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Sun is not upset that he will not see Asian Games or **Olympics**

Sun's 19 and a world-beater

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JONATHAN Sun's a normal 19-year-old, except for the fact that he's pretty good at taekwondo.

So good, in fact, that he became Singapore's first medallist in the prestigious International Taekwon-Do Federation (ITF) VII Junior and XIII Senior World Championship (Oct 14-19), after he won the bronze medal in the senior male individual patterns, 3rd Degree Black Belt category.

Said Sun, an Island Taekwon-Do Centre member: "My family and friends were all very happy for me when they first realised I won the bronze through the newspapers, television and radio.

"But I'm still the same person and nothing's changed."

Held in Daejon, South Korea, Sun was one of 24 men who competed in the 3rd Degree Black Belt category and he finished behind two Argentinians.

The Nanyang Polytechnic student attributed his success to instructor Daniel Sng.

"It's hard for Singaporeans to take part in such a major event as we don't have many tournaments here," he said.

"My inexperience meant I

was so nervous in front of the crowd. However, the intensive training conducted by Mr Sng over the past eight months really paid off.

"He helped me understand the 18 different competitive patterns well through strict and rigorous practice that I could do it subconsciously."

Competitive taekwondo has two different bodies - the World Taekwon-Do Federation (WTF) and the ITF.

The two bodies operate different styles in their patterns and sparring components.

The patterns found in the two styles are completely different while for sparring, the ITF awards points for the use of the fists, while the WTF almost never does.

Sun competes under the ITF because of their all-round style, but it means he cannot take part in the Olympics or Asian Games, where the martial art is run by the WTF.

But, the youngster is unfazed, as he dreams of achieving his goals. "I want an even higher placing in the next World Championships in 2006," he said.

"I will try my best to be the world No 1. I also hope that my achievements will show others that it is possible for Singaporeans to be successful internationally."

Martyn flays India

Injury-hit hosts struggle against in-form Oz batsman

TEST CRICKET

India v Australia

NAGPUR, India – Damien Martyn hit a second consecutive century, as world champions Australia flayed injury-ravaged India on the opening day of the third cricket Test, here yesterday.

The tourists, who will secure their first series win on Indian soil in 35 years if they win the match, revelled on a firm Aussie-like pitch to pile up 362-7 by stumps.

Martyn hit a match-saving 104 in the drawn second Test and he led the way here with a 114, his ninth century in 47 Tests.

The stylish West Australian put on 148 for the fourth wicket with Darren Lehmann (70) and 80 for the fifth with Michael Clarke (73 not out), after Australia were struggling at 86-3 before lunch.

India's bid to level the fourmatch series suffered a serious setback when captain Sourav Ganguly and prolific off-spinner Harbhajan Singh were ruled out just before the start due to injury and

Ganguly, recovering from a thigh strain, failed a fitness test before the toss, allowing vice-captain Rahul Dravid to take charge for his fourth Test as captain.

Harbhajan, who had lived up to his reputation as Australia's bugbear with 16 wickets in the first



his on song bat, on his way to a magnificent 114.

two Tests, was laid low with a viral infection.

With left-arm seamer Irfan Pathan also sidelined due to a rib injury, India made four changes to the side that drew the second Test.

Sachin Tendulkar, who missed the first two Tests with a tennis elbow injury, returned, along with opener Akash Chopra, seamer Ajit Agarkar and spinner Murali

"Injuries are part of the game and I did not want to risk playing such an important game," said Ganguly.

Said century-maker Martyn: "It is always nice to get back-to-back centuries, but we lost a few more wickets than we should have.

"It's like an Australian wicket out there and any first-day score over 350 has to be good.

"We are overall quite pleased by how it went."

Clarke and Jason Gillespie (4 not out) were at the crease at stumps. Openers Matthew Hayden and Justin Langer gave the tourists a flying start by putting on 67 for the first wicket.

But Australia lost three wickets for 19 runs before lunch, with leftarm seamer Zaheer Khan picking up two wickets and spin wizard Anil Kumble one.

Martyn, however, revived the tourists and reached his century by cutting Agarkar to the point fence for his 15th boundary.

– AFP

