

DIVING

GLITTERING DIVES

Jellson, Jun Hoong
deliver nation's first KL
GP gold

REPORTS BY DEVINDER SINGH
devinder@nst.com.my

JELLSON Jabillin is quickly making a name for himself after partnering world champion Cheong Jun Hoong to win Malaysia's first gold medal at the Kuala Lumpur Diving Grand Prix in Bukit Jalil yesterday.

The 16-year-old diver from Sabah followed up a silver in the morning's 10m platform synchro for men with Nazirul Hanis Jaya Surya by returning to the pool to win gold in the mixed 10m platform synchro.

Jellson and Jun Hoong scored 310.20 points to edge teammates Syahmi Rezal and Leong Mun Yee by 14.10 points but the latter could not claim silver as tournament rules only allow one pair from each nation on the podium.

That meant South Korea's Kim Yeong Nam-Choi Eun Bi were promoted from third to second in the three-pair event.

Jellson, who won two gold medals in synchro events at the KL Sea Games, said he is learning as much as possible from his senior teammates.

"There were a few dives in which I struggled to achieve consistency," said Jellson.

"I need to improve my stamina and learn new techniques. I feel I am gaining experience by competing with the seniors."

Jun Hoong said Jellson needs to continue working hard to improve.

"He had an event in the morning so I offered him advice on how to adjust and the things to do.

"He has potential but will have to work hard. He can still improve on his dives especially the routine ones," said the reigning women's 10m platform individual world champion.

Meanwhile, Nur Dhabitah Sabri offered her Sea Games synchro partner Wendy Ng support as the latter prepares to face a hearing into a failed drugs test.

Nur Dhabitah stands to lose her 3m springboard synchro title she won with Wendy. But Dhabitah would be promoted

from silver to gold in the individual event should Wendy be stripped of the two gold medals she won in August.

"That is not a decision which is up to me. The important thing is that we as a team offer our support to Wendy.

"Whether we lose the gold medal or not is up to the sports authorities. It would be disappointing to lose the medal but there's nothing I can do about it.

"We will face this as a team. I know Wendy must be very sad but she knows that we are always supporting her," said Nur Dhabitah, 18.

RESULTS

Men's 10m platform synchro: 1 Kim Yeong-nam-Woo Ha-ram (Kor) 432.60 pts, 2 Jellson Jabillin-Nazirul Hanis Jaya Surya (Mas) 364.26, 3 Artsiom Barouski-

Vadim Kuptur (Blr) 353.43;

3m springboard synchro: 1 Kim Yeong-nam-Woo Ha-ram (Kor) 427.65 pts, 2 Ahmad Amsyar Azman-Ooi Tze Liang (Mas) 415.47;

Women's 3m springboard: 1 Wang Han (Chn) 342.60 pts, 2 Chen Yiwen (Chn) 338.25, 3 Nur Dhabitah Sabri (Mas) 316.85;

Mixed 10m platform synchro: 1 Jellson Jabillin-Cheong Jun Hoong (Mas) 310.20 pts, 2 Kim Yeong-nam-Choi Eun-bi (Kor) 295.80.



Jellson Jabilin (left) and Hanis Nazirul Jaya Surya in action in the 10m platform synchro at Bukit Jalil yesterday. PIC BY AIZUDDIN SAAD