



# China builds momentum with early win

## LOCAL TEAM RIDING HIGH AFTER 2-0 VICTORY

By QIU QUANLIN  
CHINA DAILY

SHENZHEN — China, three-time medalist in women's Universiade soccer, started its 2011 campaign with a 2-0 win against Chinese Taipei on Thursday.

But the host team was put under some pressure in the latter stages of the game, as Chinese Taipei started to press forward and was unlucky not to score when skipper Lin Chiung-ying rocked the crossbar with a powerful header with 15 minutes remaining.

Pang Fengyue scored China's first goal in the 26th minute and Li Dongna added a second in the 61st to complete the scoring.

"A number of skilled players helped us win the game. We will go further in the campaign if we keep the current momentum," said China's head coach, Wang Changquan.

A total of 14 players in the Chinese Universiade squad are from the Beijing Normal University, which won the women's national college tournament last year.

Some players, like captain Bi Yan, striker Wang Shanshan and defenders Qu Shanshan and Wang Dongni, were also chosen in China's national team.

"National team members have played a big role in the development of the current team," Wang said. "They can lead the team to win games and boost young players' confidence."

Besides Bi, most players in the China squad were born between 1988 and 1991 and had never played in a major international competition before the Universiade.

"Young players have learned a lot from experienced teammates such as Bi. They are the future of Chinese women's football," Wang said.

For Bi, who studies at Beijing Normal University, the games at the Universiade are no different to other international events.

"Compared with bigger international



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China's Fan Tingting (center) breaks through the Chinese Taipei defense during Thursday's 2-0 victory.

events such as the World Cup and the Olympics, the Universiade competition maybe has not gained much attention from the public," Bi said. "But for me, it makes no difference on the pitch."

Since entering the Athletes' Village on Aug 5, Bi said she was happy with the organization of the Shenzhen Universiade, which officially opens today.

"It is my first time competing at a Universiade," Bi said. "Everything is going smoothly here, but my biggest expectation is to win a medal this time."

Bi said there was a gap between the skills of various players in the team.

"I think their studies may affect their performances," she said. "My teammates' skills are modest, so if I have time I'd love to share my experience with them."

Lu Kuei-hua, head coach of Chinese Taipei, said: "If China had not included some national team players, I think we could have beaten them today."

In what looks like a group of death, China hopes to become the first host nation to win gold in women's soccer at a Universiade.

Since winning the inaugural women's soccer gold medal in 1993 by beating the United States 2-1, China won bronze in 2003 and silver in 2005.

Great Britain was the bronze medalist at the 2009 Universiade in Belgrade after beating France 4-1 and looks in good shape to build on that experience in Shenzhen.

"Canada is traditionally strong in women's football. But don't forget that we also made the semifinals in 1993 and 2003," said Lu, adding the Chinese Taipei team has improved a lot in recent years.

## Youngster rues missed opportunity from the stands



CUI MENG / CHINA DAILY

Cheng Yah-sun of Chinese Taipei works on her film-making skills during the match.

By QIU QUANLIN  
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SHENZHEN — Cheng Yah-sun wanted to be in front of the camera, not behind it.

But all she could do was work a video recorder from the stands at Shenzhen Bao'an Stadium as her Chinese Taipei soccer team lost to China, 2-0 on Thursday.

The 20-year-old missed the women's group match due to a leg injury she suffered before the Universiade.

"It would have been my first time playing in such an international event," she said. "But now it is a pity because of the injury."

Cheng, from the National Taiwan College of Physical Education, started playing

at the age of 10. The Chinese Taipei players come from three colleges, which head coach Lu Kueihua said provided excellent players for the current squad.

"But they need to adapt to the situation here. We have many young players who have never played in such an international competition," Lu said after the match.

Cheng said she thought Chinese Taipei still had a chance to go on to the knockout stage, and drew hope from the team's trips to the Universiade semifinals in 1993 and 2003.

"My team should have done better on the pitch today," she said. "We have been training so hard and have high expectations for the Universiade."

Chinese Taipei has several players —

including captain Lin Chiung-ying and Tseng Shuo — playing in Spain and Canada.

"In my opinion, we could win by at least two goals against China," she said.

In Taiwan, schools are giving more attention to women's soccer development at all age levels, Cheng said.

"Women's football in Taiwan was not well developed in the past. But there will be more promising players thanks to heightened awareness from the school authorities," she said.

Cheng hopes to become a soccer teacher in preliminary schools after she graduates from the college.

"Soccer talents should be developed early," she said.