

Korea sets sights on 75 gold medals

Inspired by its team's excellent performances through the first half of the competition, Korea is targeting 75 gold medals at the Asian Games.

"Our athletes have been performing well until now. Our general goal is 75 gold medals," said Lee Kee-heung, chef-de-mission of the Korean delegation.

Korea has enjoyed its best performances in shooting (13 gold medals), judo (6) and swimming (4). It also has the potential to scale new heights in fencing and cycling, sports in which it has won five and three gold medals so far, respectively.

"Now the situation has gone way beyond what we expected. If the athletes keep this up, especially in archery and wrestling, we believe we can get more than 70 gold medals," Lee said.

Korea's previous best result at the Asiad was when it played host in Busan in 2002, grabbing 96 gold medals.

Fans swoon over heart-throb rider

When 18-year-old Korean Kim Seok enters the Guangzhou equestrian arena on Monday, the fans are expected to rock the stands, not necessarily in response to his riding, but because he is also a film star.

"I LIKE RIDING AS MUCH AS ACTING. I WOULDN'T GIVE UP ONE FOR THE OTHER."

Kim started acting at the age of five. Four years ago he appeared in the Korean TV series *Princess Hours*, which also aired in China. He

played the leading actress's younger brother.

In 2004, his leading role in the adaptation of the famous Korean novel *When I Turned Nine* made him a household name. MTV appearances fill his calendar and fuel his popularity. Whenever he goes to Korea and China, young girls swoon over him. This has extended to the volunteers at the equestrian venue.

Kim frequently has to put his schoolbooks aside as a result of his busy acting and riding schedule.

"For the Asian Games, I took a break from my acting," Kim said. "I like riding as much as acting. I wouldn't give up one for the other."

As the youngest member of

Istomin hailed for overrule honesty

India's Karan Rastogi (below) hailed Denis Istomin (right) as an "incredible champion" after the Uzbek top seed overruled a line call on match point in their Asian Games men's tennis quarterfinal on Sunday.

Istomin, the world No 40, would have won the match if he had accepted the chair umpire's judgment that a Rastogi forehand was out.

However, the Uzbek called the ball good before eventually going on to win 6-2, 4-6, 7-5 to reach the semifinals.

"Not many people on the tour would do that," said the 24-year-old Rastogi, ranked 332nd in the world.

"I have known him for a while and for him to call the ball good on match point showed that he's an incredible champion."

Istomin said cheating was not part of his game, and that he preferred to win fair and square.

"The shot was on the line, so the call of out was not true. Finally I won because I played better at the end of the match."

AFP PHOTOS

the Korean jumping team, he started riding at the age of eight, even though there was no equestrian tradition in his family. His father bought him a horse after much nagging.

Riding French gelding Lido Des Broches, Kim said he relies on his teammates' experience, as well as the training he received in Germany.

His first international outing was at the 2008 CSIO Seoul. He won the Asian Games qualifying competition in July.



Facemasks keep weiqi duo silent

For Japanese *weiqi* players Shinji Takao and Chiaki Mukai, wearing facemasks during their competition has nothing to do with sanitation, and everything to do with avoiding subconsciously communicating with each other.

According to the rules of the game, partners are not allowed to talk to one another during doubles matches. However this can be frustrating for teammates,

as they sit next to each other during the competition and have a natural inclination to send verbal messages or signals.

It was not clear if the masks affected their performance on Saturday, but they certainly didn't bring them much in the way of good luck.

The pair lost their first-round encounter against Jo Sae-byol and Pak Ho-gil from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to rank as the only seeded pair to suffer defeat on the opening day of the competition.

WHO'S SAYING WHAT...

"Smoking helps me feel better, forcing me to forget about the results. My teammate smokes as well."

Equestrian rider **SONG SANG-WUK** of Korea, on how he relaxes at an event

"That will be my winter project."

Germany-based Japanese equestrian medalist **YOSHIAKI OIWA**, on his plans for the off-season

"He deserves it. He said something insulting to the referee."

Saudi Arabia's water polo assistant coach **MOHAMMED GHALLAB**, on Adel Al Malki's ejection

"I am afraid of murmuring unconsciously during the game, which would lead to a penalty."

Japan chess player **SATOSHI YUKI**

"It's the love boat between my wife and I."

Dragon boat competitor **HIDEYUKI IKEDA** of Japan

"My family gives me the biggest support, especially my husband. He is paying my bills all the time."

Hong Kong equestrian rider **JENNIFER LEE**

"I changed because I was injured and was sent to the hospital. So my family and I discussed changing to a less dangerous sport. My father recommended fencing, so I tried it at summer camp."

Indonesia's **SINATRIO RAHRJO**, on his switch to fencing from gymnastics

"He kicked me and told me to concentrate."

Chinese Taipei's taekwondo competitor **WEI CHEN-YANG** on his coach's tough motivational methods

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE



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Wei Chen-yang of Chinese Taipei celebrates gold in the men's under 58kg taekwondo final on Saturday.