

Yeo wins sprint gold in personal best time

Wang Meng Meng

Sprinter Gary Yeo won Singapore's first gold at the Asean University Games in yesterday's 100m final.

In the process, he recorded the country's fastest century sprint timing since U.K. Shyam smashed the national record 11 years ago, and became the first Singapore athlete to meet the 2013 SEA Games qualifying mark of 10.47sec.

Yeo clocked 10.44sec in Vientiane, Laos. Compatriot Calvin Kang was third in 10.57sec, while Malaysian Hadi Mohd Noor Imran was second (10.56).

Yeo's timing is the fourth fastest in the Republic's history. Shyam holds the distinction as the country's fastest man when he clocked 10.37sec at the World University Games in Beijing in 2001. C. Kunalan (10.38sec) and Muhammad Hosni (10.41sec) also boast better times.

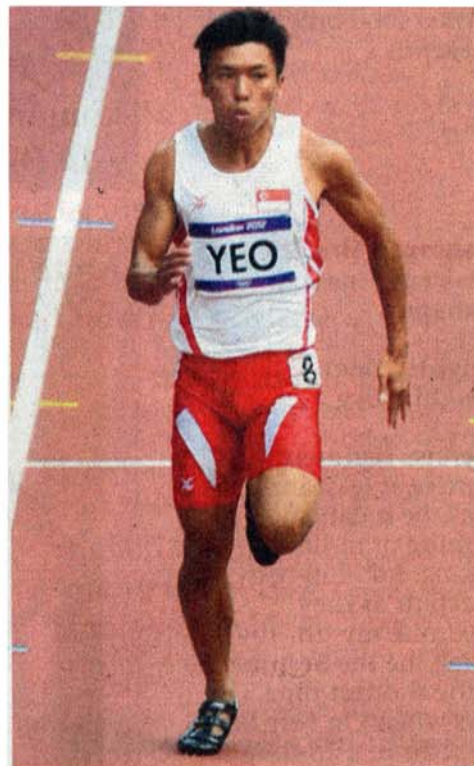
After the jubilation of hitting his personal best yesterday, Yeo has switched his sights to the national record.

The 26-year-old said: "I think it (Shyam's national record) is something that is always on every Singaporean sprinter's mind."

But yesterday's win nearly never happened. "I wasn't feeling particularly motivated but my coach (Melvin Tan) gave me a pep talk," said the Singapore Management University student.

"I had a slight heel injury but I wasn't affected too much by it. The race went according to plan and beating my personal best is an added bonus.

"My next race is the 4x100m relay and the team are targeting a time of



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Sprinter Gary Yeo won Singapore's first gold at the Asean University Games in a new personal best of 10.44 seconds.

39.40sec and, hopefully, that will give us the gold."

His previous personal best for the sprint was 10.46sec, set at last year's SEA Games. It earned him a silver.

As Yeo's run yesterday betters the bronze-medal timing of the last SEA Games – the qualifying criterion set by the Singapore National Olympic Council – he has booked a berth for next year's edition in Myanmar. But he still needs the final nod from the SNOOC.