

2015 News

July Jubilation



Singapore Sports School alumni brought in one piece of good news after another in the month of July.

On 21 July 2015, Isabelle Li Siyun was awarded the Public Service Commission Scholarship to study Liberal Arts at Yale-NUS College. Then, on 31 July 2015, Joel Pang Wen Jie graduated from Nanyang Technological University amongst the top of his cohort with two awards – the Koh Boon Hwee Award and the Bachelor of Sport Science and Management Gold Medal.

The Koh Boon Hwee Award, formerly known as the University Scholars Award, recognises the achievement of graduating students while honouring teachers and faculty members who have been an inspiration to them.

“It’s truly an honour for me to receive the Koh Boon Hwee Award. I’m thankful for this platform to acknowledge the mentors that I have met along my life journey who have played a significant role in guiding and moulding me into the person I am today. My teachers in Singapore Sports School have all played a part in my development as a person. If I could, I would have nominated every teacher and staff who had been a part of my secondary school education,” said Joel.

“However, Mr Raymond Mak is one teacher who stood above the rest throughout my five years as a secondary and post-secondary student-athlete in the Sports School, and even as a university undergraduate. He played many roles: Science teacher, Boarding School mentor, teacher-in-charge of the Student’s Council, of which I was a member of from 2004 to 2006. He not only delivered Science

lessons, he played an integral role in developing me as a student-athlete leader and as a person.

“What was I treasure most was his constant concern for his students. He would always try to find time to catch up with his students – no matter how busy his schedule was as Assistant Director of Academics – to guide them through challenges were facing even after they had graduated from the Sports School.”

The 25-year-old national sailor, who is a recipient of the Singapore Sports Council Scholarship (renamed Sport Singapore Scholarship) also graduated among the top of his cohort, receiving the Sports Science and Management Gold Medal, awarded to outstanding or top graduands. He is currently serving his SportSG bond as an Associate Sport Physiologist with the Singapore Sports Institute.

Isabelle is the only recipient from a polytechnic to win the PSC Scholarship this year, and only the eighth in the past three years. The 20-year-old national table tennis player is also the first PSC Scholarship recipient from Republic Polytechnic.

“I couldn’t have made it this far on my own. I’ve got a great family to thank for supporting me in my pursuit of excellence in sports and studies concurrently, especially my mum who would bring meals to the Sports School for me during my polytechnic days so that I didn’t have to sit through afternoon lessons hungry following training in the morning with the national team at Toa Payoh Sports Complex,” said Isabelle.

“I fell in love with table tennis when I was about 9 or 10 years old. My coach, Mr Wang Xiaoke, at Chongfu Primary School, pushed me hard enough to challenge me but never overboard to risk me losing interest in the sport. He encouraged me to choose the Sports School as my secondary school. By the time I was in Primary 6, there were several Sports School student-athletes I looked up to – Tan Hui Min, Zena Sim, for example. There was no second thought about which school I wanted to study at.”

For her post-secondary education, Isabelle opted for the through-train pathway leading to Republic Polytechnic’s Diploma in Sports and Leisure Management as the customised programme, delivered by RP’s lecturers at the Sports School, offered the flexibility that allowed her to train and compete overseas to gain international exposure and chalk up world ranking points. Isabelle graduated from RP in May 2014 as its Valedictorian with a 3.98 Grade Point Average. She spent the next 12 months training fulltime in preparation of the Singapore 2015 Southeast Asian Games where she won a gold medal as part of the Women’s Team.

“My next challenge is going through university and graduating well, while continuing to represent Singapore in table tennis. It will not be easy but there are

sportsmen and sportswomen before me who have travelled this path successfully and I look up to them.”



Isabelle Li Siyun (third from right) is the second Singapore Sports School alumna to receive the PSC Scholarship.



Joel Pang Wen Jie (second from right) in conversation with President Tony Tan.

Super Shanti Is RP's Sportswoman Of The Year

Republic Polytechnic Sports Awards



Singapore sprinter Veronica Shanti Pereira is Republic Polytechnic's Sportswoman of the Year. She also received Republic Honours and the Meritorious Gold award at RP's Sports Awards on 24 July 2015.

Shanti was asked to provide a video clip to accept her award in anticipation that she would be overseas. In the video clip, Shanti said that she is grateful to RP for selecting her as the Sportswoman of the Year.

"There are a few people I would like to thank because they have been journeying with me to where I am. Firstly, my family. They are my No. 1 supporters and they have been with me through thick and thin, and ups and downs.

"Then, there's my coach, Ms Margaret Oh. She has coached me for the past four years. She truly has my best interests at heart and wants to see me go the furthest that I can go in my sport career. She is also like my second mum, so I can't be grateful enough to her.

"I also want to thank Singapore Sports School as well as Republic Polytechnic for providing the Diploma in Sports and Leisure Management programme at the Sports School for athletes like myself. The RP-SSP DSLM programme has afforded me time and opportunity to excel in both sports and studies. I am able to train regularly for major meets like the recent Southeast Asian Games as well as attend classes and complete assignments."

Shanti said the path taken by student-athletes poses many challenges, but she has no regret.

“It takes a lot for us to chase our dreams and achieve our goals. There’s a phrase that I recall whenever I feel tired and self-doubt: ‘It is never easy, but the best things in life never are.’ I live by this phrase of comfort and assurance because the best things in life come along with a whole lot of blood sweat and tears, but at the end of the day, achieving our dreams will rise above all of that.”

Altogether, 41 awards of various levels were presented to Singapore Sports School’s post-secondary student-athletes who are enrolled in RP’s Diploma in Sports and Leisure Management programme; all recipients are national athletes in badminton, bowling, golf, swimming, tennis, table tennis and track and field. Among them, nine received Republic Honours and three, the Most Valuable Player award.

Award Recipients

Sportswoman of the Year

Track and Field

Veronica Shanti Pereira

Republic Honours

Badminton

Terry Hee Yong Kai

Bowling

Javier Tan jun Juan

Joel Tan Eng An

Golf

Marc Ong Chong Ching

Track and Field

Eugenia Tan Yan Ning

Muhammad Naqib Asmin

Tyra Summer ree

Veronica Shanti Pereira

Wendy Enn

Most Valuable Player

Badminton

Loh Kean Yew

Ninna Tan Ai

Table Tennis

Tay Jit Kiat

Meritorious Gold

Badminton

Loh Kean Yew

Ninna Tan Ai

Bowling

Joy Yap Jing Ying

Kuek Qi En

Marcus Kiew Jiawei

Tracy See Wan Zhen

Swimming

Malcolm Low Wei Yang

Oh Yao Jie

Track and Field

Eugenia Tan Yan Ning

Kerstin Ong Jing Rong

Muhammad Naqib Asmin

Tyra Summer Ree

Veronica Shanti Pereira

Meritorious Silver

Badminton

Ang Wei Jun

Deline Quek Chun Yi

Loh Kean Hean

Bowling

Alex Chong Wei Chien

Table Tennis

Tay Jit Kiat

Certificate of Merit

Badminton

Elaine Chua Yi Ling

Jason Wong Guang Liang

Tan Ming Shun

Swimming

Benedict Boon Ji Chao

Dylan Tan Junjin

Raphael Chau Yi Zhi

Tennis

Angela Lim Shan Min

Track and Field

Pan Shi Yu

Athlete Development Grant

Track and Field

Kerstin Ong Jing Rong

First Among Equals

Public Service Commission Scholarship

Posted: 22 July 2015



Isabelle Li Siyun (third from left) with Principal Tan Teck Hock (extreme left).

Singapore Sports School alumna Isabelle Li Siyun scored a deciding point for her academic pathway when she was awarded the Public Service Commission Scholarship to study Liberal Arts at Yale-NUS College later this year.

The 20-year-old national table tennis player is the only recipient from a polytechnic to win the PSC Scholarship this year, and only the eighth in the past

three years. Isabelle is also the first PSC Scholarship recipient from Republic Polytechnic.

“I couldn’t have made it this far on my own. I’ve got a great family to thank for supporting me in my pursuit of excellence in sports and studies concurrently, especially my mum who would bring meals to the Sports School for me during my polytechnic days so that I didn’t have to sit through afternoon lessons hungry following training in the morning with the national team at Toa Payoh Sports Complex,” said Isabelle.

“I fell in love with table tennis when I was about 9 or 10 years old. My coach, Mr Wang Xiaoke, at Chongfu Primary School, pushed me hard enough to challenge me but never overboard to risk me losing interest in the sport. He encouraged me to choose the Sports School as my secondary school. By the time I was in Primary 6, there were several Sports School student-athletes I looked up to – Tan Hui Min, Zena Sim, for example. There was no second thought about which school I wanted to study at.

“At the Sports School, I learnt how discipline and time management could help me keep up with my studies while I played table tennis. When I was overseas and not at training or in competition, I would complete my homework, revise, read the lessons ahead and jot down questions on what I didn’t understand so that I could ask my teachers when I returned to Singapore. It was only possible for me to keep up with my classmates because my teachers would go beyond their call of duty to avail themselves, providing the guidance and support that I needed.”

For her post-secondary education, Isabelle opted for the through-train pathway leading to Republic Polytechnic’s Diploma in Sports and Leisure Management as the customised programme, delivered by RP’s lecturers at the Sports School, offered the flexibility that allowed her to train and compete overseas to gain international exposure and chalk up world ranking points. Isabelle graduated from RP in May 2014 as its Valedictorian with a 3.98 Grade Point Average. She spent the next 12 months training fulltime in preparation of the Singapore 2015 Southeast Asian Games where she won a gold medal as part of the Women’s Team.

“All the cheering and shouts of encouragement I heard from the spectator stand kept me going. I’m grateful to have the country behind me each time I compete for Singapore,” said Isabelle.

“My next challenge is going through university and graduating well, while continuing to represent Singapore in table tennis. It will not be easy but there are sportsmen and sportswomen before me who have travelled this path successfully and I look up to them.”

Seventy-five PSC Scholars, including Isabelle, were named from a pool of 2,400 applicants from schools that offer the GCE “A” Level Examinations or the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme and NUS High School of Mathematics and Science, a Specialised Independent School. They were presented the PSC Scholarship by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister in-charge of the Singapore Civil Service, Mr Teo Chee Hean, at Grand Copthorne Waterfront on 21 July 2015.

Isabelle is looking forward to making full use of the opportunities available during her undergraduate years that will prepare her to be a good public servant as she takes up new challenges upon graduation.



Student-Athletes Win 5 Silvers, 10 Bronze Medals

21st South East Asian Junior & Cadet Table Tennis Championships

Dave Lai

General Manager, Table Tennis Academy

Posted: 26 June 2015



Team Singapore paddlers.

Singapore Sports School student-athletes won medals in every event they competed in at the 21st South East Asian Junior and Cadet Table Tennis Championships in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 18 to 21 June 2015. They won 5 silvers and 10 bronze medals, and contributed significantly to Team Singapore's overall medal tally of 1 gold, 6 silvers and 11 bronzes.

Our paddlers also made up the majority of Team Singapore at the Championships. The Sports School contributed 7 out of 8 players in the Junior Boys and Girls teams, and 3 out of 6 players in the Cadet Boys and Girls teams.

The Junior Boys team, which included Edric Lim Zheng Jie, Ethan Poh Shao Feng and Maxxe Tay Ming Han, came closest to winning a gold medal, narrowly losing to Thailand 2-3 in the Final. Ethan had given Team Singapore a 2-1 lead in the 3rd

match when he beat Thailand's Naphat Panitcharoen 3-1. However, Thailand won the 4th match to set up a decider between Maxxe Tay and Sirawit Puangthip. Maxxe won the 1st set 11-9 but lost the next three sets 10-12, 10-12 and 8-11.

Results

Silver

Zhang Wanling (Cadet Girls Doubles)

Zhang Wanling (Cadet Girls Team)

Ethan Poh Shao Feng (Junior Boys Doubles)

Edric Lim Zheng Jie, Ethan Poh Shao Feng and Maxxe Tay Ming Han (Junior Boys Team)

Ang Wan Qi, Eunice Zoe Lim, Tan En Hui and Yee Herng Hwee (Junior Girls Team)

Bronze

Zhang Wanling (Cadet Girls Singles)

Gerald Yu Zong Jun (Cadet Boys Singles)

Beh Kun Ting and Gerald Yu (Cadet Boys Doubles)

Beh Kun Ting and Gerald Yu (Cadet Boys Team)

Edric Lim Zheng Jie (Junior Boys Singles)

Ang Wan Qi (Junior Girls Singles)

Yee Herng Hwee (Junior Girls' Singles)

Ang Wan Qi and Yee Herng Hwee (Junior Girls Doubles)

Eunice Zoe Lim and Tan En Hui (Junior Girls Doubles)

Ang Wan Qi (Junior Mixed Doubles)

'B' Girls Take 3rd Place

2015 National Schools Table Tennis Championships

Posted: 10 April 2015

Following the 1-3 loss to Nanyang Girls School in the semi-final, Singapore Sports School's "B" Division Girls team made sure they returned with a medal by defeating CHIJ St Nicholas Girls School 3-0 on 10 April 2015.

The prize presentation ceremony will be held after the Boys' and Girls' finals at Pasir Ris Sports and Recreation Centre on 21 April 2015. Madam Ellen Lee, President of the Singapore Table Tennis Association, is the guest-of-honour.

Janina 2nd In Paraguay

2015 Paraguay Junior & Cadet Open

Dave Lai

General Manager, Table Tennis

Posted: 20 March 2015



She was seeded No. 8, but Janina Sofia Nieto Herrera knocked out several higher-ranked paddlers to finish 2nd in the Junior Girls' Singles event at the 2015 Paraguay Junior & Cadet Open from 28 February to 3 March 2015.

Janina defeated 3rd seed Alexia Nakashima 4-2 in the quarter-finals before scoring a 4-2 victory over 5th seed Martina Kohatsu in the semi-finals. Her fine run was brought to an end in the Final by top seed Bruna Takahashi, who won 4-1 (4-11, 11-4, 11-3, 11-6 and 11-9). All of Janina's opponents were Brazilians.