

# Sailors in the race for gold

Lee and Low the pick of the crop at 420 worlds, Liu and Cheng in the mix in the men's event



PHOTO COURTESY OF SINGAPORE SAILING

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## YOUR SPORTING FIX

### BASEBALL

**TODAY**  
7am **MLB** Yankees vs Indians (mioTV Ch 114, 117)

**TOMORROW**  
10am **MLB** Dodgers vs Padres (mioTV Ch114)

### ATHLETICS

**TODAY**  
2pm European C'ship (StarHub Ch205)

**TOMORROW**  
2pm European C'ship (StarHub Ch205)  
8pm African C'ship (StarHub Ch205)

### CRICKET

**TODAY**  
11.48pm **T20** Somerset vs Northamptonshire (mioTV Ch123)

**TOMORROW**  
2.40am **T20** Essex vs Lancashire (mioTV Ch123)

### BASKETBALL

**TOMORROW**  
7.30am **WNBA** Silver Stars vs New York Liberty (mioTV Ch114)

### FOOTBALL

**TOMORROW**  
10.10am **Copa Lib** Chivas Guadalajara vs Universidad de Chile (StarHub Ch222)  
7.25pm **S-League** Gombak United vs Tampines Rovers (StarHub Ch222)

### SPORTSZONE MINUTES

Sports updates live hourly on 938Live (6.35am to 11.35pm)

**SINGAPORE** — Singapore's sailors remained on course to win the country's first 420 world sailing title yesterday.

After the final day of qualifiers at the International 420 World Sailing Championship in Haifa, Israel, all three of the Republic's pairings for the women's competition made the cut for the gold fleet, from which the overall champions will be decided.

The Republic's best showing came from Rachel Lee and Cecilia Low (picture), who finished third in the 74-strong fleet with 16 points, following their 5-1-4 finish in yesterday's three races.

Italy's Roberta Caputo and Benedetta Barbiero and Brazil's Daniela Adler and Kahena Kunze each had 15 points apiece, but the Italian pair took top spot because of their superior head-to-head finish.

Low, 19, was happy with the form they have shown so far, especially when she only teamed up with Rachel in May.

"We're surprised at how we've fared so far," she told MediaCorp in a telephone interview last night.

"We weren't expecting our standard to be as high as this. We didn't have a good start in the first

two races and were playing catch-up. Fortunately, we managed to do just that, both upwind and downwind."

The other Singaporeans qualifying for the women's gold fleet were Denise Lim and Benita Chua, who finished 16th, and Griselda Khng and Sakina Mohd Halim (36th).

The top half of the 83-strong men's and 74-strong women's fleet qualified for the gold fleet, with the rest relegated to the silver fleet.

The regatta resumes tomorrow, with 11 races scheduled over the next four days.

Despite winning 14 world titles in sailing recent years, the Republic have yet to produce world champions in the 420 class.

Said Low: "We just take it day by day, try our best, get good starts and good speeds."

Barring disaster, 2006 Asian Games champions Justin Liu and Sherman Cheng also look set to qualify for the gold fleet in the men's race, which was still going on at press time last night.

The duo had a first and 12th place finish yesterday, and were fourth overall on 32 points, 18 behind Greek leaders Georgios Vasilas and Stamatia Fragiadaki.

But Ko Chuan Yang and Andrew Paul Chan, who were lying 74th, look certain to drop to the silver fleet.

# Singapore sailors go for gold

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SINGAPORE'S three ladies pairings have secured their places in the Gold fleet of the International 420 World Championship in Haifa.

Rachel Lee and Cecilia Low finished the qualifiers in third place overall on 16 points with one discard, trailing the joint leaders by a point.

Remaining pairs Denise Lim/Benita Chua (46 points) and Griselda Khng/Sakina Mohd Halim (79 points) finished 16th and 36th respectively.

Lee and Low started yesterday in second place, moving up from third after protests disqualified the first race of initial first-day leaders Anna Burnet and Flora Stewart from Great Britain.

The six girls will now compete for top honours in the Gold fleet in Israel over 11 races from tomorrow.

Without a doubt, the girls are in good spirits going into their well-earned rest day today, according to team manager Serena Wong.

"The girls are all glad to have made it to the Gold fleet," said Wong.

"With the qualification out of the way, all that matters now are the finals.

"We've had enough of the sailing club over the last few days so we definitely won't be heading back here again!

"Hopefully we can all sleep in and do some sightseeing tomorrow."

Wong is delighted with Lee and Low's perform-

ances so far as the pair have only been sailing together for a short time.

She added: "They're a new pair – they've only been together for a few months. However, Cecilia's an experienced crew and Rachel is a talented helmsman.

"We're happy they have bonded well and the results are showing on the water."

With no team dominating the proceedings in qualifying, the finals series should prove to be a tightly contested affair.

"For the ladies, it's been pretty close out there," said Wong. "I had a look through the binoculars and there isn't a really big gap between the boats."

Meanwhile in the open category, Justin Liu and Sherman Cheng have also qualified for the Gold fleet having finished third with 18 points.

However, Ko Chuan Yang and Andrew Paul Chan could only manage a Silver fleet finish, coming in 73rd with 142 points.

All scores from qualification will form a 12th score for the finals, with the 10 best scores from each boat taken to judge the winner.

## OPEN QUALIFIERS

1. Georgios Vasilas/Stamatia Fragiadaki (GRE) 14 pts
2. Clement Iklef/Clement Pequin (FRA) 16 pts
3. Justin Liu/Sherman Cheng (SIN) 18 pts

## LADIES QUALIFIERS

1. Roberta Caputo/Benedetta Barbiero (ITA) 15 pts
2. Daniela Adler/Kahena Kunze (BRA) 15 pts
3. Rachel Lee/Cecilia Low (SIN) 16 pts



PICTURE: SINGAPORE SAILING FEDERATION

**GOLDEN GIRLS:** Rachel Lee (back) and Cecilia Low will be aiming for top spot in the Gold fleet of the International 420 World Championship.