



# Trap shooter aims for gold but hits silver

By ZHANG CHUNMEI  
CHINA DAILY

SHENZHEN — Australian Catherine Skinner was not satisfied with a new personal best when she claimed the silver in the final shotgun trap shoot women's event last Thursday.

The 23-year-old took the medal with 93 hits.

"I just lost one point to the gold medalist," she said.

"It is really a pity. It is not a good result for me. In my family, you need to be successful all the time."

Skinner is the only woman trap shooter to represent Australia at the Shenzhen Universiade.

She made Australia's World Cup team this year, after competing at the World University Shooting Championships in Poland in 2010.

"My dad always took my two older brothers and me to the shooting range with him from childhood," she recalled.

"We all practiced shooting from that time. My dad and brothers like fixed targets, but I preferred moving ones. It is different and more interesting."

She has tried other sports, such as soccer and basketball, but did not stay with any of them.

"Too many children compete in the popular sports, so it is hard to succeed," Skinner said.

"Besides, I enjoy the challenge of the single barrel."

There were not many spectators at the shooting range.

"People feel it is boring as they do not understand the sport," Skinner said.

"Actually it is competitive. Your performance is always uncertain. You can never say you are good enough to win."

She considers the sport to be like "mental war."

"The competition is not between you and other athletes," she said.

"Most of the time you are competing against yourself. It is like a psychological battle inside your head. You need to conquer your fear, nerves and cowardice," she continued. "Compared with other sports, it is totally individual. You must control everything under pressure. I enjoy the process of exceeding myself."

She said she has gained a lot of confidence but still occasionally has trouble coping with the intensity.

"I am always so scared after the match that I do not dare to check my score," she said. "I am afraid that some shots might not count."

Her brothers stopped shooting because they were not successful in competitions.

"In our family, only the successful people can continue their hobbies," she said.

"Otherwise, you need to turn to other areas. My mom does not agree with me (practicing) this sport. But she has no choice, as I definitely have got some good results."

The chemical engineering major hopes to work as an engineer in a coal or gas mine after graduating from Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology.

"The work in mines is tough," Skinner said. "But ... the rest time is longer, so I can continue to shoot."



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Australian Catherine Skinner won silver in the women's shotgun trap event at the Shenzhen Universiade.



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Sergey Kamenskiy (right) is all smiles after clinching bronze in the 50m rifle three-position competition.

# Bronze winner marvels at 'luck'

By ZHANG CHUNMEI  
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SHENZHEN — Germany's Henri Junghaenel fired first. Sergey Kamenskiy of Russia took a deep breath and took his stance, as he prepared to fire his



## SHOOTING

It was the last competition day for shooting.

Ranked eighth going into the final, Kamenskiy hit a score of 10.8, while Junghaenel scored 8.7, forcing a rank change.

Kamenskiy moved to third, and Junghaenel dropped to fourth, with a 0.9-point gap between them.

Kamenskiy took the last shot

and scored 9.4, giving him a final-round tally of 101.3 of 110 possible points, and a total tally of 1,266.3 points.

After a few moments of silence, Junghaenel, fired and came up with a 9.4, handing the bronze to Kamenskiy.

Kamenskiy smiled at the crowd and hugged his coach and teammates for a long time.

"I can only say I am very happy and very satisfied with the result," Kamenskiy said.

"I never expected that I could come from eighth place to third. It is so great, and I am so lucky."

He repeated the word "lucky" nearly 10 times after the match.

"I did not do anything special during my performance in the final," he said.

"I just did it as normal, but maybe other shooters made some mistakes to give me the chance. Every shooter in the

range is my rival. They perform well, but I think maybe they are too excited to hold their breath."

Kamenskiy got six 10 points in the final, and his lowest score was 9.4, but five of his rivals shot eight points.

"To pick a word to describe my feeling on the last competing day at the Universiade, I might choose 'lucky,'" Kamenskiy said.

"I think everything is very good here, and a bronze medal is really a big achievement for me."

The 23-year-old student from Voronezh State University of Physical Training had already grabbed an Olympic place for London 2012 Games in May, as he came eighth at the World Championships in the men's air rifle.

"I do not know how I will perform in the future, but I hope the luck I had in Shenzhen will continue," Kamenskiy said.