

Macao wins first-ever Asian Games gold

VETERAN MARTIAL ARTIST, JIA RUI, CREATES HISTORY FOR HIS ADOPTED HOME

GUANGZHOU — Veteran wushu martial artist Jia Rui won Macao its first Asian Games gold medal in the men's *daoshu* and *gunshu* combined on Sunday.

Jia, 23, a silver medalist at the 2002 Doha Asiad, scored 19.61 points to win the title for the broadsword and staff competition under the *taolu* category.

The sport comprises two basic elements: *taolu* (set routines), and

sanshou boxing (free sparring).

Vietnamese Nguyen Manh Quyen ended

his country's medal drought in Guangzhou by snatching the bronze with 19.38 points. Lee Jong-chan from the Republic of Korea took silver by a narrow margin of 0.04 points. Host China had no entrants.

"I feel so fortunate to have won the first gold for Macao. This sets us on a new stage of the sport's development," said Jia.

"We also have gold hopes in other events like karate. I hope my win is just a start," he said.

Jia is from Central China's Henan province, home to the world-renowned Shaolin Temple on Songshan Mountain and considered the cradle of Chinese kungfu.

Jia started to learn martial arts at the age of seven, and soon proved himself gifted at competitions featuring weapons such as the broadsword and staff. He won numerous national and international events before he was recruited by the Macao Polytechnic Institute in 2004, after which he went on to represent Macao.

Four years ago in Doha, he



LAURENT FIEVET / AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Jia Rui of Macao competes in the men's wushu *gunshu* at the 16th Asian Games in Guangzhou on Sunday. Jia claimed the gold, followed by the Republic of Korea's Lee Jong-chan and Vietnam's Nguyen Manh Quyen.

entered the men's all-round, when the event included the disciplines of *changquan* (long fist boxing), *daoshu* (broadsword) and *gunshu* (staff), but was beaten into second place by Yuan Xiaochao, who seized the first gold of the Guangzhou Games for China on Saturday.

"This time I chose (a new event)

because it doubled my chances of success," he said. "It's not easy to participate in two straight Asian Games. I'm competing with myself. I know as long as I work harder than my rivals, I'll make it."

More than 140 athletes are competing for 15 gold medals in the wushu competition. China, which is credited with inventing

the martial art, is the favorite in all 10 events it will participate in.

Silver medalist Lee paid tribute to the man from Macao.

"The Asian Games are competitive — all my opponents were competitive, but the toughest one to beat was Jia Rui."

China's Kan Wencong, meanwhile, added another gold to

China's wushu haul by winning the women's *jianshu/qiangshu* all-round format.

Kan scored 9.90 out of 10 in her *jianshu* routine and put in another dazzling performance in the *qiangshu* to beat Hong Kong's Zheng Tianhui and Lee Wen-jung of Chinese Taipei.

XINHUA

GOLD MEDALISTS >> OTHER OUTSTANDING ATHLETES



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BILLIARDS

Advani pockets prize for India

Pankaj Advani gave India its first gold of the Asian Games on Sunday when he defeated Myanmar's Oo Nay Thway 3-2 in a tense final of the men's billiards.

"I was under pressure in the last frame," said Advani. "I couldn't imagine losing. For me this is like winning the Olympics. I won this for my country."



AFP

SOFT TENNIS

First gold for Chinese Taipei

In the men's soft tennis gold medal match on Sunday, Chinese Taipei defeated defending champion Japan 2-1 to win the title for the first time since Hiroshima in 1994.

After sharing the first two sets, Lin Ting-chung and Liu Chia-lun (pictured) saw off Shiego Nakahori and Tsuneo Takagawa in the decider.



AFP

TRIATHLON

Japan at the double, again

Japan racked up a one-two finish in the men's triathlon at the Asian Games on Sunday to replicate the gold-silver sweep achieved by their female teammates. Yuichi Hosoda (pictured) completed the 1.5km swim, 40km bike race and 10km run in 1hr, 52min, 13sec for gold, with compatriot Ryosuke Yamamoto claiming silver 25.92sec behind.