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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **National Player Lin Ye is forced to retire because of her back injury, bidding farewell to her sporting journey**

Singaporean national paddler Lin Ye has decided to retire from the sport of table tennis. The 27-year-old athlete has been forced to make this difficult decision due to persistent back injuries that have hindered her recovery since withdrawing from the 2022 SEA Games.

Since becoming a citizen of Singapore in 2013, Lin Ye has made a significant contribution to the nation's sporting achievements over the past decade. She represented Singapore in the prestigious 2020 Tokyo Olympics, showcasing her skills on the international stage. One of her most notable accomplishments came in the 28th Southeast Asian Games held in Singapore, where Lin, alongside her teammate Zhou Yihan, achieved a remarkable victory by defeating top seeds Feng Tianwei and Yu Mengyu 4–3 to clinch the Women's Doubles title.

Continuing their impressive form, Lin and Zhou caused a major upset in table tennis history by securing a 3–0 victory over the top Chinese doubles pair of Ding Ning and Liu Shiwen in the semi-finals of the ITTF World Tour, Japan Open. However, they fell short in the final, losing to another Chinese pair, Wu Yang and Liu Fei.

In 2015, Lin claimed the U21 singles title in the ITTF World Tour Grand Finals held in Lisbon, Portugal, after defeating Japan's Hamamoto Yui. This victory marked her second U21 singles title.

Despite her remarkable achievements, Lin Ye has chosen to bid farewell to the sport, leaving behind a legacy of inspiring performances. Her contributions to Singapore table tennis will be remembered and celebrated for years to come.

Lin Ye said, "On this day, I close a chapter of my life, bidding farewell to the sport that has shaped me into the person I am today. Although my back injury has forced me to retire, I am filled with gratitude for the incredible journey I have had as a national player.

Representing Singapore on the international stage has been a privilege and an honor. From SEA Games to the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, I have experienced unforgettable moments that will forever hold a special place in my heart.

Throughout my career, I have been fortunate to experience the unwavering support of my fellow Singaporeans. Your cheers and encouragement fueled my spirit, even during the most challenging times. I am grateful for the love and belief you have shown me.

As I step away from the sport, I carry with me the lessons, friendships, and memories that will guide me in the next chapter of my life. Table tennis will always hold a special place in my heart.

Thank you, Singapore, for your unwavering support and for being a part of my remarkable sporting journey. I am forever grateful."

The Singapore Table Tennis Association (STTA) wishes Lin Ye the very best in her future endeavors.

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