

# ANOTHER RECORD

## Stefan Tseng rewrites own national triple jump mark in Malaysian meet

■ BY MAY CHEN

TRIPLE jumper Stefan Tseng had extra motivation to perform well after he arrived in Paroi, Seremban, for the Negri Sembilan Open last Friday.

On top of aiming to qualify for December's South-east Asia Games, he also needed to recoup some money, after falling victim to a thief.

His camera, worth some \$450, and the \$200 in cash he took for the trip were stolen on the day he arrived.

With the \$500 reward he knew the Singapore Athletic Association would put in his pocket should he raise the national

mark in mind, Stefan leapt 16.04 metres yesterday, smashing the 15.78m record he set last year.

Said Stefan: "Losing my camera and money didn't affect my mood - it just made me even more motivated to break the record."

The 19-year-old is now into his final year of the Auckland University of Technology programme at the Singapore Sports School.

He said: "I knew I could do it, because I've been jumping over the 16m mark during training."

"I've been chasing a national record over 16m for some time, so the will was there. It was just a matter of doing it. Now that I've achieved it, it is a huge relief."

Coach Valeri Obidko was also not surprised at his charge's performance.

He said: "He has been performing consistently during training and other competitions, so I knew he was ready to do it."

Even though his jump of 16.04m was still 3cm short of the SEA Games qualifying mark, Stefan was confident that qualification would not elude him much longer.

He said: "I'm a little bit disappointed, but I know I can definitely do it again."

Given that the strong winds yesterday were not in Stefan's favour, coach Obidko was also confident his charge would deliver when he competes in two weeks' time at the Arafura Games in Darwin, Australia.

A number of other national junior records also fell at the Negri Sembilan meet.

High jumper Wayne Yap leapt 2.08m, re-writing the 1987 national junior record of 2.07m set by M. Azahar Sapuan.

Said coach Chan See Huey: "The competition here was much steeper than it was at the schools national track and field championships, so I think that pushed him to want to do better."



**Stefan Tseng's 16.04m leap is just 3cm short of the distance he needs to qualify for December's SEA Games. ST FILE PHOTO**

Dipna Lim Prasad finished third in the women's 100m hurdles with a time of 15.40sec, breaking Amanda Tan's 2008 mark of 15.47sec.

Dipna then teamed up with Shalom Danielle See, Fiona Ng and T. Piriayah to lower the 4x400m national junior relay mark by almost four seconds to 3min 56.7sec. The previous mark, set in 2008, was 4min 0.48sec.

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