



Dance Flame

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7th SGDF Singapore Nationals 2nd Ngee Ann Polytechnic Tertiary DanceSport Championships



Ngee Ann Polytechnic held it's 2nd Ngee Ann Polytechnic Tertiary DanceSport Championships in conjunction with the 7th SGDF Singapore Nationals on the 29th December 2007.

This event was graced by Guest-of-Honour Mr. Chia Mia Chiang, Principle, of Ngee Ann Polytechnic.

The highly popular Singapore Nationals Championships aim to provide a competitive platform for the athletes especially amongst the tertiary institutions. A new height was reached in this National Championship - both in the number of participants as well as the guest's attendance. The 7th SGDF saw over 120 competitors and more than 500 guests.

Another milestone achieved was the participation of the 4th Tertiary Institution in this event. For the first time, Nanyang Polytechnic joined their fellow institution to compete in this Sport. Their entry has brought much excitement in the tertiary events.

Indeed, Congratulations to the NPDS Committee who has co-organised this event. They have surpassed their earlier achievements and brought to us today an overwhelmingly successful National Championship.



GOH Mr. Chia Mia Chiang
(Principal, Ngee Ann Polytechnic)



Awards and Medals all ready to be given to the well-deserved



Ngee Ann Polytechnic DanceSport President giving the Opening Speech



This is the largest crowd drawn since the start of the Tertiary Competitions



A special award ceremony was held to commemorate the long serving Executive Committee members. The exco members who have served in the committee for more than 5 years were recognized for their commitment and hard work.

From Left to Right:

David Lim, May Ng, Robert Ong, Sabrina Sim, Hwa Mee Thoo, Sharon Tan

Not in attendance - Connie Tan

The competition heats up...



*Chow Kai Ern & Imelda Teja Sukardi
Grade E Champions, Samba*



*Melvin Sim & Rene Tan
Grade C Finalist*



*Desmond Tan & Michelle Lim
Grade B Champions*



*Darren Boon & Cheryl Tan
Grade E 1st Runners Up, Samba*

Over the past years, the Singapore Nationals saw an increasing number of competitors in all competing categories. This is attributed mostly to the conscious effort put in by SGDF as well as the coaches in promoting DanceSport as a competitive Sport.

Coaches Shawn & Gladys Tay, Melvin Tan & Sharon Tan and Belman Salihovic are instrumental in grooming the competitive teams, focusing much effort in Youth development. Their success can be seen in the ever increasing participants in the Nationals from as young as 6 years old to an average of 18 years of age.

Compared to the previous Nationals, there are currently more competitors in the higher category events, such as the Grade C, B and even A.

SGDF would also like to thank the institutions for all the continuous support given to us to develop the sport to a higher degree within their schools. Their constant support has helped encourage many of the students to be able to take on this sport competitively.

(Continue on Page 7)



*Leonard Heng & Lindsey Lum
Upper Primary Champions*



*Timothy Ong & Pang Wan Ching
Upper Primary*



*Maxel Lee & Gazel Lee
Upper Primary*



*Freeman Wang & Sng Hsueh Min
Grade E Champions, Cha Cha*

Special Feature : The SEA Games 2007...



Nong Can (Siamese Cat), the 24th Southeast Asian Games Thailand 2007 Official Mascot

Dear Readers,

For the 2nd time, DanceSport made it to the sports lists in the 2007 South East Asian Games (SEA). We are very glad to have this opportunity to contribute this article to share with all of you our experiences and memories made. Hopefully, through the pictures we share, you will be able to live this journey together with us.

This article is dedicated to all the athletes, our coaches, officials and all the supporters who tirelessly supported us in this quest.

Melvin Tan & Sharon Tan
Undefeated Singapore Grade A Champions

Start of our Journey

In August 26th, 2007, we came to know that we were the only pair of athletes selected for the 24th SEA Games representation. From that moment on, we made a promise to ourselves to do our very best performance for the SEA Games.

It was very difficult to train when we are both working full time. As such, we decided to take a 3 months no-pay leave to fully concentrate on our training. We would like to thank Datacraft for releasing Sharon on such a short notice to be able to fulfill her dream.

We decided that overseas training would best help us accelerate our performance. With advisory from our National Coach, Shawn Tay, we chose to go to Italy to train. With SGDF's support too, we are able to invite foreign coaches to Singapore to supplement our ongoing training.

We trained 6 full days a week till the week leading to the departure for Thailand. We must say, this requires a lot of discipline and constant building of our mental strength to prepare for this big day. Indeed, this experience of full time training has geared us up for the competition in Dec 9, 2007.

On Dec 5, 2007, we left for Korat, Thailand with our Coach, Shawn Tay and our Official Robert Ong. Our arrival was met with much celebration.



Sea Games – The Opening Ceremony



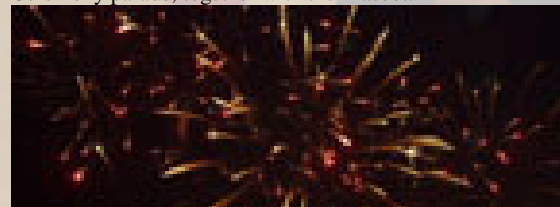
Arriving at the Athletes Village in Korat with the rest of the Singapore contingent.



Our living Quarters



DanceSport athletes, official and coach at the Opening Ceremony parade, together with the Mascot.



Korat, Thailand, 5 Dec 07

After we arrived at Bangkok airport, we were ushered up a coach for our 3 hours bus ride to Korat. Korat is the main competition arena and the Athlete's village is hosted there in their university, the Suranaree University of Technology, Nakorn Ratchasima.

This is very different from our earlier experience in the 23rd SEA Games. Then we lived in a hotel and were not part of the main contingent. Here, we lived in a village. Basically, it is a military quarters like type of rooms.

There were huge dining areas where all the athletes will go to for their daily meals. There is even a small food carnival set up within the village selling Thailand Food delights. We are able to roam about for a bit before the preparation of the Official Opening Ceremony.

The Opening Ceremony was a grand affair. Unfortunately, we, as athletes were waiting for most part outside the stadium. Finally, when we walk into the stadium, the cheers that greeted us were unbelievable. Truly, you have to be there to experience this wonderful moment.



Top : Official - Robert Ong



Melvin and Sharon waiving the Flag During the Opening Ceremony

Bottom Left : Singapore DanceSport
Bottom Right : Coach - Shawn Tay



Sea Games – Competition Day 1, Dec 8



Competition Day 1, Saturday...

There are altogether 5 events that we are participating in. Each dance is a medal event in itself. Normally we are more used to competing 5 dances in 1 event. The first day was the competition of Cha Cha Cha and the Rumba.

We marched past to a huge crowd. DanceSport usually attracts a huge viewership simply because of its form. Many think of DanceSport as an Art, however, anybody who has gone through the training as we have would beg to differ. DanceSport is a Sport through and through.

We were very happy to make it into both Finals amidst the very tough competition on the first day.



The country flags of participating Teams.



Top : Cha Cha Cha in Semi-Finals
Bottom : Rumba in Semi-Finals



Top : Our Cha Cha Cha in the Finals
Bottom : Performing our Rumba in Finals



In the Competition hall – March Past



Sea Games – Competition Day 2, Dec 9



Competition Day 2, Sunday...

The remaining 3 events were held in Day 2, namely the Samba, Paso Doble and the Jive. We are immensely happy to make it into the finals for all 3 events. To us, it tells us that our effort has not been in vain. Not many competitors made it in to the Finals in all their chosen events.

The finals for all the events were danced team by team. We enjoyed every moment of our performance that day. The most enjoyable was the Paso Doble where all competitors dressed to it.

Our best result on that day was coming in 4th for the Samba. In everyway, we are thankful for our achievements and we are proud to be able to have represented Singapore twice in SEA Games during our tenure competing in the Grade A space, hence closing a chapter in our lives before moving onto our professional career.



Melvin Tan & Sharon Tan

Top : The end of our Competition
Bottom : Our Paso Doble in the Finals



Top and Bottom : Our Jive in the Semi-Finals.



Bottom : Our Thailand Relationship Managers with us



Team Match!



(Con't from page 2)

The most exciting Tertiary Team Match took place in the 7th SGDF Nationals. For the first time, there were 4 teams representing their institution in a friendly team match competition. The Team Match has always been a highlight of the Singapore Nationals event. To the institutions, they look forward to it as it includes much creativity and strategizing together as a team to win the title.

The format this time was 5 rounds comprising of Single Dance of Samba, Cha Cha Cha, Rumba, Jive and a 2 Dance (C&R) event. Depending on how well the teams strategize their representatives in each event, it's anybody's game to win.

This time round was a very close fight between Singapore Polytechnic and Ngee Ann Polytechnic. Singapore Polytechnic finally emerged winners with just 10 points difference.

Last but not least, the climax of the team match is their opening dance item. Each team uses their creativity to come up with different introduction of their teams. For the 3rd consecutive time, and by no mean feat, Singapore Polytechnic won yet again the Best Performance Award.



*Singapore Polytechnic
Team Match Champions*



*Ngee Ann Polytechnic
Team Match 1st Runners Up*



*Ngee Ann Polytechnic in the Opening
Performance*



*Singapore Polytechnic in the Winning Opening
Performance*



*Nanyang Technological University
Team Match 2nd Runners Up*



Team Match Participants in the Friendship Dance



*Nanyang Polytechnic in the Opening
Performance*



*Nanyang Polytechnic
Team Match 3rd Runners Up*



*Standard (Waltz) Workshop Participants
Conducted by Simone Segatori & Annette Sudol (Germany)*



*Coaching Competitive Latin Workshop
Conducted by Peter Townsend (Australia)*

SGDF in their efforts to promote DanceSport to the Youth, organized a series of workshops for the Tertiary and under 21 members. SGDF recognize that more needs to be done to promote the Standard category and hence the first of such workshop focus on the Standard Dances (Waltz). The main objective was to give our members, who are mostly Latin competitors, an insight into the world of Standard.

Simone Segatori & Annette Sudol were invited from Germany to conduct the workshop over 2 sessions of 2 hours each. Over 44 participants comprising members from SGDF, NTU, NP and SP enrolled in this programme. Many commented that such workshops "should be done more often" and has been "enriching".

Another Workshop conducted was different in nature. This time focusing on Coaching. SGDF recognizes that coaches plays crucial roles in developing their students and would like to supplement existing coaches with better methods of coaching through experience sharing session from well-known coaches.

SGDF is proud to be able to invite Peter Townsend from Australia to conduct this workshop. In this workshop, much was learnt and the feedback was excellent.



Major DanceSport Events



*IDSF Championships**

09.03.2008	IDSF Asia Pacific	Hong Kong
30.03.2008	IDSF International Open	Japan, Tokyo
27.04.2008	IDSF International Open	Korea, Seoul
19-20.07.2008	IDSF World Cup Latin	China, ShangHai
19-20.07.2008	IDSF Open	China, ShangHai
23.08.2008	IDSF Open	Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur
06.09.2008	IDSF International Open	Korea, Chun Cheon City
02.11.2008	IDSF Open	Korea, Seoul
24.11.2008	IDSF Grand Slam	Japan, Tokyo
07.12.2008	IDSF Asian	Chinese Taipei

*Local Championships**

27.04.2008	Singapore Millennium Open Championships	Singapore
28.06.2008	8 th SGDF Singapore Nationals	Singapore

SGDF competitors who wish to participate in the above events kindly inform the Secretary by Fax at least 4 weeks in advance. Nominations for IDSF Championships will be made through selections based on the SGDF National Ranking Lists and the Asian Ranking Lists. All other DanceSport competitors in Singapore who are not yet members of SGDF are reminded to join the Federation immediately to be eligible for participation in the above events.

*This list is correct at the time of publication. Members are advised to check and confirm the dates and other details either from the IDSF website or with the SGDF Personnel.

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