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MEDIA RELEASE

Singapore ends 10 years of hurt by reclaiming Women’s Team title at SEA Championships



Singapore’s decade long wait to be crowned Women’s Team champions once more at the Southeast Asian Championships ended on Thursday night, as the team of Ser Lin Qian, Zeng Jian, Loy Ming Ying, Tan Zhao Yun and Zhang Wanling came from behind to defeat hosts and defending champion Thailand, 3-2, in a see-saw final.

The last time the Women’s team tasted glory was way back in 2014, when the event was held in Cambodia, and since then, the Republic have finished runners-up twice (2016, 2022) and joint-third once (2018). There was no competition in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ser, 19, showed why she is fast becoming one of Singapore’s top players as she got her team off to the perfect start, needing only 19 minutes to clinch a 3-0 victory over Wanwisa Aueawiriyayothin, winning 11-6, 11-9, 11-5.



Next up against Phatsaraphon Wonglakhon, who plays a long-pimple style, Singapore's number one Zeng Jian could not find a counter to the Thai's unorthodox playing style, and the Singaporean fell 1-3 (8-11, 11-8, 9-11, 9-11) as Thailand levelled the tie at 1-1.

The third singles saw a battle of the 14-year-olds, as rising star Loy Ming Ying took on Kulapassr Vjivitvirayagul. With both players familiar with each other having faced each other many times in recent years, it was the Thai youngster that came out trumps, as she gave her country a 2-1 lead with a 11-7, 14-12, 11-5 victory.

Needing to stave off defeat for Singapore, Zeng put aside her earlier loss to Phatsaraphon as she turned in a much-improved performance in the first of the reverse singles to beat Wanwisa in straight sets, 11-2, 11-8, 12-10, to send the game to a deciding match between Ser and Phatsaraphon.

It was not looking good for Ser as she lost 6-11 in the first set, but she gradually found her rhythm, playing some exceptional table tennis, and managing to do what Zeng could not, winning the next three sets, 11-8, 12-10, 11-8 to send her teammates into delirium.

“Approaching the final game, knowing the stakes were at their highest, required a focused mindset and a clear plan. We trusted our preparation, stayed disciplined, and leaned on the teamwork that brought us this far. The key was to stay composed, treat it like any other game, and execute our strategies under pressure”, said match winner Ser.

She added, “Winning the title feels absolutely incredible, it's the culmination of hard work, sacrifice, and determination. It's a moment that validates everything we've worked for, and there's no better feeling than celebrating it with the team and our supporters.”

“I am incredibly proud of this young team. For most of them, except Zeng Jian, this was their first time competing in a team event, and to emerge as champions is no small achievement. Lin Qian delivered an exceptional performance today, and Zeng deserves immense credit for her resilience—bouncing back from an earlier defeat to secure the critical point that kept us in the game. I believe this victory will be a tremendous boost to her confidence”, said Jing Junhong, head coach of the Women's team.

The women had earlier breezed through the Group stage with three straight 3-0 wins over Brunei, Indonesia and Laos, and then beat neighbours Malaysia by the same scoreline in the semifinals to set up the clash against Thailand.

Meanwhile, Singapore's men, without Izaak Quek and Koen Pang, who are competing at the WTT Finals in Fukuoka, and Clarence Chew, who is sitting for his university examinations, shared the bronze with Indonesia after they were defeated in the semifinals by a score of 3-1 on Wednesday by hosts Thailand, matching the result from the last edition in 2022.

The young team of Josh Chua (23), Nicholas Tan (17), Yang Ze Yi (17), Jaryl Wong (16) and Ellsworth Le (15), had already exceeded expectations by finishing second in their group behind Malaysia, which also included Vietnam, Laos and Brunei.



Full team results as follows:

Men's Team Group Stage

Singapore vs Brunei 3-0

Yang Ze Yi vs Goh Teck Chin 3-0 (5, 2, 7)

Ellsworth Le vs Ak Abdul Rashid 3-0 (4, 7, 10)

Jaryl Wong vs Ak Abdul Hakeem 3-0 (0, 4, 3)

Singapore vs Laos 3-0

Nicholas Tan vs Phinith Kongphet 3-0 (9, 3, 8)

Josh Chua vs Anane Vongsa 3-0 (2, 4, 8)

Yang Ze Yi vs Phongsavanh Sengmany 3-0 (7, 6, 3)

Singapore vs Malaysia 1-3

Nicholas Tan vs Wong Qi Shen 0-3 (-12, -8, -9)

Josh Chua vs Javen Choong 3-0 (9, 9, 7)

Yang Ze Yi vs Danny Ng 0-3 (-7, -8, -9)

Josh Chua vs Wong Qi Shen 0-3 (-6, -6, -4)

Singapore vs Vietnam 3-1

Nicholas Tan vs Nguyen Duc Tuan 3-2 (-8, 9, -4, 10, 9)

Josh Chua vs Dinh Anh Hoang 3-2 (-6, -9, 5, 8, 11)

Ellsworth Le vs Doan Ba Tuan Anh 0-3 (-4, -4, -3)

Josh Chua vs Nguyen Duc Tuan 3-2 (14, -7, -1, 10, 11)

Men's Team Semifinal

Singapore vs Thailand 1-3

Nicholas Tan vs Napat Thanmathikon 0-3 (-6, -6, -7)

Josh Chua vs Phakpoom Sanguansin 3-0 (10, 4, 9)

Jaryl Wong vs Sitisak Nuchchart 0-3 (-4, -7, -9)



Josh Chua vs Napat Thanmathikon 0-3 (-2, -5, -3)

Women's Team

Group Stage:

Singapore vs Brunei 3-0

Ser Lin Qian vs Ting Siew Chien 3-0 (2, 3, 1)

Tan Zhao Yun vs Audrey Dupaggal Koh 3-0 (1, 1, 2)

Loy Ming Ying vs Foo Su Shan 3-0 (2, 3, 1)

Singapore vs Indonesia 3-0

Ser Lin Qian vs Rina Sintya 3-1 (7, -5, 8, 9)

Zeng Jian vs Anastasya Fabian 3-0 (7, 6, 7)

Loy Ming Ying vs Mira Fitria 3-0 (4, 1, 7)

Singapore vs Laos 3-0

Zhang Wan Ling vs Choutiphone Sisomboun 3-0 (5, 2, 8)

Ser Lin Qian vs Bounleut Keomany 3-0 (4, 4, 3)

Loy Ming Ying vs Thipphavanh Xaiphetvong 3-0 (3, 2, 2)

Semi Finals:

Singapore vs Malaysia 3-0

Ser Lin Qian vs Karen Lyne 3-1 (10, -5, 5, 4)

Zeng Jian vs Tee Ai Xin 3-1 (9, -11, 6, 10)

Loy Ming Ying vs Cheah Yu Zheng 3-1 (9, 7, -9, 9)

Final

Singapore vs Thailand 3-2

Ser Lin Qian vs Wanwisa Aueawiriyayothin 3-0 (6, 9, 5)

Zeng Jian vs Phatsaraphon Wonglakhon 1-3 (-8, 8, -9, -9)

Loy Ming Ying vs Kulapassr Vjivitvirayagul 0-3 (-7, -12, -5)



Zeng Jian vs Wanwisa Aueawiriyayothin 3-0 (2, 8, 10)

Ser Lin Qian vs Phatsaraphon Wonglakhon 3-2 (-6, 8, 10, 8)

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