I-Hsuan Chin Wins Five Gold Medals, Gained Weight to Change Karate Class for Yu-Shan Lee

Chung Yuan Christian University held the National Intercollegiate Athletic Games 2023, and Division II karate competition started on May 4th at Chien Hsin University of Science and Technology.

There was love in the air at the women's +61kg class gold medal competition since the friendship between the two athletes were shinier than the gold medal. Eventually, I-Hsuan Chin from Fu Jen Catholic University beat Yu-Shan Lee from National Cheng Kung University 9:1, winning her fifth gold medal at the National Intercollegiate Athletic Games.

Chin won gold medal at women's +61kg class in 2018, and defeating Lee with 9:1 makes her a fourtime champion in a row between classes.

"I hurt my ligament not long time ago," Chin said. "but my recovery was pretty good. I've received resources supported by my school, and I hope I can perform even better at the qualification (of the National Games)."

Although the margin between the two athletes was huge, Chin still complimented Lee.

"Her physical strength dropped," Chin said. "but she was trying hard to win some points, which I think was pretty great, and that made me concentrate on the game."

Lee won gold medal in 2019, and defended the championship in 2020. Lee and Chin met each other at the same dojo when they were still in elementary school, and after they went to different colleges, karate competitions became their connection.

Whenever they see each other, they chat endlessly that other people all think they're athletes from the same school. Actually, the first three times Chin participated in the National Intercollegiate Athletic Games, she competed at women's +61kg class, but switched to 68kg class these past three years. The reason was related to Lee, but Chin's back at +61kg class this year.

"In order to avoid each other," Chin said. "I adjusted my class, but I couldn't gain weight this year, so I guess we had to face off. So far, the result of us competing against each other is 1:1, and I don't know if there's another time."

Chin from Division II is going to try out the representative of New Taipei City at the National Games. As for Lee, she said karate is a sports and interest for her, so she would not compete after graduation, but focus on being her best friend's biggest fan.