

Silver lining in Beijing



Splashing start: Pandeleda Rinong-Cheong Jun Hoong pose for a photograph after winning silver in the women's 10m platform synchro at the season-opening Diving World Series in Beijing yesterday.

Pandeleda-Jun Hoong begin season with runners-up medal

By LIM TEIK HUAT

PETALING JAYA: Divers Pandeleda Rinong-Cheong Jun Hoong have made a fine start to the season.

The duo bagged a silver in the women's 10m platform synchro at the season-opening Diving World Series leg in Beijing, China.

Pandeleda-Jun Hoong, silver medallists in this event at the Rio Olympics last year, made their first podium of the year with a five-dive total of 316.08 points yesterday.

The Malaysian pair positioned themselves in the silver-medal position after the second dive as China's new pairing of Ren Qian-Chang Yani pulled away after the fourth dive to take the gold with 340.26 points.

North Koreans Kim Kuk-hyang-Kim Mi-rae took bronze with 313.92 points.

RESULTS

MEN

10m platform synchro: 1. Chen Aisen-Yang Hao (Chn) 488.85, 2. Patrick Hausding-Sascha Klein (Ger) 419.10, 3. Viktor Minibaev-Aleksandr Bondar (Ukr) 415.50.

WOMEN

10m platform synchro: 1. Ren Qian-Chang Yani (Chn) 340.26, 2. Pandeleda Rinong-Cheong Jun Hoong (Mas) 316.08, 3. Kim Kuk-hyang-Kim Mi-rae (Pkr) 313.92.

3m springboard synchro: 1. Shi Tingmao-Xu Zhihuan (Chn) 319.20, 2. Anabelle Smith-Maddison Keeney (Aus) 298.68, 3. Kristina Ilinykh Nadezhda Bazhina (Rus) 294.00.

Selected: 6. Wendy Ng Yan Yee-Nur Dhabitah Sabri (Mas) 268.62.

Ren Qian-Chang Yani are the replacements for Chen Ruolin-Liu Huixia, who retired after their golden exploit in Rio.

"It is a good start to the season as this is only the first competition for Pandeleda-Jun Hoong since the Olympics.

"They have not changed their difficulty level ...

the only thing is that they managed to minimise the splash on entry into the water," said coach Yang Zhuliang.

Malaysia's other pair - Wendy Ng Yan Yee-Nur Dhabitah Sabri - could only finish sixth in the women's 3m springboard synchro final with 268.62 points.

China's new combination of Shi Tingmao-Xu Zhihuan came out tops with 319.20 points, ahead of Australians Anabelle Smith-Maddison Keeney (298.68pts).

Wendy will return to the pool today for the 3m springboard individual competition.

The prestigious series, which is only for the top-10 ranked divers based on the Rio Olympics, is over four legs.

The second stop is in Guangzhou, China, next weekend followed by Kazan, Russia (March 31-April 2) and Windsor, Canada (April 21-23).