

MAKING WAVES OVERSEAS

# PARALYMPIAN WINS SILVER AT WORLD SWIMMING C'SHIPS

Singapore's Yip clinches medal in women's 50m backstroke

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**MONTREAL**—Singapore national paralympic swimmer Yip Pin Xiu is creating waves again, this time at the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) World Swimming Championships in Montreal after clinching a silver medal in the women's 50m backstroke yesterday.

The 22-year-old clocked 1min 00.80secs to finish second in the event's S3 category — swimmers are grouped according to their disability — behind winner Olga Sviderska of the Ukraine, who took the gold in 57.97s, with Kazakhstan's Zulfiya Gabidullina settling for the bronze (1:11.53).

"This medal is rather unexpected for me because I have not competed for the 50m backstroke on the world stage for some time," Yip, who suffers from muscular dystrophy, told TODAY in a telephone interview.

"It was not even offered as a com-

petitive event in the 2012 Paralympics. The win is an encouragement and a sign to me that I am still among the world's best paralympians."

Held at Montreal's Parc Jean-Drapeau Aquatic Complex from Aug 12 until tomorrow, the IPC World Swimming Championships features more than 600 competitors from over 50 nations.

Yip made history when she achieved the Republic's first gold medal and world record at the Beijing Paralympics in 2008 in the women's 50m backstroke (S3) with a time of 57.92s, and later bettered her own world record at the 2009 Asian Youth Paralympic Games with a time of 56.62s, which still stands today.

She also set a world record in the women's 50m freestyle heats in Beijing with a time of 57.04s, although that benchmark has since been bettered by Xia Jiangbo from China who clocked 48.11s in the 2012 Paralympics. The second-year student in Singapore Management University also holds a second world record in the women's 100m backstroke (S3) which she set in Berlin in 2008.

At press time last night, Yip was scheduled to compete in the 100m freestyle heats (S3), and will be back in action this morning if she reaches the final.

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**Yip Pin Xiu**  
SINGAPORE NATIONAL  
PARALYMPIC SWIMMER



Yip made history when she achieved the Republic's first gold medal and world record at the 2008 Beijing Paralympics in the women's 50m backstroke (S3). PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES