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For Immediate Release

Asian Junior and Cadet Fencing Championships 2017
February 24 – March 5
Korat, Thailand

Day 7 –Singapore miss podium in Korat; Top 8 for women sabreurs the best results

KORAT – For the first time since the Asian Junior and Cadet Championships 2017 (AJCFC2017) started last Friday (Feb 24), Team Singapore came away empty as its fencers in both the Junior (Under-20) Men’s Foil and Women’s Sabre competitions fell short of the medal rounds.

2016 Cadet World Sabre Champion Lau Ywen and team-mate Jolie Lee were the day’s best performers for Singapore, both reaching the quarter-finals but no further.

Ywen had been rested from the Cadet Team event earlier in the week to give respite to a back injury that flared up in January, and went straight through to the Round of 32, together Jolie and her elder sister Candice Lee after the poules, with Nicole Wee also advancing to the Direct Elimination rounds.

While Nicole’s participation ended at R32, and Candice in R16, Ywen and Jolie found themselves one win away from securing a bronze medal, following victories over Kazakh opponents.

Against Japan’s Ayaka Mukae in the quarter-finals, Ywen fell behind early, and at 3-6 she conceded six straight points to fall 3-12 behind.

While the 17-year-old United World College student managed to narrow the gap to 10-14, she could not prevent Ayaka from completing a 15-10 victory.

But she took heart from matching her Top 8 performance from last year, having also reached the Top 16 in 2015, and Top 32 in 2014.

“It’s been hard to do some of the attacking actions during this tournament because my mobility is hindered by my back injury. Against the Kazakhstan fencer (in the Round of 16), I was rushing a bit, so it (the score) got close,” she said.

“In the next match, my back got a little bit worse, and I was rushing it a bit. Top 8 in Juniors is good, if I got beyond that it would be good as it’s an Asian competition. I may be the World Cadet champion but at Junior level it’s not a big deal.”

Jolie took on South Korea’s Lee Yuna, and kept pace with her opponent, going to the mid-match break only one point behind (7-8). But she fell behind upon resumption as the Korean fencer made tactical adjustments, and eventually lost 15-8.

Said Jolie, who is studying Biomedical Science at Singapore Polytechnic: “We’re not used to fencing the Koreans, and they are fast and explosive. It was still a 50-50 situation at the break when I was only a point behind, but I didn’t manage my game well in the latter half.

“I’d set myself a Round of 16 target, having not fenced this tournament last year, but am still a little disappointed to have lost in the quarter-finals. Next year is my final year in Junior, so I will give it one last shot.”

The Men’s Foil event saw Kevin Jerrold Chan and Jet Ng both falling in the Round of 16. Team-mates Yeo Jing Zhe and Darren Tan, the Cadet individual bronze medallist last week, lost in R32 and R64 respectively.

Competition continues tomorrow (Friday 3 Mar) with individual Men’s Epee and Women’s Foil events.

The AJCFC 2017 features more than 700 fencers from 27 Asian countries in both juniors and cadets events.

At the last edition of the AJCFC in Bahrain/Saudi Arabia, Singapore’s Junior fencers returned with 1 silver and 4 bronzes, while the Cadets brought home 3 gold, 2 silver and 4 bronze medals for one of Singapore's best historical showing.

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Fencing Singapore (formerly known as “Amateur Fencing Association of Singapore”) was established in 1955 and is the national governing body for the sport of fencing. Currently, there are 5000 fencers in the fencing community. By actively participating in international competitions, organising international events and promoting the sport to more youths, Fencing Singapore aims to raise the profile of the sport and to achieve medals at the highest levels of global competition. More information about the sport can be found at <http://fencingsingapore.org.sg>