

Good move, guys

Johnathan hails appointment of three South Korean coaches

By AFTAR SINGH

KUALA LUMPUR: Shooter Johnathan Wong Guanjie (*pic*) is delighted with the appointment of Park Sang-soon as chief coach.

Johnathan, who featured in the Rio de Janeiro Olympics in August, feels that the future looks bright for the national team as the South Korean has a proven track record in producing world-class shooters.

“The national shooters and I are happy to have a vastly experienced coach like Sang-soon,” said Johnathan. “We’re confident he can guide us (rifle and pistol shooters) to better performances.”

Johnathan met Sang-soon in Seoul in July when he underwent a two-week training stint for the Rio Olympics.

“But I didn’t get any coaching tips from him then ... he was too busy training the Korean shooters for the Olympics,” said the 24-year-old, who is pursuing a degree in aerospace engineering at Universiti Putra Malaysia.

The National Sports Council (NSC) had also hired two more South Korean coaches – Park Cheol-wan (pistol) and Kong Hyun-ah (rifle) to assist Sang-soon in preparing the national shooters for next year’s Kuala Lumpur SEA Games.

Johnathan had qualified on merit for the Rio de Janeiro Olympics by winning gold in



THE 10-SHOOTER TEAM

> MEN

10m air pistol: Johnathan Wong Guanjie, Eddy Chew, Choo Wen Yan.

10m air rifle: Zul Haziq Rosli, Muhd Hadafi Jaafar, Muhd Zubair Mohd.

> WOMEN

10m air pistol: Alia Szazana Azahari, Bibiana Ng, Joseline Cheah.

10m air rifle: Shahera Rahim.

the 10m air pistol event at the Asian Olympic Qualifying Championships in New Delhi in February.

He finish 28th out of 46 participants in the 10m air pistol and 37th out of 41 shooters in the 50m sports pistol event in Rio.

Although the Korean coaches began work on Thursday, Johnathan has yet to train under them.

“I will only get to train under coach Sang-soon when I return from Iran,” said Johnathan, who was among the 10 shooters who left for Tehran to compete in the week-long Asian Airgun Shooting Championships, which began yesterday.