

WEATHER

Today's
forecast

Nanjing	23/27 Rainy
Suzhou	23/27 Rainy
Wuxi	24/29 Rainy
Yangzhou	23/27 Rainy
Xuzhou	21/29 Cloudy
Changzhou	23/28 Rainy
Nantong	24/28 Rainy
Lianyungang	22/27 Rainy
Huai'an	21/24 Rainy
Yancheng	22/27 Rainy
Zhenjiang	24/27 Rainy
Taizhou	23/27 Rainy
Suqian	22/25 Cloudy

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DIVING QUEEN IN TOWN

China's four-time Olympic diving champion, Guo Jingjing, appears at poolside watch the diving competition on Saturday. The diving queen married Kenneth Fok Kai-kong after her retirement in 2011 and had a baby son last year. PHOTO BY XINHUA

President Bach's visit gives wushu a boost

By XINHUA

Wushu received a big boost in its quest to becoming an Olympic sport when International Olympic Committee president Thomas Bach visited the Gaochun Gymnasium on Friday.

The International Wushu Federation has been campaigning hard over the past few years seeking Olympic status.

IWUF officials' hopes brightened when Bach agreed to present the medals to the winners of the women's *changquan* event at the Nanjing 2014 Youth Wushu Tournament.

"Wushu is gaining popularity all over the world. We are very serious to see this sport at the Olympics. And for that, we are aiming at inclusion of wushu in the 2020 Olympic Games. The IOC president's visit is encouraging for us," said Ang Mong Seng, an IWUF executive board member.

Seng said as the sport is being practised not only in its birthplace, China, but also in many other countries, his federation has received positive feedback from the IOC.

"We have received some good responses from the IOC, but we are still in the process of convincing it to give wushu Olympic status," said Seng. "Hopefully, we will see wushu at the 2020 Olympics."

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ANG MONG SENG
executive board member of IWUF

He believes the Youth Olympic Games in Nanjing is a perfect opportunity for young athletes to get the feel of Olympics.

"We had wushu at the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games as a non-competition sport, and now it is again a non-competition sport in Nanjing. It will provide a good opportunity for the young athletes to be a part of the Games and prepare for the future."

Bach's presence was not only a boost for the top brass of the IWUF. Young wushu athletes competing at Gaochun Gymnasium were also hopeful their Olympic dreams could become true.

"I would like to see wushu at the Olympics as soon as possible so that I may also take part and become an Olympian," said Wu Zhong, the gold medalist in the men's *changquan* competition. "I am honored to become the first Chinese to win the

wushu gold at this event that is a part of these Games."

Although wushu is not among the official competition sports at the Nanjing Games, it was included as a non-competition sport by the organizers.

"I wish wushu to become an Olympic sport," said women's bronze medalist Liu Ting-ting of Chinese Taipei. "I feel so honored to shake hands with Thomas Bach that I will never wash my hands again."

Wu and Liu's views were shared by their Western counterparts who are also anxious to see the sport make its Olympic debut.

"It is an exciting sport. You got just one shot. It is like swimming. I want wushu to become an Olympic sport," said Wesley Hawkeen Huie from the United States, a bronze medalist in the men's *changquan*.

Another wushu athlete, American Emily Xinyu Fan, said: "Wushu is an interesting and cultural sport and it needs to be at the Olympics."

Other medalists on the day were Loh Ying Ting of Malaysia — gold in the women's *changquan*; Wei Ting Zoe Mui of Singapore — silver in the women's *changquan*; and Kelvin Young of Indonesia — silver in the men's *changquan*.

New Zealand wins first Olympic gold in trampoline

By XINHUA

Dylan Schmidt became the first New Zealand athlete to win an Olympic medal in trampoline when he bounced to gold at the Nanjing 2014 Youth Olympic Games on Friday.

"It's pretty cool," the 17-year-old said. "There aren't really words to describe how I'm feeling right now. It's pretty crazy. Honestly, I didn't think I would get it, but I've trained hard. I'm just stoked."

The Kiwi posted a score of 57.34 to beat Liu Changxin of China by a margin of 0.405 points.

"It's pretty crazy that I have won the first medal," Schmidt said. "It's what I always wanted to do. Not many trampoliners (in New Zealand) have done really well on the international stage and to be that guy is pretty cool."

"I thought he (Liu) did it, I thought he was a bit higher than me, but when I saw my name come up first it was a bit crazy. Honestly, I thought he had done a good routine so I wasn't expecting it. It was close, very close."

Schmidt, in fourth place after two qualification rounds, saved his best for last, receiving the final's joint highest score for difficulty (15.400) and execution (24.600).

"Going into the finals not in first place sometimes is a good thing," he said. "Going in first, you've got to retain that position, but going in fourth you have something to strive for, something to fight for. I think that's what I like best, I like having that pressure to have to do even better."

His mother, Jen Schmidt, was overwhelmed by her son's performance and hugged him after his win.

"I don't know what to say," she said. "I have seen him training so hard night and day and I know that he deserves the gold. He had the dream, the desire and the vision. You see only him in the few minutes he is performing but I have seen him sweat it out all 365 days. I am a proud mother today."

The result was a bit of a disappointment to Liu. "I feel I didn't do well. I'm not satisfied with the silver," he said. "I made a mistake in the last movement. I didn't jump high enough. I think I need to improve my confidence."

Pedro Ribeiro Ferreira of Portugal took the bronze medal with a score of 56.04.