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Buddies in arms

MISSION: Best friends Wen Yan, Eddy want memorable debut

CHOO Wen Yan and Eddy Chew have been best of friends since they first met at a shooting range in Batu Pahat.

The bespectacled Wen Yan, 20, was introduced to shooting by his father, Tong Huay, six years ago while the 18-year-old Eddy lifted his first pistol as a nine-year-old.

Friendship, however, will take a back seat in the Sea Games as they are hoping to outdo each other in their debut appearance in Myanmar.

“Wen Yan and I have been friends for the last four years. We were in the Johor team for the 2010 Malaysia Games. We are excited to be part of the Sea Games team,” said Eddy yesterday.

The jovial Eddy, a national back-up member since last year, will

compete in the 10m air and 50m free pistol individual and team events in the Sea Games.

“My dad goes on hunting trips and I picked up the sport after he took me to a shooting range in Batu Pahat,” said Eddy.

Wen Yan, who plans to start his matriculation course at Universiti Putra Malaysia next year, will compete in the air pistol individual and team events.

“I wouldn’t have taken up the sport if not for my father. He sought the help of his friend, also the Johor Shooting Club president, to train me into a shooter.

“I am glad to have done so as I didn’t really play other sports in school,” said Wen Yan.

On competing in his maiden Sea Games, Wen Yan admitted he is feeling nervous.

“I did not feel anything when I made the team but now I feel nervous, probably because it will be my first outing,” said Wen Yan, who made the national junior squad after clinching a gold medal in the 2010 Malaysia Games in Malacca.

The shooter believes he, along with Eddy and Jonathan Wong Guanjie, have a chance of finishing on the podium in the air pistol

team.

The trio issued a warning to their Sea Games rivals by winning the event in the recent Southeast Asian (Seasa) Championships in Kuala Lumpur.

“We posted a combined score of 1,719 points and I believe this score, if we do it again in Myanmar, will win us a medal.

“Thailand, however, are of unknown quality as they did not send their best shooters to the Seasa meet,” Wen Yan added.

The 14-member Sea Games squad, who have targeted one gold, will leave for Yangon on Saturday.



National Sports Council director general **Datuk Seri Zolkples Embong** (centre) handing over the Milo Flame of Energy torch to national bodybuilder **Sazali Samad**, the Malaysian flagbearer at the Myanmar Sea Games, in Putrajaya yesterday. The Milo Flame of Energy initiative was started with the intention of drumming up support for Malaysian athletes and to spur them to greater heights. The programme has encouraged the public to pledge their support for the athletes with the aim of collecting 2.7 million units of energy (similar concept to collecting autographs) online. Also in the picture from left are **Datuk Sieh Kok Chi**, secretary general of OCM, executive director of Dairy Business Unit Nestle **Ho Hau Chieh** and **Datuk Dr Ramlan Aziz**, CEO of National Sports Institute. Pic by Hasriyasyah Sabudin