui, who ran a disappointing 50.87sec to finish second.



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Though Shahrir Anuar (left) was some way off his personal best of 10.90sec, he still managed to pip Donovan Chan (right) to win their 100m final.