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'Horse-whistler' works urine magic

Doping controls of horses are never an easy thing to carry off, but New Zealand veterinarian Anthony Parsons has a unique way of dealing with the noble beasts.

Parsons takes blood and urine samples from horses competing at the Guangzhou equestrian venue as part of the Asian Games, and says the blood tests invariably pass off without incident.

The urine samples, however, are a different kettle of fish.

"We collect the horses coming out of the arena and put them in a quiet stable," said the 51-year-old.

"I whistle my secret little tune to the horse," he said. "Most horses will urinate when they are unsaddled and relax after competing."

Parsons did not reveal which tune he whistles to the urinating horses.

Afghans getting a golf lesson

It was the first time in eight Asian Games races that Kitajima missed the podium.

said, adding that his gold medal drought was "no problem in particular."

The only golf course in Afghanistan is a rock-strewn nine-hole affair in the capital Kabul, which puts Ali Ahmad Fazel and Hashmattulah Sarwaree at a distinct disadvantage at the Asian Games.

The two are the first players from their war-ravaged country ever to compete at an Asiad or any other international golf event.

While the sport was introduced to the country more than 40 years ago, it is only since 2004 that the public has been allowed to play.

"Our national golf federation only formed two-and-a-half years ago," said team coach Mohammad Jama Hekmati, who added that the lush greens of the Dragon Lake Golf Club were a real eye-opener.

His players are more used to

sand and tar-covered fairways where ball finders are a necessity.

"The only thing we can do is play better," he said.

'We have practiced here and also back home, but none of our players have participated in an international competition before so, to be honest, I don't expect them to win a medal."

HK medalist likes his burgers

Hong Kong's Asian Games double silver medalist Cheung King-Lok said Tuesday a strict diet was key to cycling success — but burgers are fine.

'The Hong Kong team pays a lot of attention to diet, just like other teams do," said Cheung, who took silver in the individual men's pursuit on Sunday and again in the team event on Tuesday.

China media slams 'worst ever' team

China's media showered invective on its national soccer team on Tuesday, calling the 3-0 loss to the Republic of Korea a humiliating nightmare and labeling the team the worst in the nation's history.

Three-time champion ROK knocked China out of the Asian Games competition Monday, dominating the hosts in front of 43,000 disappointed Chinese fans in the last 16 clash.

"This series of matches by the team that has been called 'China's worst Olympic team in history' has proved that they are the worst in history," the Yangtze Evening News screamed.

The Chinese side lost to their fiercest rivals, the ROK and Japan, by identical scores.

Monday's defeat "rubbed salt into the wounds of Chinese soccer, which has been hit hard in the last few years by match-fixing, crooked referees and illegal gambling," Xinhua news agency said.

DEFENSE." The Koreans "met few threats from a seemingly amateurish side who created few chances and shots and had a fragile defense?

Leading web portal Sina.com said the loss was an insult to the fans, adding there was little hope for the future of a youth side that is "paralyzed by fear" of their East Asian opponents.

According to a Sina survey, 91 percent of over 17,000 respondents said there was no hope for the team, while 95 percent said that their technical ability was lagging far behind that of the ROK.



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"In terms of McDonald's, we only have the hamburgers — no chips, no ice-cream, no oily foods so it doesn't have much influence on our performance," said Cheung.

'You see we did well in the

Li reaps reward for world records

Weightlifter Li Ping became the first athlete in the history of the Asian Games to win the Mt Kunlun World Record Award after setting two world records on the way to defending her title in the women's -53kg class on Sunday.

Li, the 2007 world champion, snatched 103kg to beat the previous best of 102kg set by Ri Songhui of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) at the 2002 Busan Asian Games.

The 22-year-old's best clean and jerk of 127kg was then enough to rack up a combined total of 230kg, breaking the previous aggregate best of 226kg set by compatriot Qiu Hongxia in October 2006.

She was awarded a special trophy and \$10,000 in prize money.

"I'm very glad to be the first athlete to win this award," said Li while receiving the reward from Feng Jianzhong, China's deputy sports minister on Monday.

"The award is a great encouragement for me and I hope it will encourage more athletes to break the world record."

The award is sponsored by the JDB Group, which is providing the official water drink, Kunlun Mountain natural mineral water, at the Asiad.

It is the first time the Asian Games has offered such an award to athletes.