

WEATHER

Today's
forecast

Nanjing	23/31 Overcast
Suzhou	23/30 Cloudy
Wuxi	23/31 Cloudy
Yangzhou	22/30 Overcast
Xuzhou	22/31 Overcast
Changzhou	23/31 Cloudy
Nantong	22/29 Cloudy
Lianyungang	21/29 Cloudy
Huai'an	20/30 Cloudy
Yancheng	21/30 Overcast
Zhenjiang	23/31 Overcast
Taizhou	22/30 Overcast
Suqian	22/31 Cloudy

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TALL ORDER

Yao Ming, ambassador of the Youth Olympic Games, shoots some hoops with the Nanjing Games participants during his visit to the YOG Village on Monday. PHOTO BY XINHUA

Something's cooking
in the Games' village

By ZHENG XIN

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Learning to make dumplings is at the top of many foreign athletes' to-do lists at the Nanjing Youth Olympics.

"The enthusiasm of the athletes is far beyond my imagination," said Diao Xiaopei, a staff member of the Nanjing Secondary Vocational School of Tourism and Nutrition, who is responsible for the cooking workshop in the village.

By 11 am each day, dozens of athletes mass around the workshop, waiting for their chance to put on an apron and test their culinary skills.

Due to space limitations, the workshop can only receive 20 athletes each day and most have to make reservations days beforehand for a spot.

"Most of the visitors are foreign athletes and they are very interested in learning a thing or two about oriental dining," said Yuan Dingxuan, a 17-year-old volunteer from the vocational school.

According to Diao, most of the workshop's volunteers are students majoring in nutrition and tourism, and many have overseas working experience in the culi-

nary and hotel industries.

The workshop, in addition to the showcasing cooking, also illustrates the importance of a balanced intake of vitamins and protein.

Apart from the basics, including cutting vegetables, squeezing juice and whipping cream, athletes can also tackle more complicated tasks like roasting mutton cubes on a skewer and making sauces.

"The experienced chefs teach the athletes, stage by stage, not only Asian cuisine, but Western dishes as well," said Diao.

Among the dozens of dishes on the workshop's menu, what attracts most athletes is Chinese dumpling.

Jordan Marshall, from the New Zealand delegation, said in addition to a medal, what he wants to bring back home most is the ability to cook Chinese dishes.

Under keen instruction from the teachers, Jordan has cooked "beef wonton" and shared it with other athletes. "I want to show off Asian food, like dumplings and noodles, to my parents and coaches when I get back home," he said.



Athletes learn about Chinese cooking during the Nanjing Games.

PHOTO COURTESY OF NANJING 2014.ORG

Childhood
friends
meet after
12 years

By XINHUA

Twelve years after last seeing each other during play dates in Singapore, two girls have been reunited at the Nanjing Youth Olympic Games.

Ava Lorein Verdeflor of the Philippines and Martina Lindsay Veloso of Singapore grew up as neighbors in Singapore, but when Verdeflor was 3 years old her family moved. The 15-year-old artistic gymnast now lives in a suburb of Dallas, Texas. Meanwhile, 14-year-old Veloso still lives in Singapore where she qualified for the Games in shooting.

While their meeting in Nanjing was not completely serendipitous, as the families had kept in touch and knew both girls had qualified for the Games, it was not entirely expected when they did see one another again.

"I think I saw her (one day) but I wasn't really sure it was her and I would feel embarrassed if I approached the wrong person," Veloso said. "At the same time, Ava and her mum came to my apartment twice to see whether I was around but I wasn't home at the times they visited.

"Until one day we met in the dining hall, by coincidence."

Verdeflor said she was excited to reunite with a girl who had once been her playmate, but at the same time, it was like meeting a whole new person. After all, there is a huge difference between toddlers and teenagers.

"I was really excited to see her but obviously I didn't know what to expect," Verdeflor said. "I mean, we were 3 years old when I last saw her, so I don't remember much."

But the talk was not a nervous one, Verdeflor said. She described it as "awesome" to be reunited with an old friend.

The girls' conversation was predominantly about current events rather than their Singapore days. Verdeflor congratulated Veloso on the silver medal she won in the women's 10m air rifle competition and Veloso wished Verdeflor luck in her events.

"We were just talking about the last time (we were together) and whether either of us could remember anything," Veloso said. "But unfortunately we couldn't."