

2013 Sports News

Fencing Academy Wins 2 National Colours, 9 Zone Awards, 2 Team Awards

By Jansen Yeo

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Singapore Sports School won a record 162 Zone Awards and 102 National Colours this year. Additionally, the various sports academies won 33 Team Awards, presented to teams that finished in the top 4 of the national round of competition.

Bowler Darren Ong Wei Siong and football player Irfan Fandi Ahmad were named the Best School Boy in their sport, as were table tennis player Ang Wan Qi and shooter Martina Lindsay P Veloso for the Best School Girl awards. This is the second year that Darren and Wan Qi have been singled out for special recognition.

Alumnus Calvin Kang Li Loong, who had represented Singapore at four major competitions before he was 20 years old – 2007 Nakhon Ratchasima Southeast Asian Games, Beijing 2008 Olympic Games, Delhi 2010 Commonwealth Games and Guangzhou 2010 Asian Games – was the guest-of-honour at the School's presentation ceremony on 23 September 2013.

The recipients of Zone Awards and National Colours in the Fencing Academy are:

Akira Goh Yu Xiang 1st Zone

Amita Berthier 1st Zone

Fellini Er You Di 1st Zone

Fong Zheng Jie 1st Zone

Jade Lee Johnson 1st Zone

Nicole Mae Wong Hui Shan 1st National, 2nd Zone

Ryan Ong Ren-An 1st Zone

Tatiana Wong Yu Rong 1st Zone

Zachary Chen Yi 1st National, 1st Zone

National Colours Team Awards

C Division Boys

C Division Girls

All Set To Duel

National fencer Nicole Mae Wong Hui Shan, 15, will be looking to make an impact at the Nanjing 2013 Asian Youth Games. Nicole, the youngest member of the National Women's Senior Foil Team, will be competing in the Women's Foil event.

The 2013 Singapore Cadet Fencing Championship Women's Foil event winner is joined by Singapore Sports School teammate Zachary Chen Yi, 14, who won the bronze medal in the Men's Epee Individual event at the Singapore Junior Fencing Championships this year. Zachary will be competing in the Men's Epee event at the Games.

The two fencers are part of the 29-strong Singapore Sports School contingent competing at the Nanjing 2013 Asian Youth Games. A total of 84 youth athletes will be representing Singapore at the Games.



**Nicole Mae Wong Hui Shan, 15
Fencing (Women's Foil)**

Nicole Mae Wong Hui Shan is the youngest member of the National Women's Senior Foil Team and one of the youngest female fencers ever to don national colours.

She was also one of the youngest competitors in the Cadet Women's Foil event at the 2012 World Junior and Cadet Fencing Championships in Moscow, Russia, and finished 26th out of 79 competitors. She was then 13. Nicole also achieved a top 8 finish in the Cadet Women's Foil event at the 2012 Asian Junior and Cadet Fencing Championships.

Nicole won the Cadet Foil Team, Junior Foil Individual and Junior Foil Team gold medals at the 2013 South East Asian Fencing Federation Junior (Under 20) and Cadet (Under 17) Championships in Brunei from 26 January to 3 February 2013. She also won a bronze medal in the Junior Foil Team event at the Asian Junior and Cadet Championship in Thailand in March 2013.

On Singapore soil, Nicole won the 2013 Singapore Cadet Fencing Championships Women's Foil event and the National Schools Fencing Championships Individual Foil event for two successive years, in 2012 and 2013.

Nicole is enrolled in Singapore Sports School's pre-International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme class.



Zachary Chen Yi, 14 Fencing (Men's Epee)

Zachary Chen Yi started 2013 on a high note, breaking into the National Cadet Men's Epee team.

He finished 5th at the Singapore Cadet Fencing Championships in January and went on to represent Singapore at the 2013 South East Asian Fencing Federation Junior (Under 20) and Cadet (Under 17) Championships in Brunei from 26 January to 3 February 2013, winning two silver medals in the Cadet Epee Team and Junior Epee Team events.

Zachary, who joined Singapore Sports School in Secondary 2 when the Fencing Academy was set up in 2012, won a bronze medal in the Men's Epee Individual event at the Singapore Junior Fencing Championships in March 2013.

Zachary competed against some of the best youth fencers at Challenge Wratistavia, the biggest youth fencing competition in the world. He finished 34th out of 180 competitors from 15 countries in the Under 15 Boys Epee Individual event.

Amita Hits Gold At World's Largest Youth Fencing Competition

She Foils 163 U13 Fencers At Challenge Wratistlavia

**By Michaela Oehler
Alumnus, Bowling Academy**





Amita Berthier (left) and Yeo Jing Zhe (right) with Fencing Academy Head Coach Ralf Bissdorf.

Amita Berthier returned to Singapore Sports School on Wednesday morning armed with two gold medals – the first from the largest youth fencing competition in the world, in Poland, and the second, from a minime competition in France.

The 12-year-old won the “H2020 East Interzone Foil Minime” gold medal in Besancon, France, on 7 April 2013. The “minime” is an U15 championship.

Just two weeks ago, Amita won the Girls’ U13 Foil gold medal at Challenge Wratislavia, the biggest youth fencing competition in the world. The competition took place in Wroclaw, Poland, from 21 to 25 March 2013, and was participated by fencing powerhouses like Russia, France, Germany, Poland, Hungary.

This year’s tournament is the 36th edition of the series and was organised under the patronage of the World Fencing Federation (FIE) which is celebrating its 100th

Anniversary.

There was competition for all weapons – epee, foil and sabre – for both girls and boys, in the U15, U13 and U11 age-groups. More than 2,000 competitors from 28 countries took part. More than 6,000 matches were fought, and according to Singapore Sports School Head Coach Ralf Bissdorf who analysed the results, more than 50,000 hits were made.

Singapore Sports School sent a team of 11 fencers and Amita and Yeo Jing Zhe, both in the U13 category, both using the foil, made noteworthy achievements.

Amita was outstanding. Competing against 163 fencers from 17 countries, Amita emerged the champion. Mr Bissdorf said the bouts in the Direct Elimination round were fenced until 12 hits, and nobody was able to score more than 7 hits against Amita.

“Amita is extremely disciplined tactically, has good technique, and is very focussed. Despite the high level competition, she was still enjoying herself. This is a significant achievement for Amita as this is a really big competition and victory. The three years of focussed work that she put in is paying off.

“Amita combines talent and a hard-working attitude. Her fencing has matured over the past 6 to 12 months as she is getting older. In the past, it was more feeling and less tactical. Now, it becomes more tactical and well thought-through. She analyses more and does not solely depend on her feeling anymore.”

Mr Bissdorf added that Amita dominated the competition even against physically taller and stronger girls.

The U13 Boy's Foil competed was contested by 222 fencers from 16 countries. Jing Zhe finished with the bronze medal. He fought hard in the semi-finals despite heavy leg cramps, but lost 10-12. The two matches before were nail-biting, both won by one hit.

“Jing Zhe fenced really well. Technically and tactically, he was very good and I would say, he is on par with the best fencers in this age-group in Europe and beyond,” said Mr Bissdorf.

The SSP Team

U13 Boys' Foil (222 competitors from 16 countries)

Yeo Jing Zhe (Bronze)

U13 Girls' Foil (164 competitors from 17 countries)

Amita Berthier (Gold)

U15 Boys' Epee (180 competitors from 15 countries)

Zachary Chen Yi (34th)

Neville Lim Woon Juin (102nd)

U15 Girls' Epee (116 competitors from 12 countries)

Chloe Chu Min (59th)

Grace Mun Si En (80th)

Jade Lee Johnson (103rd)

U15 Boys' Foil (155 competitors from 16 countries)

Ryan Ong Ren-An (18th)

Brian Cheong Sze Kai (38th)

U15 Girls' Foil (130 competitors from 14 countries)

Tatiana Wong Yu Rong (16th)

U15 Boys' Sabre (134 competitors from 14 countries)

Fellini Er You Di (83rd)

Medal Tally

	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze
1	RUS	6	3	7
2	POL	2	4	6
3	GER	2	2	11
4	HUN	2	2	1

5	UKR	1	2	4
6	ROU	1	2	1
7	BEL	1	1	
8	CZE	1		1
8	SIN	1		1
10	USA	1		
11	GBR		1	1
12	LAT		1	
13	NED			1
13	SWE			1
13	FRA			1

South East Asian Fencing Federation Junior & Cadet Championships 2013, 26 Jan-3 Feb 2013, Brunei

Two of our fencers, Nicole Wong and Zachary Chen, who are part of the National Senior Women's Foil Team and National Cadet Men's Epee Team respectively, were selected to represent Singapore at the recent South East Asian Fencing Federation Junior (Under-20) & Cadet (Under-17) Championships 2013 held in Brunei. They contributed to the Singapore team that eventually won a record of 38 medals in 24 events.

Nicole won 3 Gold Medals (Under-20 individual, Under-20 team, Under-17 team) in the Women's Foil event. In the Under-17 individual event, she lost in the quarter-finals to Lau Ysien, a fellow Singaporean.

Zachary won 2 Silver Medals (Under-20 team, Under-17 team) in the Men's Epee event. In the Under-17 individual event, he lost to the eventual gold medallist from Vietnam in the quarter-finals and in the Under-20 in the round of 16 to Nigel Sim from Singapore.

For Zachary, the competition was beneficial for his future development. Being the first time he represented Singapore, it was a boost to his confidence with the 2 medals he won in the team events. Zachary also brought along a very positive spirit to the team and presented himself very well.

Singapore Cadet Fencing Championships, 5-6 & 19-20 Jan 2013

The fencers started the year on a winning streak at the Singapore Cadet Fencing Championships 2013 (a National Under-17 event) held at the National Training Centre at Toa Payoh Swimming Complex from 5-6 and 19-20 Jan 2013. In the individual events, Nicole Wong came in first in the Women's Foil event and further consolidated her position in the National Cadet Women's Foil Team. Tatiana Wong and Amita Berthier came in joint third in the same event, with Tatiana strengthening her position in the National Cadet Women's Foil Team this result. Ryan Ong came in third in the Men's Foil, a very worthy result in this very competitive weapon event in the local scene. Jade Johnson also came in third in the Women's Epee event. Zachary Chen and Neville Lim came in fifth and sixth respectively in the Men's Epee event. Although they did not win any medals, they broke into the National Cadet Men's Epee Team with these results, signalling their intention to contest for a spot on the AYG 2013 team.

Complete results from our fencers at the competition:

Participants	Event	Results
Berthier Amita	Foil Ind	3rd (Bronze) out of 29
	Foil Team	1st (Gold) out of 7
Lim Justin	Epee Ind	28th (E) out of 32
Yeo Jing Zhe	Foil Ind	18th out of 43
	Foil Team	7th out of 11
Cheong Brian Sze Kai	Foil Ind	29th out of 43
	Foil Team	3rd (Bronze) out of 11
Er Fellini You Di	Sabre Ind	16th out of 36
	Sabre Team	3rd (Bronze) out of 9
Fong Zheng Jie	Foil Ind	28th out of 43
	Foil Team	10th out of 11
Goh Akira Yu Xiang	Foil Ind	21st out of 43
	Foil Team	7th out of 11
Johnson Jade Lee	Epee Ind	3rd (Bronze) out of 23
Lim Neville Woon Juin	Epee Ind	6th out of 32
Mun Grace Si En	Epee Ind	15th out of 23
	Epee Team	3rd (Bronze) out of 5
Ong Ryan Ren-An	Foil Ind	3rd (Bronze) out of 43
Wong Tatiana Yu Rong	Foil Ind	3rd (Bronze) out of 29
	Foil Team	1st (Gold) out of 7
Chen Zachary Yi	Epee Ind	5th out of 32
Chu Chloe Min	Epee Ind	13th out of 23
	Epee Team	2nd (Silver) out of 5

Wong Nicole Mae Hui Shan	Foil Ind	1st (Gold) out of 29
	Foil Team	1st (Gold) out of 7

National Junior Trials 2013, 12-13 Jan 2013

At the National Junior Trials 2013 held at the National Training Centre at Toa Payoh Swimming Complex from 12 to 13 Jan 2013, Nicole Wong from the Fencing Academy came in first for the Women's Foil event with a score of 15-10 against Lau Ysien from Blade Club in the finals. Zachary Chen and Neville Lim also had a very good competition, coming in second and third respectively in the Men's Epee event.

Complete results from our fencers at the competition:

Participants	Event	Results
Berthier Amita	Foil Ind	11th out of 26
Cheong Brian Sze Kai	Foil Ind	22nd out of 37
Er Fellini You Di	Sabre Ind	13th out of 37
Goh Akira Yu Xiang	Foil Ind	29th out of 37
Johnson Jade Lee	Epee Ind	16th out of 34
Lim Neville Woon Juin	Epee Ind	3rd out of 32
Ong Ryan Ren-An	Foil Ind	8th out of 37
Wong Tatiana Yu Rong	Foil Ind	5th out of 26
Chen Zachary Yi	Epee Ind	2nd out of 32
Wong Nicole Mae Hui Shan	Foil Ind	1st out of 26