

10/13/2008

There were few problems for the host nations highly rated Soumyajit Ghosh and Sathiyam Gnanasekaran or for the talented Shen Qiang of Canada and England's Gavin Evans in the Boys' Singles event, on Monday 13th October 2008, the first day of play in the table tennis events at the Commonwealth Youth Games in Pune, India.

All four occupy prominent seeded positions but for Marios Yiangou of Cyprus, seeded no.2 and Australia's Robbie Frank, seeded no.4; it was not the perfect day. Both experienced problems, both suffered defeats.

Marios Yiangou after beating Lesotho's Khetang Mothibi was beaten in straight games by Welshman Patrick Thomas, whilst Robbie Frank, suffered against Malaysia's Tzen Chin in a duel that went the full five games distance.

No Pressure

"Although it was a tough match, I played relaxed and felt no pressure", said Tzen Chin. "I am trying my best to win a medal and this is a great start."

Certainly it was a very good start against a player who knows what it is like to compete against the very best.

Good Omen

At the ITTF World Junior Championships staged in 2004 in Kobe, Japan, Robbie Frank lost to the eventual winner of the Boys' Singles event, a player who rapidly progressed to greater height. A certain Ma Long, now standing at no.3 on the ITTF Men's World Rankings!

Is that a good omen for Tzen Nicholas!

India

Problems for two highly rated players but not for the other budding stars with Indian players delighting the home supporters; Soumyajit Ghosh and Sathiyam Gnanasekaran both enjoyed victories.

The former beat Sri Lanka's Sahanaka Ganegodage and Papua New Guinea's William Stevens whilst the latter accounted for Jackson Kariko, also from Papua New Guinea and Scotland's Craig Hardie.

Success for Australia & Scotland

Defeats for Australia and Scotland but there was success; David Powell beat Botswana's Kola Modisathebe and South Africa's Kurt Lingeveltdt, whilst Craig Howieson kept the flag of St Andrew flying for Scotland with wins over Malaysia's Matheus Aloysius and Malawi's Kinwell Kaunda.

Successful the British Isles in the guise of Craig Howieson and for the sworn enemy, England; it is generally accepted that the Scots like to win but they are happier if the English lose!

Liam Pitchford

Well, Scottish glee was moderated. The rapidly improving Liam Pitchford, a young man who earlier in the year beat the modern day Erik Lindh, Kristian Karlsson, on the ITTF Junior Circuit, overcame Shane Norville of Barbados and Uganda's Eddy Omongole.

The flag of St George flew high.

Canada

Two English players successful in the guise of Gavin Evans and Liam Pitchford, both cadets, whilst for Canada, Yang Ling Kun followed in the footsteps of Shen Qiang.

He overcame Guyana's Nigel Bryan and Billy Brent Chan Yook Fo of Mauritius.

Nigeria & Singapore

Meanwhile for Nigeria, Ojo Onaolapo was in form; he beat Kiribati's Noopa Takooa and Franklyn Evans from St Vincent and the Grenadines whilst a name to watch is most certainly that of Singapore's Pang Xue Jie.



Few difficulties for the talented Soumyajit Ghosh on the opening day. *Photo By: Ajay Deshpande*

Winner of the Cadet Boys' Singles title at the Taiyuan Junior Open September, Pang Xue Jie beat both Uganda's Daniel Sekyanzi and Guernsey's Garry Dodd.

Both victories were recorded in impressive style and most certainly, the young man who speaks fluent English could well uphold the traditions of Singaporean excellence in Commonwealth competition.

Results – Boys' Singles – Day One

Group One: SHEN Qiang [CAN] bt RAJANI Jignesh Jitendra [KEN] 3 - 0 (11-3, 11-4, 11-5); SHEN Qiang [CAN] bt PETINAUD Don Walker Travis [JAM] 3 - 0 (11-8, 11-6, 11-6)

Group Two: YIANGOU Marios [CYP] bt MOTHIBI Khethang [LES] 3 - 0 (11-0, 11-4, 11-3); THOMAS Patrick Michael [WAL] bt FOSTEL Hugh [SEY] 3 - 1 (11-3, 11-13, 11-7, 11-4); THOMAS Patrick Michael [WAL] bt YIANGOU Marios [CYP] 3 - 0 (11-9, 11-4, 11-8); FOSTEL Hugh [SEY] bt MOTHIBI Khethang [LES] 3 - 0 (12-10, 11-4, 11-9)

Group Three: EVANS Gavin Thomas [ENG] bt TOMLINSON Simon Peter [JAM] 3 - 0 (11-5, 11-8, 11-2); VIRK Salman Ahmad Tahir [PAK] bt WALAGAMPALA Buddika Prabath [SRI] 3 - 2 (9-11, 12-10, 9-11, 11-6, 12-10); EVANS Gavin Thomas [ENG] bt WALAGAMPALA Buddika Prabath [SRI] 3 - 0 (11-7, 11-3, 11-4); VIRK Salman Ahmad Tahir [PAK] bt TOMLINSON Simon Peter [JAM] 3 - 1 (11-5, 6-11, 11-3, 11-4)

Group Four: FRANK Robert [AUS] bt SOMBA Abell [MAW] 3 - 0 (11-6, 11-3, 11-6); NICHOLAS CHIN Tzen Khiong [MAS] bt MEYER Cody Mathew [RSA] 3 - 1 (11-7, 6-11, 11-7, 11-8); NICHOLAS CHIN Tzen Khiong [MAS] bt FRANK Robert [AUS] 3 - 2 (11-9, 3-11, 9-11, 11-8, 11-8); MEYER Cody Mathew [RSA] bt SOMBA Abell [MAW] 3 - 2 (6-11, 11-4, 11-13, 11-9, 13-11)

Group Five: PITCHFORD Liam Benjamin [ENG] bt NORVILLE Shane Michael Ezra [BAR] 3 - 0 (11-6, 11-7, 11-6); OMONGOLE Eddy [UGA] bt GBOYAH Emmaneul [SLE] 3 - 0 (11-6, 11-3, 12-10); PITCHFORD Liam Benjamin [ENG] bt OMONGOLE Eddy [UGA] 3 - 0 (11-5, 11-2, 11-3); NORVILLE Shane Michael Ezra [BAR] bt GBOYAH Emmaneul [SLE] 3 - 1 (11-5, 9-11, 11-6, 11-2)

Group Six: GHOSH Soumyajit [IND] bt GANEGODAGE Sahanaka Randula [SRI] 3 - 1 (11-3, 6-11, 11-1, 11-6); NOEL Edmond VAN] bt STEVENS Willaim Vagi [PNG] 3 - 1 (11-9, 11-8, 9-11, 11-7); GHOSH Soumyajit [IND] bt STEVENS Willaim Vagi [PNG] 3 - 0 (11-4, 11-3, 11-3); GANEGODAGE Sahanaka Randula [SRI] bt NOEL Edmond [VAN] 3 - 0 (11-9, 11-7, 11-6)

Group Seven: HOWIESON Craig [SCO] bt ANAK ALOYSIUS Matteus [MAS] 3 - 0 (15-13, 11-7, 11-9); LI KAM WA Warren [MRI] bt KAUNDA Kingwell [MAW] 3 - 1 (11-4, 11-5, 12-14, 12-10); HOWIESON Craig [SCO] bt KAUNDA Kingwell [MAW] 3 - 0 (11-6, 11-1, 11-5); ANAK ALOYSIUS Matteus [MAS] bt LI KAM WA Warren [MRI] 3 - 0 (11-7, 11-9, 11-4)

Group Eight: ONAOLAPO Ojo [NGR] bt TAKOOA Nooa [KIR] 3 - 0 (11-8, 11-3, 11-5); CHONG Hur Ying Darren [SIN] bt EVANS Franklyn Dominic Cameron [VIN] 3 - 0 (11-2, 11-3, 11-3); ONAOLAPO Ojo [NGR] bt EVANS Franklyn Dominic Cameron [VIN] 3 - 0 (11-2, 11-6, 11-1); CHONG Hur Ying Darren [SIN] bt TAKOOA Nooa [KIR] 3 - 0 (11-2, 11-5, 11-4)

Group Nine: POWELL David [AUS] bt MODISATHEBE Kola Tshepo [BOT] 3 - 0 (11-4, 11-6, 11-2); LINGEVELDT Kurt John [RSA] bt OLAYIWOLA Mojeed Olawale [NGR] 3 - 2 (11-7, 10-12, 11-8, 9-11, 12-10); POWELL David [AUS] bt LINGEVELDT Kurt John [RSA] 3 - 1 (8-11, 11-4, 11-0, 11-6); OLAYIWOLA Mojeed Olawale [NGR] bt MODISATHEBE Kola Tshepo [BOT] 3 - 0 (11-6, 11-2, 11-4)

Group Ten: YANG Ling Kun [CAN] bt BRYAN Nigel Anthony [GUY] 3 - 1 (11-5, 9-11, 11-7, 12-10); CHAN YOOK FO Billy Brent [MRI] bt GAYMES Kavir Dennis Jr [VIN] 3 - 0 (11-5, 11-4, 11-4); YANG Ling Kun [CAN] bt CHAN YOOK FO Billy Brent [MRI] 3 - 0 (12-10, 11-9, 11-6); BRYAN Nigel Anthony [GUY] bt GAYMES Kavir Dennis Jr [VIN] 3 - 0 (11-7, 11-6, 11-8)

Group Eleven: GNANASEKARAN Sathiyam [IND] bt KARIKO Jackson Morea [PNG] 3 - 0 (11-5, 11-6, 11-4); HARDIE Craig [SCO] bt JAMES Ceri Jon [WAL] 3 - 1 (11-7, 11-6, 4-11, 11-6); GNANASEKARAN Sathiyam [IND] bt HARDIE Craig [SCO] 3 - 0 (11-7, 11-8, 14-12); JAMES Ceri Jon [WAL] bt KARIKO Jackson Morea [PNG] 3 - 0 (11-8, 11-2, 11-5)

Group Twelve: PANG Xue Jie [SIN] bt SEKYANZI Daniel Nicholas [UGA] 3 - 0 (11-2, 11-4, 11-7); BORNEO Kyle [TRI] bt DODD Garry [GGY] 3 - 1 (11-5, 11-9, 11-13, 11-8); PANG Xue Jie [SIN] bt DODD Garry [GGY] 3 - 0 (11-9, 11-4, 11-4); BORNEO Kyle [TRI] bt SEKYANZI Daniel Nicholas [UGA] 3 - 0 (11-7, 11-6, 11-9)

10/13/2008

Singapore dominated matters in the table tennis events at the Commonwealth Games staged in Melbourne in 2006; they won gold in every event and the early signs are that they could be the dominant force in the Commonwealth Youth Games currently being staged in the Indian city of Pune.

Certainly, that is the situation in the female events.

Both Zena Sim and Isabelle Li concluded the first day of proceedings, Monday 13th October 2008, unbeaten; both showed their class, both underlined their undoubted potential.

Style of Play

Zena Sim, the no.3 seed, defeated both Northern Ireland's Ashley Givan and Kirbati's Atea Tetabo; whilst by the same margin Isabelle Li, seeded no.4, overcame Kerryn Hunt of the Cook Islands and Australia's Ashleigh Stevenson.

Notable performances and the other notable factor is that they are both defenders, both are backspin players; in an era where topspin rules. Two of the brightest prospects in south east Asia, keep the noble art of backspin play alive.

Indians in Form

In form Singaporeans and, in similar fashion, two players from the host nation and two players from Guyana impressed.

Top seed, India's Neha Aggarwal beat Tonga's Barbara Pepa and Lisa Collymore of Barbados; whilst second seed, Soumi Mondal, also from India, defeated Uganda's Amina Namaganda and Pakistan's Ayesha Khan.

Impressive Again

Impressive efforts from the top two seeds and also from Michelle John and Trenace Lowe of Guyana; earlier in the year their free flowing style of play caught the eye in Cartagena at the ITTF Junior Circuit event, in Pune they also attracted attention.

Michelle John defeated Malawi's Shyreen Pensulo and South Africa's Priscilla Maphanga; whilst Trenace Lowe overcame Jamaica's Shaunda Brash and Canada's Emmanuelle Lavoie.

Michelle John and Trenace Lowe occupy the seventh and eighth seeded positions respectively.

Nigeria

Success for India, Singapore and Guyana and it was also the same for Nigeria.

Ganiyat Olatunde defeated Kenya's Sonam Sanghavi and Northern Ireland's Claire Nelson whilst Janet Effiom accounted for Australia's Melissa Tapper and Chloe Thomas of Wales.

Unbeaten Performances

The three other young ladies to remain unbeaten were Malaysia's Wan May Kueh, England's Karina Lefevre and Guernsey's Alice Loveridge.

Wan May Kueh overcame Jamaica's Yvonne Foster and Anniessa Benstrong of the Seychelles, Alice Loveridge accounted for Uganda's Zura Khuakha and South Africa's Khanyisile Madlala whilst Karina Lefevre defeated Vanuatu's Priscilla Tommy and Trinidad and Tobago's Avernelle Abraham.

Seeded Places

Wan May Kuen is the no. 5 seed with Alice Loveridge being the no. 6 seed, Karin Lefevre is not seeded; the seed in her group is Canada's Peggy Hsien.

She beat Avernelle Abraham but lost to Priscilla Tommy.

Results – Girls' Singles – Day One

Group One: AGGARWAL Neha [IND] bt PEPA Barbara [TGA] 3 – 0 (11-3, 11-2, 11-3); AGGARWAL Neha [IND] bt COLLYMORE Lisa Amanda [BAR] 3 – 0 (11-1, 11-6, 11-6)



Isabelle Li in fine form on the first day of play in Pune.
Photo By: Karl Jindrak

Group Two: MONDAL Soumi [IND] bt NAMAGANDA Amina [UGA] 3 – 0 (11-1, 11-8, 11-1); MONDAL Soumi [IND] bt KHAN Ayesha [PAK] 3 – 0 (11-2, 11-1, 11-9)

Group Three: SIM Kai Xin Zena [SIN] bt GIVAN Ashley Sadie Louise [NIR] 3 - 0 (11-4, 11-4, 11-3); PHILIPS Anghard Eleri Porter [WAL] bt TETABO Atea [KIR] 3 – 1 (8-11, 11-8, 11-2, 11-7); SIM Kai Xin Zena [SIN] bt TETABO Atea [KIR] 3 – 0 (11-9, 11-2, 11-3); PHILIPS Anghard Eleri Porter [WAL] bt GIVAN Ashley Sadie Louise [NIR] 3 - 2 (11-4, 9-11, 11-7, 4-11, 11-9)

Group Four: LI Isabelle Siyun [SIN] bt HUNT Kerryn Marita Frances [COK] 3 – 0 (11-1, 11-3, 11-1); STEVENSON Ashleigh [AUS] bt QUASHIE Ashley [TRI] 3 - 0 (11-7, 12-10, 11-2); LI Isabelle Siyun [SIN] bt STEVENSON Ashleigh [AUS] 3 – 0 (11-4, 11-3, 11-2); QUASHIE Ashley [TRI] bt HUNT Kerryn Marita Frances [COK] 3 – 1 (9-11, 12-10, 11-9, 11-8)

Group Five: KUEH Wan May [MAS] bt FOSTER Yvonne Lei - Ann Joye [JAM] 3 – 0 (11-7, 11-3, 11-5); BENSTRONG Anniessa [SEY] bt QWEA Stephanie [VAN] 3 – 1 (11-4, 11-7, 7-11, 11-8); KUEH Wan May [MAS] bt BENSTRONG Anniessa [SEY] 3 – 2 (7-11, 11-3, 6-11, 11-6, 11-6); FOSTER Yvonne Lei - Ann Joye [JAM] bt QWEA Stephanie [VAN] 3 - 0 (11-4, 12-10, 11-5)

Group Six: LOVERIDGE Alice Megan [GGY] bt KHAUKHA Zura [UGA] 3 - 0 (11-4, 11-5, 11-4); MADLALA Khanyisile Emmelina [RSA] bt MWENEBUNGU Chrissy Orleen [MAW] 3 – 0 (11-6, 11-3, 11-6); LOVERIDGE Alice Megan [GGY] bt MADLALA Khanyisile Emmelina [RSA] 3 - 2 (14-12, 10-12, 11-6, 8-11, 11-9); KHAUKHA Zura [UGA] bt MWENEBUNGU Chrissy Orleen [MAW] 3 - 2 (11-6, 5-11, 11-13, 11-5, 11-8)

Group Seven: JOHN Michelle Tamika [GUY] bt PENSULO Shyreen Bokelta [MAW] 3 - 0 (11-3, 11-4, 11-7); GAM Gaik Ping [MAS] bt MAPHANGA Priscilla Zodwa [RSA] 3 - 0 (11-6, 11-5, 11-7); JOHN Michelle Tamika [GUY] bt MAPHANGA Priscilla Zodwa [RSA] 3 - 1 (11-7, 11-5, 8-11, 11-5); GAM Gaik Ping [MAS] bt PENSULO Shyreen Bokelta [MAW] 3 - 0 (11-1, 11-4, 11-1)

Group Eight: LOWE Trenace Althea [GUY] bt BRASH Shaunda Chantal [JAM] 3 – 0 (11-8, 11-9, 11-2); LAVOIE Emmanuelle [CAN] bt KOBOKHOLO Mohau Esther [LES] 3 – 0 (11-2, 11-4, 11-2); LOWE Trenace Althea [GUY] bt LAVOIE Emmanuelle [CAN] 3 - 2 (3-11, 13-11, 11-9, 9-11, 11-1); BRASH Shaunda Chantal [JAM] bt KOBOKHOLO Mohau Esther [LES] 3 – 0 (14-12, 11-7, 11-9)

Group Nine: NELSON Claire [NIR] bt MANICO Louisa [COK] 3 - 0 (11-9, 11-6, 11-4); OLATUNDE Ganiyat [NGR] bt SANGHAVI Sonam Minar [KEN] 3 - 0 (11-6, 11-5, 11-8); OLATUNDE Ganiyat [NGR] bt NELSON Claire [NIR] 3 - 2 (11-6, 8-11, 10-12, 12-10, 11-9); MANICO Louisa [COK] bt SANGHAVI Sonam Minar [KEN] 3 – 0 (15-13, 11-8, 11-7)

Group Ten: THOMAS Chloe Anna [WAL] bt SLATER Natalie [ENG] 3 – 2 (11-3, 11-7, 3-11, 10-12, 12-10); EFFIOM Janet [NGR] bt TAPPER Melissa [AUS] 3 - 2 (11-9, 12-14, 11-9, 6-11, 13-11); TAPPER Melissa [AUS] bt SLATER Natalie [ENG] 3 – 1 (9-11, 11-8, 11-4, 11-8); EFFIOM Janet [NGR] bt THOMAS Chloe Anna [WAL] 3 – 0 (11-8, 11-6, 12-10)