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Farewell to Thaddeus

The family of the late national triathlete Thaddeus Cheong, 17, bade him their final goodbyes at the Mandai Crematorium yesterday.



His mother Angeline (from left), 46, brother Thomas, 13, and father George, 46, were joined by some 500 relatives and friends, most of whom wore pink.

'Shocking pink was Thaddeus' favourite colour,' said Angeline.

Some of his favourite pink possessions included running socks, a water bottle and an iPod.

On Sunday, the Raffles Junior College first-year science student collapsed after finishing a South-east Asia Games triathlon selection trial and died of heart failure less than two hours later.

Starting at 3.30pm yesterday at the Cheong family home in Jalan Girang, off Upper Serangoon Road, the cortege proceeded to the Church of St Francis Xavier in Serangoon Gardens for the funeral service.

The five bus-loads of relatives and friends then made their way to Mandai Crematorium. A minute-long round of applause and cheers of 'Go Thaddeus, go!' erupted as his body headed down the final stretch of the race of life.

JEANETTE WANG