

# Gymnast is serious about funny business

By WUYING  
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Feng Zhe isn't just an Olympic parallel bars gold medalist. He's also a budding online comedian.

The gymnastics great has been celebrated as a funnyman for his posts on Sina Weibo, a micro-blog service that's China's answer to Twitter.

Feng was quite serious when he snagged the parallel bars gold on Tuesday, his second after leading his team to victory. But right after that win, he took a turn for the silly, and roasted his coach on his *weibo*.

"When the last gymnast landed, I walked up to Coach Wang with my arms open. Wang said to me: 'Good job, Chubby. Perfect! Come here! You deserve a hug!' I said: 'No, I deserve chocolate cheesecake. One this long!'" he tweeted, including a photo of himself with his arms open right after he medaled.

Another of his tweets about Wang was reposted nearly 45,000 times: "It's really not easy for Coach Wang ... to understand the underground names and game times. He spent two days consulting

the dictionary to learn the English words and carefully penciled the Chinese meanings on the map and rules guide. I was so moved that I erased all the Chinese while Coach Wang slept to further consolidate the words in his memory."

Fans besieged his *weibo* after China won the team event championship. Feng realized his *weibo* had become a hit but didn't stop roasting his coach.

"Oops ... Coach Wang is very angry with me and blamed me for playing tricks on him every day, which made him known to so many people. I told him I was innocent, since every debt has its debtor, and most of my tweets were actually borrowed from the Internet, and I simply adapted the hit jokes. So, if you need a punching bag, blame (the actual writers)," Feng wrote.

The 25-year-old has more than 2.6 million followers, and many fans collected and shared his best tweets. His posts talk about languages, food, coaches, parents, referees and rivals.

One of his popular tweets is, "Our impression of the good South Korean gymnasts starts from the appeals they lodged."

Another is: "Come on,



Chinese gymnast Feng Zhe celebrates after winning the gold medal on the parallel bars on Tuesday.

JULIE JACOBSON / ASSOCIATED PRESS

women's team! Come on, girls! Don't forget to come back to marry us! Oh, no, just marry Guo Weiyang (Feng's teammate)!"

His teammate and five-time gold medalist Zou Kai knows Feng's sense of humor as well as anyone.

Zou said Feng told one or

two jokes every day before training. But the baby-faced Feng revealed that he becomes bashful when talking to women gymnasts.

# Cameroon athletes jump Olympic ship in search of jobs

By GREGORY KATZ  
and RAISSA IOUSSOUF in London  
Associated Press

Seven Cameroon athletes who left the Olympic Village in the dead of night may be seeking new homes and better sports opportunities elsewhere, a Cameroon Olympic official said on Wednesday.

The seven Olympians have valid UK visas that would allow them to stay in Britain for six months, press attache Emmanuel Tataw said, noting this has happened before to Olympic squads competing at tournaments in Melbourne and Athens. "Most of the time they don't come back," he said.

Cameroon sent 37 athletes to the London Games and more than half of them, mostly the women's soccer team, had left the city after they were eliminated. The missing athletes include five boxers, a swimmer and a soccer player, all of whom had completed their events, he said.

Cameroon, a predominantly French-speaking nation of 20 million in west central Africa, is among the poorest nations on earth, with an estimated 2011 economic output of just \$1,230 per person, according to the International Monetary Fund.

Tataw said the five boxers also had Schengen visas because they had trained in Italy before the Games. That would make it easier for them to travel legally to other European countries, including France, which has a large Cameroonian community that includes some athletes' friends and family.

London Olympic officials said even though Cameroon officials were seeking help in locating the athletes, they had not breached their visas or violated any immigration laws.

"The team has obviously raised a concern and the police are obviously informed," International

Olympic Committee spokesman Mark Adams said on Wednesday. "But at this stage I don't think it's necessarily for the IOC to worry about whether they will outstay their welcome."

Tataw said the boxers had refused to hand in their visas for safekeeping at the start of the London Olympics, which should have been seen as a "hint" that they wanted to leave. He said it is often financially beneficial for the athletes' families if they are able to find a niche in Europe.

Boxer Thomas Essomba, one of the missing, had earlier stayed in Britain after a Welsh championship rather than return to Cameroon but that didn't work out, Tataw said.

Government officials will meet after the Games to come up with ways to stop this from happening in the future, he said.

"(But) it's a phenomenon that can't be stopped completely," he said.

He listed the seven as 50m freestyle swimmer Paul Edingue Ekane, 21; women's goalie Drusille Ngako Tchimi, 25; and five boxers: Essomba, 24; Christian Donfack Adjoufack, 28; Hyacinthe Mewoli Abdon, 26; Blaise Yepmou Mendou, 27; and Serge Ambomo, 26.

Sports officials in Cameroon said there were indications of problems with the boxing team. Jean Paul Monyemo, deputy national trainer for boxing, said head trainer Justin Tchouem told him on Friday the team might be planning to defect.

"But no one suspected they would move so fast. By Sunday morning, they had disappeared," he said.

Britain's Office for National Statistics says fewer than 20,000 Cameroonians live in the UK.

The UK Border Agency says the majority of asylum applicants from Cameroon are refused and deported.

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