

Chung Yuan Christian University First into Top Four at Men's and Women's Team, But Didn't Win Bronze

It has been 32 years since Chung Yuan Christian University last held the National Intercollegiate Athletic Games, and both their men and women's Division II badminton team went into top four for the very first time. Although women's team didn't win the bronze medal with a margin only three points, the athletes still demonstrated the sportsmanship.

"Sports is usually consequentialism," Jung-Li Su, the coach of Chung Yuan badminton team, said. "but I have to say that everyone performed really well. Although they didn't win the gold medal, men's team won the bronze medal, and women's team got fourth place. That's pretty encouraging."

Chung Yuan's best record was in 2014, when both men and women's team went into the top eight together.

At the bronze medal game, Chung Yuan women's team won at the second round with I-Shan Lee and third round with doubles Wen-Yu Lee and Chih-Hsuan Liang, but lost the fourth round to Chia-Jou Kuo and Yueh-Tzu Chen from Fu Jen Catholic University.

All the pressure was on the fifth round with Yen-Ni Kuo. With the whole stadium cheering her on, Yen-Ni Kuo competed until the last game, but lost with 23:25, 21:17, 18:21. She cried for almost five minutes after the match.

"Thank you, everyone, for coming to root for me and encouraging me." Yen-Ni Kuo said. "I played against her at the gold medal game last year, but I played at home this time, so I didn't want to let my schoolmates down. I wanted to save every serve, but it's a pity that I still lost."

Yen-Ni Kuo thinks that the team has been very close in recent years, and the coach and teammates are in a good relationship.

"College students all have their own affairs," Yen-Ni Kuo said. "but in order to practice, everyone can get together. I'm an introvert, so I'm grateful that they're willing to play with me, opening my heart."

Although they're regular students, Chung Yuan badminton team practices two to three times each week, three hours a time. They usually don't have much energy after the practice. Yen-Ni Kuo, who's a junior majoring in Undergraduate Program in College of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, thinks that badminton is a great sport to destress without affecting school work.

Aside from Yen-Ni Kuo, I-Shan Lee, who has gone to Chung Yuan for ten years, is definitely the spiritual leader on the team. Lee is an overseas student from Malaysia, and is trying to get her doctorate degree in Chemical Engineering. This is going to be her last National Intercollegiate Athletic Games, and she won a round for the team.

"Other schools were more competitive this time." Lee said. "It's really difficult to win, but I think everyone did their best."

Since Lee's from Malaysia, her idol is definitely the legendary Malaysian player Chong-Wei Lee, and Lee thinks that the environment of Taiwanese badminton has improved a lot during these ten years.

“There are more and more people who love to play.” Lee said. “I feel that all sectors have paid more attention to this sport, and it’s really happy to play here.”

Although women’s team lost at the bronze medal game, men’s bronze medal game was won by Chia-Chin Su, doubles Chih-Chia Hu and Ping-I Lin, and Tang-Wen Chang and Meng-Hsun Han, beating National Taiwan Sport University and closing the National Intercollegiate Athletic Games for the hosting school with a perfect ending.