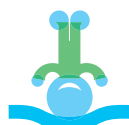


Divers to jump in headfirst

By SUN XIAOCHEN
CHINA DAILY

SHENZHEN — China's student diving squad, which boasts the strongest line-up in the country's delegation, hopes to replicate its seniors' gold sweep and dominate



DIVING

the springboard at the Shenzhen Universiade.

Six of China's seven Beijing Olympics gold medalists at the Shenzhen meet are from the 15-member diving team, which hopes to again snap up all 10 titles, after the national squad bagged them all at the FINA World Championships in Shanghai last month.

Four elite athletes from the Shanghai World contingent — He Chong, Qin Kai, He Zi and Chen Ruolin — will spearhead the team's fight for the gold at the weeklong competition in Shenzhen Natatorium's indoor pool from Aug 16.

With no challenging rivals from other countries, the men's 3m springboard will again become a head-to-head battle between He Chong and 2007 Melbourne World champion Qin, after He outperformed Qin to claim his second consecutive World championship in Shanghai.

Qin said on his micro blog that

he planned to attempt a high-difficulty stunt to "take revenge" on He Chong.

Beijing Olympics champion duo Lin Yue and Huo Liang will strive to continue dominating the 10m platform. They will face off against Russian double Victor Minibaev and Ilya Zhakharov, who claimed the World Cup silver medal last year.

China's "diving queen" He Zi, who majors in journalism at Renmin University, will see no opponents on her way to clinch the 3m springboard's gold medal, while teaming up with Asian Game title-winner Wang Han for the synchronized 3m board.

The women divers will face a tough challenge from the Mexican squad, led by Paola Espinosa, who edged out China's Lao Lishi to take the 10m gold at the 2009 Belgrade Universiade.

Olympic and World champion Chen hopes to defeat the Mexican diving diva this time. Chen is again joining forces with her Beijing Olympics partner Wang Xin to take on Espinosa and Taliana Ortiz in the synchronized 10m platform.

China sent a low-profile team to the Belgrade meet two years ago. The country dominated the medals table, claiming seven golds out of 12 events. Mexico ranked second, with three golds. Ukraine and Russia each took one.



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Qin Kai (top) and He Chong should make the men's 3m springboard diving competition an all-Chinese affair.



XINHUA

Defending champion Yin Jing is out to defend China's pride in the 110m hurdles at the Universiade this week.

China track team set for challenge

By LEI LEI
CHINA DAILY

SHENZHEN — China's track and field youngsters are ready to challenge the traditional powerhouses at the Universiade in Shenzhen.

Men's hurdlers Yin Jing and Jiang Fan carry the biggest hope in the men's 110m hurdles for the host country, which earned two gold medals in track and field at the last Universiade two years ago.

Due to the influence of former Olympic and world champion Liu Xiang, the men's 110m hurdles is one of the favorite events for China. Yin, 23, is the defending champion of the event, while Jiang earned the Universiade ticket by clocking 13.49 seconds at the Jiaying

stop of the Asian Athletics Grand Prix. The two are the strongest gold medal contenders in Shenzhen.

In the men's 400m hurdles, Chen Dayu is ready to shine in his hometown of Shenzhen. Having won the test event of the Shenzhen Universiade in June this year, Chen plays the leading role.

Veteran Su Xiongfeng will compete in the Universiade again, as he is the gold medalist of the men's long jump at the 2007 Universiade.

Men's race walking is always a strong point of China. In Shenzhen, Cai Zelin, runner-up of the men's 10km at World Junior Championships last year, will lead the squad.

In sprinting events, Zheng Dongsheng and Su Bingtian, members of the Asian Games champion men's 4x100m relay team, will try to break the block of strong Western sprinters.

On the women's side, many

Asian Championships medalists will strive for glory for the host country. They include Chen Jingwen, women's 400m bronze medalist at the Kobe Asian Championships, Meng Qianqian, women's shot put Asian champion and Liu Xiangrong, runner-up of women's shot put in Kobe.

In the marathon, silver and bronze medalists of the Xiamen International Marathon last year, Sun Juan and Jin Lingling, will try to maintain China's advantage in the event.

While Russian athletes dominate the track and field events, and always top the medal tally at Universiade, this year's host won't let the chance to challenge them slip by in Shenzhen this time.

With 50 gold medals on offer, track and field is the biggest sport at the Shenzhen Universiade. Track and field events will start on Tuesday.



ATHLETICS