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**MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **Singapore upset Brazil in winning start to World Team Table Tennis Championships**

Singapore's male paddlers got off to a winning start in Busan, Korea, when they upset Brazil in their opening match of the ITTF World Team Table Championships Finals 2024.

Perhaps buoyed by the absence of Brazil talisman, world number 7, Hugo Calderano, the Singapore men, ranked 22<sup>nd</sup> in the world, must have felt that the odds had shifted in their favour against the 8<sup>th</sup> ranked Brazilians.

17-year-old Izaak Quek, the youngest in the men's team, gave the Republic the lead when he came from behind to beat Guilherme Teodoro, 11-9, 10-12, 9-11, 11-4, 11-7 in the first singles.

Koen Pang, 21, then made it 2-0 to Singapore when he outplayed Vitor Ishiy 11-8, 8-11, 11-5, 11-4.

Veteran Clarence Chew, 28, was given a scare as Carlos Ishida clawed his way back from two games down to level the match at 2-2 (11-5, 11-4, 9-11, 11-13), but he showed his mettle in the final game (11-6) to eventually seal victory for Singapore.

Gao Ning, National Men's Head Coach, said, "Today was the first match of the competition so there was some nervousness by the players, which was expected, but the result was pleasing and it is a good start for us. We can expect the games to get tougher from here on out, so we will be taking each match one at a time and just perform to our best."

"It is a good start for all of us, and we won them without dropping a set so that is a good sign as well. All of us played well, and this win is a good feeling before our next few matches, especially the next match against Slovenia, which is a very important one and so we hope that we can play to our best tomorrow", added Pang.

Tomorrow's matches will see the men take on Slovenia in their second match of the competition at 12pm Singapore time, while the women's team will begin their World Championships campaign against Sweden at 7pm Singapore time.

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