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MEDIA RELEASE

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Singapore bag bragging rights in Causeway Derby at World Team Table Tennis Championships

In a repeat of the 2023 SEA Games Men's team final in Cambodia, Singapore once again clinched bragging rights over northern neighbours Malaysia at the ITTF World Team Table Tennis Championships in Busan, Korea on Sunday afternoon.

The victory saw Singapore climb to the top of Group 7 albeit temporarily on five points, following two wins and a loss, with their final match against Canada to be played on Tuesday.

There seemed to be more aggression in the play of the Singaporeans, as they asserted their dominance over their Malaysian counterparts right from the start.

Despite a sluggish start, including trailing 1-8 in the first set at one point, 17-year-old Izaak Quek rallied to secure Singapore's first point of the contest by defeating Javen Choong in straight sets, with scores of 11-9, 11-9, 11-6

Continuing the momentum, Koen Pang, 21, extended Singapore's lead to 2-0 by defeating Wong Qi Sheng in straight sets, with scores of 12-10, 11-6, 11-9.

The task of securing the victory for Singapore fell upon 2020 Olympian Clarence Chew, but Leong Chee Feng had different plans, pushing the 28-year-old to the limit. Despite the challenge, Clarence managed to maintain his composure and emerge victorious also in straight sets, 15-13, 12-10, 11-9.

Gao Ning, the Head Coach of the National Men's Team, expressed satisfaction, stating, "Our performance today was excellent. Even in the previous two matches, our players showed great determination. Over the past two years, Malaysia has improved a lot, and both teams have been playing each other for a long time. We dedicated considerable time to preparation last night, and I encouraged the players to remain calm and focus on showcasing their abilities. I'm pleased with their performance today."

Chew expressed, "We were definitely disappointed not to get the win yesterday but we knew we had to regroup and approach today's match with renewed determination. Up against a familiar opponent in Malaysia, we knew it was going to be tough. Despite the close contest, we managed to stick to our tactics well and handled the crucial points better. We hope to bring this momentum into our final match and to achieve the best position possible in our group."

Singapore will have a bye on Monday, 19 February, before playing their final group match against Canada at 12pm Singapore time on Tuesday, 20 February.

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