

Snakes alive! Koreans win archery gold

By TANG ZHE
CHINA DAILY

GUANGZHOU — The gold medal winning Korean women's archery team used the daunting experience of handling snakes as part of its training methods.

Team coach Cho Eun-sin was surprised when news slipped out about the practice after her team won its fourth consecutive Asian Games gold medal in the women's team event at the Aoti archery range on Sunday. China took the silver and India the bronze.

"I wonder how did you find out the secret of our success," said Cho when asked about the team's strange training ritual.

"Actually, (the story) is about 80 percent true. We do have special training to enhance bravery."

It seems the scary, scaly initiative worked. Locked in a battle royal with the young Chinese archers, the three experienced Koreans held their nerve in a second extra period to shoot three 10-point scores.

"They had the ability to reach that level," said Cho. "They got nervous when the scores were tied, but I tried to let them relax and be themselves. In the tiebreak we said this was our chance to win. We did our best and our efforts paid off."

Korea is not the only team to adopt a strange approach to boosting the fortitude of its athletes.

To prepare for the Asian Games, Chinese archers were required to touch a tiger's rear at the zoo.

"We paid attention to controlling our emotions. We can shoot as well as them (the Koreans), but the win came down to who played better under pressure," said Chinese archer Cheng Ming.

China's coach, Tian Yulin, said: "The most important thing for the team was to gain hands-on experience, and this was the best training they could get."

"It was their first time in such a tense international competition and they won a silver," said Tian. "There's a gap between Korea and China, but it is very slim. It's just a matter of time before we catch up."



ZOU ZHONGPING / CHINA DAILY

Joo Hyun-jung of Korea lets fly during the women's archery team gold medal showdown with host China at the Aoti archery range on Sunday. The Koreans won the second playoff round.

MEDAL TALLY >>

through Sunday's competition

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
China	146	71	70	287
Korea	55	46	61	162
Japan	30	54	61	145
Iran	10	8	14	32
Hong Kong	7	13	9	29
Thailand	7	7	22	36
Chinese Taipei	6	8	29	43
India	5	11	17	33
DPRK	5	8	12	25
Malaysia	5	8	7	20
Kazakhstan	4	12	20	36
Indonesia	4	6	10	20
Singapore	4	6	6	16
Uzbekistan	3	9	14	26
Kuwait	2	3	0	5
Philippines	2	2	8	12
Pakistan	1	2	1	4
Jordan	1	1	1	3
Macao	1	1	0	2
Bahrain	1	0	1	2
Tajikistan	1	0	1	2
Vietnam	0	11	11	22
Myanmar	0	5	1	6
Mongolia	0	2	6	8
Kyrgyzstan	0	2	0	2
Qatar	0	1	3	4
Lebanon	0	1	2	3
Afghanistan	0	1	1	2
Bangladesh	0	1	0	1
UAE	0	1	0	1
Laos	0	0	2	2
Iraq	0	0	1	1

24 HOURS >> HOW THE DAY PLAYED OUT

10:57 Day one of men's Greco-Roman wrestling started with fireworks in the 55kg section as world No 1 Hamid Soryan Reihanpour of Iran defeated world No 2 Choi Gyn-jun of Korea 2-1 in a hotly-contested qualification battle.

11:08 China's Wang Hao won the first track and field gold medal at the Guangzhou Asian Games — the men's 20km race walk. He won the race in one hour, 20 minutes and 50 seconds, followed by compatriot Chu Yafei and Korea's Kim Hyun-sub.

11:29 All 42 horses due to compete in jumping at the Guangzhou equestrian venue passed inspection by the ground jury. Three horses were sent to the holding box, but later were accepted — Solgrana of China, Asterix of Japan and Linus of Malaysia. The competition opens on Monday.

12:06 Reigning world champion He Wenna of China bounced to first place in qualification for the women's trampoline final. Her compatriot, Huang Shanshan, finished

second. The final will be held on Monday.

15:13 The Chinese women's rugby team won its debut match at the Asian Games by defeating Korea 51-0 in Pool A. It is the first time women's rugby has been played at the Asian Games.

16:28 The Olympic Council of Asia confirmed the new distribution of medals for the men's 81kg judo competition following the disqualification of silver medalist Shokir Muminov of Uzbekistan on a doping violation. The two bronze medal winners, Islam Bozbayev of Kazakhstan and Masahiro Takamatsu of Japan, will both receive a silver medal. No bronze medal will be awarded and there will be no new medal ceremony.

17:06 Malaysian top seed and world No 1 Nicol Ann Davis won her third Asian Games gold medal by claiming the women's individual squash crown. She defeated second seed Annie Ai Wing Chi of Hong Kong 3-1 in the final. She is the only squash player to win three gold

medals at the Asian Games.

18:13 China won its ninth consecutive gold medal in the women's shot put as Li Ling claimed the Asian Games title with a personal best of 19.94m. China equals Japan's record for the longest winning streak in one athletics event. Japan won the men's pole vault nine times from 1951 to 1982.

19:14 India broke the dominance of China and Japan in the women's 10,000m when Preeja Sreedharan claimed the victory. It was the first time neither Japan nor China collected a medal in the women's 10,000m at the Asian Games.

21:10 Mahboob Ali Hasan Mahboob (pic) became the first male Bahraini to win two athletics gold medals at the Asiad. By



winning the men's 5,000m gold medal, he is the most successful male athletics competitor from Bahrain in the history of the Asian Games. He won the 10,000m race in Doha.

22:25 Lin Dan of China became the second Olympic and Asian Games winner in badminton after winning the men's singles. The only other player to have held both titles at the same time is Taufik Hidayat of Indonesia.

22:30 The DPRK Korea produced a thrilling comeback to defeat Chinese Taipei at Guangwai Gymnasium.

On a day of one-sided volleyball clashes, it looked like the trend of straight-set victories would continue when the DPRK lost the first two sets 17-25, 26-28. But they regrouped against a tiring Chinese Taipei to take the next three 25-18, 25-14, 15-12.

Ri Sun-jong of the DPRK came on as a substitute at the halfway stage and blocked several Chinese Taipei attacks to help galvanize her side's turnaround in fortunes.

