

## Final-day flourish wins Yip a silver

Sazali Abdul Aziz

Yip Pin Xiu saved her best for last in the Melbourne leg of the 2019 World Para Swimming World Series when she won Singapore's only medal of the meet on the final day yesterday.

The 27-year-old swimmer scored 792 points to claim a silver in the 50m backstroke multi-class event.

The World Para Swimming World Series uses a standardised multi-class points system, which sees swimmers of different classifications awarded points after their timings are compared with the world records in their respective classes.

The closer a swimmer's timing is to the world record, the higher the points.

Tupou Neiufi of New Zealand won the 50m backstroke multi-

class race with 862 points, while Australia's Madel McTernan was third with 648 points.

"As this is the first competition of the season, I think it is a good baseline to work on," said Nominated Member of Parliament Yip, who won a gold (50m breaststroke S4) and two bronzes (50m freestyle S4 and 100m freestyle S4) at the Asian Para Games in Jakarta in October last year.

"I am satisfied with my timing for this afternoon, but I am excited about going back to work on some aspects to improve it. I am looking forward to the Singapore leg in May."

The World Para Swimming World Series comprises seven stops across four continents from February to June. Australia and Singapore (May 10-12) are hosting legs for the first time.

The other stops are in the United States (Indianapolis, April 4-6), Brazil (Sao Paolo, April 25-27), Scotland (Glasgow, April 25-28), Italy (Udine, May 30-June 2) and Germany (Berlin, June 6-9).

Three other Singapore swimmers were also in action in Melbourne.

Theresa Goh was fourth in the 50m breaststroke with 534 points – 58 points behind third – while Sophie Soon finished sixth in the same event with 516 points.

Toh Wei Soong finished joint-fourth in the 50m freestyle on 754 points, missing out on third place by just 16 points.

But he also clocked personal bests in the 50m backstroke (37.90sec) and 200m freestyle (2min 25.21sec).

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Yip Pin Xiu, with the silver medal she won in Melbourne yesterday, is looking forward to the Singapore leg of the World Para Swimming World Series in May. PHOTO: SDCS