

# Running out of steam

Exhausted Pandeleda-Jun Hoong settle for fourth in 10m platform synchro

By LIM TEIK HUAT

**PETALING JAYA:** The reigning Commonwealth Games gold medallists Pandeleda Rinong-Cheong Jun Hoong lost their perfect podium streak when they finished fourth in the women's 10m platform synchro event at the FINA Diving World Cup in Wuhan, China.

The Malaysian pair earned 76.80 for the final dive yesterday but their total of 319.38 points was not enough for a podium finish.

Pandeleda-Jun Hoong were pipped to the bronze by Canadians Meaghan Benfeito-Caeli McKay, who earned a massive 79.68 for their final attempt to snatch the bronze with 324.42 points.

China's Zhang Jiaqi-Zhang Minjie produced an exceptional performance to clinch gold with 366.12 points as North Korea's Kim Mi-hwa-Kim Kwang-hui settled for silver with 328.98 points.

Pandeleda-Jun Hoong were the silver medallists in the 2016 edition in Rio de Janeiro and the team had high hopes of earning a second medal in Wuhan.

Pandeleda bagged the first-ever individ-

ual medal – a bronze – in the 10m platform individual on Wednesday.

Pandeleda-Jun Hoong also finished on the podium in all four legs of the Diving World Series this year.

The duo started with a silver medal in the opening leg in Beijing, China, and followed up with a bronze in Fuji, Japan, in March.

Pandeleda-Jun Hoong then made a golden splash in the third leg in Montreal, Canada, before finishing with a bronze in Kazan, Russia, in April.

The Malaysian pair had earlier concluded the preliminary round in 10th spot with 258.18 points.

"They are much better in the final but they are not at their best level as we have just finished training in Guangzhou before coming here," said acting head coach Zhang Yukun.

"We'll rest and then prepare for the Asian Games in Indonesia (in August)."

Ooi Tze Liang did not make the cut for the men's 3m springboard individual final.

He finished 16th in the semi-finals with 354.90 points with only the top 12 going through.



**Tough battle:** Cheong Jun Hoong (front) and Pandeleda Rinong were pipped to the bronze by Canadians Meaghan Benfeito-Caeli McKay in the women's 10m platform synchro event at the FINA Diving World Cup in Wuhan, China, yesterday.

## Li Jane out to defend title in Kentucky

By TAN MING WAI

**PETALING JAYA:** The name of the tournament has changed but national bowler Sin Li Jane's determination to do well remains the same.

Li Jane was honoured as the "defending champion" at the Professional Women's Bowling Association (PWBA) Tour's Louisville Open by having her picture displayed in the tournament banner at the Fern Valley Strike and Spare in Kentucky.

The Louisville Open has replaced the Lincoln Open, which Li Jane won last year.

Regardless of the change in the name, the 26-year-old Li Jane is all pumped up to be back in the United States as she sets her sights on adding more PWBA Tour titles to her name.

She will launch her title defence in the two-day tournament which begins with the 16-game qualifying round today. The top 32 will progress into the latter stages.

"It's hard to feel like I'm the defending champion as it's a different tournament now," said Li Jane.

"But it's so nice of PWBA to recognise me this way. This will fire me up to try win my second PWBA title here this week.

"Winning the Lincoln Open last year doesn't change a single thing.

"I still have a lot to prove and I'm still excited and hungry as ever for more wins."

The other five national team members competing are Wichita Open champion Shalin Zulkifli, Siti Safiyah Amirah Abdul Rahman, Esther Cheah, Syaidatul Afifah Badrul Hamidi and Natasha Roslan.

The men's team, who have arrived in US a week earlier, will resume their Professional Bowlers' Association (PBA) Tour schedule by rolling off the Lubbock Sports Open in Texas tomorrow.

The six bowlers are Rafiq Ismail, Adrian Ang, Alex Liew, Syafiq Ridhwan Abdul Malek, Ahmad Muaz Fishol and Tun Hakim Tun Hasnul Azam.