

## Zou's gotta brand new bag

Olympic champion boxer vows to repeat his success in London with a different, more unique fighting approach

BY SUN XIAOCHEN  
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Four years ago, boxer Zou Shiming proved the Chinese could roar in the ring after claiming the Beijing Olympic gold medal in the 48-kilogram division.

Today, his iconic style is taking a beating from his opponents.

### BASKETBALL

By a 11 accounts, he seems to have lost his mojo. But that hasn't deterred the 30-year-old, who remains confident that he will defend his title at the London Olympics with a more versatile fighting style derived from Chinese martial arts.

"My style is no certain style now," Zou said after attending the adidas ClimaCool 10th anniversary in the 798 Art Zone in Beijing on Wednesday. "I've been inventing and honing my new fighting method since the winter training camp started three months ago. I don't want to be labeled as some certain type. I will show the world how versatile I am at the London Olympics."

He will have a lot of hurdles to overcome to again win gold this summer. He is moving

up in class to the 49-kg light-flyweight division, where he could be outsized and overpowered by his opponents. Zou said the key is his mobility to escape punches and counterattack with left-right combinations.

Zou's style, dubbed "pirate fighting" by the media, has given him advantages because it relies more on footwork and accuracy and less on brawling during a match, which lasts for four two-minute rounds. Opponents, however, have caught on to Zou's style, having gotten more comfortable over the years. That, he said, has forced him to modify his old ways.

"I've found a new way to improve my tactics that is to combine martial arts and boxing," said Zou, who started to learn Wushu, a modern hybrid sport based on martial arts, at the age of 12 in his home town of Zunyi in southwest China's Guizhou province.

"Martial arts are more flexible while boxing is more direct. Mixing them together is a specialty of Chinese boxing," he said.

Zou's Wushu training has given him even greater footwork, he says, to combine

with his innate sense of distance and his uncanny ability to know when to lunge and withdraw to stay out of his opponent's reach.

With an Olympic gold medal and three consecutive world champion titles in his bag, Zou has single-handedly put his country on the boxing map, but also admits his gas tank has recently been running on fumes.

"Sometime, I feel like being crushed by a big ball that was made of injury, fatigue and pressure after years of fights," he said. "But I am a veteran and the spiritual leader of the team now. I have to hang on and help the young guns with my experience."

Zou isn't the only must-watch boxer from China. A new breed of boxers have emerged from last year's world championships and have been added to the Chinese roster, including light-heavyweight Zhang Xiaoping, who won gold in the Beijing Olympics.

But London won't be Zou's career sendoff. He still expects to land a stint in the professional ring after his amateur playing days are over. He had already expressed his desire to turn pro after the Beijing Olympics, but decided against it to honor his



Chinese boxer Zou Shiming punched an ice cube with a pair of shoes inside when he attended the adidas ClimaCool 10th anniversary in the 798 Art Zone on Wednesday.

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commitment to his country. The decision to turn pro won't be postponed this time, he said.

"A lot of fans support me to try out at the pro competitions abroad. I also want to test my caliber facing the tougher

opponents there. So, I guess it will be the ideal timing after London," Zou said.

The pull to turn pro also comes from boxing's popularity in the Western world.

"Some people even recognized me when I was walking

in the street in Cuba (during competitions). That's a surprise because hardly a person knew me when I hang out in China," said Zou, who in 2008 before the Olympics was interviewed by The New Yorker magazine. "Boxing is a very popular

event in a lot of foreign countries, as same as soccer and basketball. But it's still small in China. But I already have seen big potentials, and hopefully I could do my best to promote by winning another gold in London," Zou said.

## ZOU IS A LITTLE STARSTRUCK IN COMMERCIAL

Zou Shiming, China's first Olympic champion boxer, feels thrilled to be mentioned in the same breathe as superstars David Beckham and Lionel Messi.

Named as adidas' global ambassador to promote its ClimaCool running shoes, Zou was invited to shoot a TV commercial with a glittering group of elite athletes, which included soccer

greats Beckham and Messi as well as NBA star Derrick Rose, in London earlier this year.

"I feel so excited to be able to appear in the TV commercial together with so many big names," Zou said during a ceremony to celebrate the 10th anniversary of adidas' line of ClimaCool shoes. "It was an unforgettable experience to

work with global luminaries from various fields."

Though he says he didn't chat with the other stars at length, Zou hailed the commercial as a bold push to promote boxing in Asia.

"Boxing is a highly-participatory sport with strong appeal in a lot of foreign countries. They picked it up together with soccer and basketball. I think my

appearance in the ads will make more people interested in the sport," Zou said.

The new line of ClimaCool shoes will be available in over 3,500 retail outlets nationwide from April 1. Over the following weekend, the company is touring its interactive road shows in Beijing at its Sanlitun store and in Shanghai at Huashi Square.

## Ministry recognizes Yantai as leading technology city

By WANG QIAN  
and JU CHUANJIANG in Jinan

Yantai, a coastal city in East China's Shandong province, has been named China's leading city in technological innovation by the Ministry of Science and Technology.

"I am very proud to be the mayor of a city taking the lead in promoting technological innovation throughout China," said Mayor Wang Liang.

"Innovation is vital to the city's competitive development. We are determined to further restructure its traditional and emerging industries to revitalize the city's economy," he said.

Last year, the city's high-tech sectors reported the highest output value — 470.9 billion yuan (\$74.6 billion) — out of 17 cities in the province. The sectors achieved a year-on-year increase of 22.7 percent and accounted for 38.7 percent of the city's total industrial output value.

Some 44 companies were recognized as high-tech enterprise and more than 10,137 patents were granted, a growth of 32.5 percent year on year. A total of 54 products won science and technology awards, with three awarded second prize for national technological progress.

### Overall strength

Owing to the city's innovative strength, a multitude of high-tech industries are currently undergoing rapid development, including new materials, electronic information, advanced manufacturing, biopharmaceuticals, marine technology, modern services and creative industries.

Meanwhile, a number of traditional industries — lighting, textiles, machinery, chemicals and food processing — are also getting revamped through technological innovation.

The city is already home to a Sino-Russian scientific and technological cooperation center, 61 State-level and provincial scientific research institutions



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MAYOR OF YANTAI

and 15 key laboratories, which make up one-sixth of the province's total research institutions.

Attracted by the city's favorable natural and academic environment, a large number of China's top research institutions and universities have developed branches here, including the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the Chinese Academy of Engineering and the Chinese Agricultural University.

This concentration of scientific research and education institutions form a strong foundation that ensures promising growth among local businesses, including Wanhua Group, Doosan Infracore China Corp, Yantai Raffles Shipyard and Luye Pharmaceutical Co Ltd.

The city has nurtured a number of China's leading brands and products that have a global scope, including Changyu wine, Longda food, Linglong tires and Luhua peanut oil.

Through technological innovations, Wanhua Group has become the largest producer of MDI, a chemical used to make polyurethane, in Asia and among the top three in the world as it increased annual output from 10,000 tons to 800,000 tons.

nership with Yantai University, has now applied for 279 patents and developed almost 40 products with independent intellectual property rights.

In addition, Yantai has become one of China's most favorable destinations for overseas investment. According to local statistics, 50 of the world's top 500 multinational corporations have opened shop in the city, including LG, GM, NEC and Toshiba, making it a truly global advanced manufacturing center.

### Development prospects

According to a five-year plan released by the city, the high-tech sector is projected to generate 530 billion yuan in annual output by the year's end.

The city is projected to foster 200 tech-intensive companies in five years, at least three of which are expected to generate an annual output value of over 100 billion yuan.

The output value of its high-tech sector is expected to account for 42 percent of the city's total industrial output by 2015.

A total of 10 million yuan will be allocated to promoting technological research and development annually, accounting for 3 percent of the city's growing GDP.

Another 20 national research institutions and key laboratories will be added. A 1 million-square-meter public service center is planned and will provide technological support to more than 500 small and mid-sized companies.

In line with the initiative, 10 advanced industrial parks will receive a significant boost, including a 6-billion-yuan Yantai international biotechnology and science park, a 1.5-billion-yuan aeronautics and astronautics industrial park, and a 30-billion-yuan software outsourcing park.

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A worker synthesizes chemicals inside a factory of Yantai Wanhua Group, the largest Asian manufacturer of MDI, a kind of chemical used to make polyurethane.

## Zone to use new emerging industries to drive growth

By ZHAO RUIXUE in Jinan  
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As a national-level economic base, the Yantai High-Tech Industrial Zone aims to grow into one of China's leading centers for emerging industries by developing biomedicines, new materials, electronic information, modern services and aerospace science.

To date, the zone has started 37 large projects that involve a combined investment of 40 billion yuan (\$6.3 billion). These projects include a 1.5-billion-yuan aerospace science and technology park and an 800-million-yuan intelligent technology park.

"The Yantai high-tech industrial zone will develop several industrial clusters to sharpen its core competitiveness," said Liu Hongbo, secretary of the working committee for the zone.

An industrial cluster is beginning to form in the field of biomedicines and a num-

ber of large projects are underway, including the Shandong International Biotechnology Park, the Luye Pharma Science and Technology Park and the National Biological New Materials Park. The Shandong International Biotechnology Park already has more than 30 projects ready for development in the fields of halobios.

The Yantai High-Tech Industrial Zone has been named a national-level innovation base for biomedicine, and it is also listed among the first batch of new emerging industry projects encouraged by the Shandong provincial government.

In the field of aerospace science and technology, the zone benefits from cooperation with famous institutes and high-tech enterprises, such as the China Academy of Space Technology and China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation. The cooperation has laid a solid foundation for the zone's aerospace industrial cluster.

Large projects are now under construction, such as an aerospace industrial park and a research and development base that produces titanium alloy fastener used for planes.

The electronic information cluster includes Zhengyuan Information Park and Yantai Jinjian Metallurgy Technology Company.

With an increasing number of business players coming to the zone, the zone is working to update its service facilities to provide its customers with all-around service.

These facilities include an international convention and exhibition center, a professional business community, environmentally friendly residential areas, the Yantai Geological Museum and botanical garden.

The service facilities also boost the zone's service industry. Currently, high-end service sectors have been formed or engaged in software outsourcing, financial services and creative industries.