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For Immediate Release

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

Day 8 – Nicole Wong reach Top 8 in Women’s Foil on another medal-less day for Singapore

KORAT – For the second day running, Singapore had to contend with missing out on the medals at the Asian Junior and Cadet Championships 2017 (AJCFC2017), where our fencers were in action in the Junior (Under-20) Men’s Epee and Women’s Foil competitions.

Nicole Wong, who is graduating high school in the United States this June, produced a Top 8 performance, falling to Japan’s Karin Miyawaki 15-11 in the quarter-finals.

Against an opponent whom she had never beaten before, 18-year-old Nicole fancied her chances but went behind early. From 6-11 down, then 9-14, Nicole produced a mini fightback to narrow the score to 11-14 before conceding the deciding point.

However, Wong, who is heading to Penn State University later this year, was pleased to have put up a good fight, and to have matched her Top 8 result from last year.

“Going into this match, I felt I was better equipped, and had discussed tactics with my coach (Joseph Davin Engert),” said Nicole.

“I’d fenced well throughout the day, and trusted myself to put in a good performance. The comeback I had against (team-mate) Amita (Berthier) in the previous round was really good.”

The luck of the draw had pit Nicole against club-mate Amita in the Round of 16 where it was her Boston-based opponent who went ahead 8-2 before the match slowly swung her way. With the fencers left to battle without coaches – as in the time-honoured tradition when team-mates meet – it was Nicole who showed greater experience over Amita, two years her junior.

Said Amita of the 15-11 loss to Nicole: “This is the first time I’ve had such a big lead and lost. Nicole changed her tactics and I could not adapt and kept going off-target. I will learn from this experience.”

A medal had looked possible when three of Singapore’s four fencers reached the Round of 16, with Tatiana Wong having lost her Round of 32 bout to a China’s Huang Qianqian.

Against Japan’s Sumire Tsuji, Maxine Wong produced a superb comeback from 8-12 down to tie the score at 12-12, then 13-13 when regulation time expired. And it was Tsuji who got the winning touch in the priority period for a 14-13 result.

Having lost 15-10 to Tsuji in their previous only encounter two years ago in the European Cadet Circuit, Maxine said she was determined to do better.

“That was in my mind when I was behind in the score and I really wanted to beat her,” said Maxine. “I may have lost again but I’m happy to be able to catch up and even had a chance to win.”

The Men’s Epee saw Tan Weixuan and Samuel Lee reaching R32 before losing to fencers from Saudi Arabia and Kazakhstan respectively. Weixuan had beaten team-mate Neville Lim in the previous round, while Jefferson Cheong lost in R64.

Junior Team Competition starts tomorrow (Saturday 4 Mar) with Men’s Sabre and Foil, and Women’s Epee.

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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