

Way to go, Wendy

Malaysian snatches 3m springboard individual gold in Kuching



By LIM TEIK HUAT

KUCHING: Wendy Ng Yan Yee (*pic*) signed off the year in style with a stunning win for Malaysia in the women's 3m springboard individual at the FINA Diving Grand Prix.

Wendy is now the third Malaysian to ever win an individual event at the Diving Grand Prix series. Pandeleda Rinong was the first Malaysian winner when she came out tops in the women's 10m platform individual in Montreal, Canada, in 2012. Cheong Jun Hoong repeated the feat when she won the women's 3m springboard individual final in Singapore in 2014.

The gold was expected to be a battle between China's Huang Xiaohui and Wang Han yesterday, but Wendy turned the formbook upside down at the Pandeleda Rinong Aquatic Centre in Kuching, Sarawak.



Wendy posted 67.50, 69.75, 70.50, 63.00 and 67.50 over the five dives to finish with a 338.25 total for the gold.

Wang Han, who won the 3m springboard mixed synchro gold with Wu Minxia at the 2015 World Championships in Russia, took the silver with 333.60 points.

Xiaohui lost the lead after she muffed the fourth dive, scoring only 40.30 and eventually had to settle for the bronze on 322.30.

Wendy, a finalist in the event at the Rio de Janeiro Olympics in August,

was delighted with her breakthrough success.

"This is unexpected ... to beat two Chinese divers today. My training was not good going into this Grand Prix as I only had about two weeks to prepare," said the 23-year-old Wendy.

"I am happy as this is the last competition of the year. Thanks to my coach Yang Zhuliang who still did not give up on me despite my injuries.

"I will only return to competition next year as I want to recover from

RESULTS

(All finals)

Men

3m springboard synchro: 1. Xie Siyi-Peng Jianfeng (Chn) 415.20, 2. Ooi Tze Liang-Chew Yiwei (Mas) 394.71.

10m platform synchro: 1. Wang Hao-Xu Zewei (Chn) 426.54, 2. Alexandr Belevtsev-Alexandr Bondar (Rus) 381.18.

Women

3m springboard individual: 1. Wendy Ng Yan Yee (Mas) 338.25, 2. Wang Han (Chn) 333.60, 3. Huang Xiaohui (Chn) 322.30.

10m platform synchro: 1. Xia Bingqing-Xia Xujie (Chn) 332.34, 2. Delaney Schnell-Tarrin Gilliland (US) 288.48.

■ TODAY'S SCHEDULE

9.30am onwards: Men's 10m platform semi-finals and women's 3m springboard synchro final.

3pm onwards: Men's 10m platform final.

my shoulder and back injuries. I also have to go back to my sports science studies as Universiti Malaya wants me to finish my course in two years' time," added Wendy.

Earlier, Wendy qualified for the top-six final after winning the first semi-final heat with 288.60 points.

Fellow Malaysian Jasmine Lai also competed in the same semi-final but missed out on the final after placing fourth with 228.95 points.

Malaysia also won a silver yesterday through Ooi Tze Liang-Chew Yiwei. The duo finished with 394.71 points in the men's 10m platform synchro final.