

# Bowlers Tan and New just miss out on world title

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**SINGAPORE** — Eight pins was all that separated Singapore national bowlers Daphne Tan and New Hui Fen from claiming the girls' doubles crown of the Bowling World Youth Championships.

They lost to Colombia's Laura Fonnegra and Maria Jose Rodriguez, who knocked down 481 pinfalls in the final yesterday morning (*Singapore time*) at the Tali Bowl in Helsinki, Finland.

Singapore's other pairing of Shayna Ng and Jazreel Tan shared the bronze with South Korea's Kim Yeon Ju and Kim Moon Jeong, after losing 412-392 to the Colombians in the semi-finals.

"It was a really close match. In the last frame, we needed a strike while Colombia just needed to spare for the win," co-national head coach William Woo told MediaCorp from Helsinki.

"We struck, but unfortunately for us, they got their spare."

New, the 2009 Asian Youth Games triple gold medallist, said she and Tan had difficulty finding their lines during practice but that changed in the match with the Colombians.

"It was a different story in the final. We were striking but, then, I got a bit careless and opened up in the third frame and could not spare the No 10 pin. Things might have ended differently had I been able to put it

down," she lamented.

Singapore have won only one gold at the World Youth Championship, courtesy of Valerie Teo's girls' singles title in 2006.

But despite narrowly missing out on another win, Singapore Bowling Federation president Jessie Phua was pleased with the bowlers' performance, as Tan and New had beaten the top-seeded South Koreans 456-414 in the semi-final. "They performed brilliantly beating South Korea and it was magnificent," said Phua.

The championship in Helsinki, which started on July 23 and will end on Sunday, features over 350 of the world's top youth bowlers and is a chance for the younger members of the national side to stake their claim



New (left) and Tan were only eight pins away from the world title. SINGAPORE BOWLING

for a place in this year's Asian Games squad.

At press time last night, Basil Low and Justin Lim Chun Liang, and Benjamin Lim and Justin Lim Chia Loong were in action in the boys' doubles.

# Singapore pair clinch silver

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BY LEE MIN KOK

ALL the pressure was on them after unconvincing performances in the singles bowling event of the ongoing World Youth Championships in Finland.

But New Hui Fen, 18, and Daphne Tan, 20, rallied on Tuesday to clinch the silver medal in the girls' doubles.

The duo dominated their South Korean opponents in the semi-finals, but were unable to sustain their fine run in the final.

They finished with a score of 473, just eight pinfalls short of Colombian pair Laura Fonnegra and Maria Jose Rodriguez, who won the gold.

The Republic's second pair of Shayna Ng and Jazreel Tan took the bronze with 392 pinfalls.

Speaking over the phone from Helsinki, a relieved Daphne attributed her improved showing in the doubles - she finished 30th in the singles - to her teammate's support.

She said: "I was glad to have Hui Fen by my side. She provided constant support and that gave me the motivation to perform better."

Competing at her first World Youth Championships, Asian Youth Games double gold medallist Hui Fen said her performance this time round was not up to the mark. She was 32nd in the singles.

"I did better in the doubles, although it (my performance) could have been much better," she added.

But head coach William Woo was satisfied with his charges' display.

"It's the performance that matters, not the result," he said. "To see them put in maximum effort despite the intense pressure is really heartening."

Meanwhile, 17-year-old Basil Low was Singapore's best performer in the boys' singles, finishing in eighth place with 1,311 pinfalls. Benjamin Lim was 33rd.

More than 250 bowlers from 46 countries are taking part in the competition, which ends on Sunday.



New Hui Fen (above) and Daphne Tan teamed up to score 473 in the final.  
THE NEW PAPER FILE PHOTOS



# Silver and bronze for Singapore

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SINGAPORE'S bowlers took home two girls' doubles medals from the World Youth Bowling Championships in Helsinki, Finland on Tuesday.

New Hui Fen and Daphne Tan won silver after a tight final at the Tali Bowl arena while another Singaporean pair Shayna Ng and Jazreel Tan shared the bronze medal with South Korea.

The girls shrugged off the disappointment in the girls' singles on Sunday to bring home the prizes.

Daphne and Hui Fen, 19 and 17, beat Korea's top-seeded pair of Kim Yeon Ju and Kim Moon Jeong in the semi-finals by a score of 456-414.

However, they were narrowly edged out for gold by Colombian duo Laura Fonnegra and Maria Jose Rodriguez, losing by just eight pinfalls in the final play-off that ended 481-473.

Despite the defeat, the girls were happy to finish on the podium.

"We didn't think we had a chance compared to the other countries," Hui Fen told The New Paper over the phone. "And when we heard we were coming up against the Koreans, we hit a bit of a barrier."

"However, our coach told us to beat ourselves and not the opponents. I'm happy we got second although I felt it could've been better."

Daphne added: "I wasn't really concentrating on the score. I was just taking each shot as it came."

"I'm glad everyone from the girls' team got a medal each."

Second seeds Shayna and Jazreel, both 20, topped their squad with 2,575 pinfalls, although they fell to the even-

tual winners in their semi-final with a score of 412-392 to finish in joint-third place with the South Koreans.

Team manager Melvin Lim is delighted with the girls' performance.

"It was a great performance from the girls," said Lim. "They stayed in the hunt and I'm very proud of them."

"For them to finish in the top four of the world championships speaks volumes for our youth development programme in Singapore."

In the boys' singles, Singapore's 17-year-old Basil Low finished eighth out of 146 bowlers with 1,311 pinfalls.

England's Adam Cairns won the gold with an emphatic victory over Australia's Sam Cooley in the final while South Korea and Canada shared the bronze medal.

- GREGORY LOO



PICTURE: SINGAPORE BOWLING

**WELL DONE:** New Hui Fen (left) and Daphne Tan.