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**MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **Singapore victorious against Serbia, qualifies for knockout stage**

The Singapore women's table tennis team's hopes of making the quarterfinals of the ITTF World Team Table Tennis Championships, and with it, a place at the upcoming Paris Olympics 2024, continued to flicker as they emerged victorious in a winner takes all match against Serbia on Monday morning at the BEXCO Convention Centre in Busan, Korea.

With Romania having already topped the group and Sweden finishing as runners up, it was a straight shoot out between Singapore and Serbia for the final qualification spot to the knockout stages, and once more Singapore did it the hard way by coming from behind to seal the 3-1 win.

Rising star Zhou Jingyi once again started things off for Singapore, and facing Serbia's best player in Sabina Surjan, the 18-year-old put on a gritty showing but was unable to overcome her Serbian counterpart, eventually losing in straight sets, 8-11, 8-11, 7-11

Zeng Jian, despite losing the first set, kept her cool to win in the next three sets to defeat Izabela Lupulesku, 9-11, 11-6, 11-9, 11-3, levelling the tie at 1-1.

Wong Xin Ru clinched Singapore's second point when she beat Andrea Todorovic in a hard-fought match, winning in straight sets, 11-8, 14-12, 11-9.

It was then left to Singapore's top ranked player, Zeng, to send the team into the next round, and with Surjan pulling out all the stops to keep her team in the tie, Zeng once again delivered, prevailing 11-5, 14-12, 12-14, 11-4.

Jing Junhong, National Women's Head Coach said, "Today was a hard-fought victory, and I think our players did well overall. We achieved our goal of qualifying from the group stage, and we will continue to do our best in the knockout stages."

Zeng added, "After we fell behind, I was feeling nervous but I told myself if I could win my match, then our team would still stand a chance of winning. I was feeling confident, and I am pleased to have managed to contribute to the win today."

The draw for the knockout stages will be conducted later this evening.

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