

clubspirit



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Happy Father's Day!

Treat Dad to a great Father's Day Meal.

- Pg 16 & 17

Annual General Meeting

- 29 June, Sun Pg 3

Crossroads Closing Bash

- 29 June, Sun Pg 21



On June 24th last year, Singapore lost one of its most promising teenage triathletes after he collapsed and died at the finish line in a South-east Asia Games selection race. His aunt, Belinda Wee, author of "Running the Full Distance: Thaddeus Cheong" recalls her favourite memories of him and shares her thoughts on why her beloved nephew is an inspiration to others.

Thaddeus Cheong was the prized first-born in the family with his bright expressive eyes, toothy grin and cheeky antics. True to the traits of the zodiac he was born under, the Golden Horse, Thad, as his aunt Belinda fondly refers to him, was always active, with boundless energy.

He first learnt to swim at SGCC at the age of five, under Swim Coach Uncle Danny Foo. Having progressed rapidly, he was talent-spotted to join the ACE swimming team where he trained 4 days a week after school. He represented his alma mater, Catholic High Primary and Secondary at the annual National Swimming Championships.

Thaddeus and his 13-year-old brother Thomas were a regular feature in almost all club sporting events such as the annual Age Group Swimming Meets, Swimming Carnivals, interclub swimming competitions, as well as the club triathlon held some years back

"He did not always come up tops in all his races but his sportsmanship was exemplary and he always enjoyed the camaraderie that is associated with team events", recalls the proud aunt.

Apart from being a competitive sports enthusiast, Thaddeus was also a keen fisherman and enjoyed big game fishing and fly-fishing. His biggest catch was a 12 kg Barramundi measuring 88cm, which was landed in Darwin Nov 2006. According to his aunt, he also had a flair for baking, having made delicious cookies and cupcakes for the family.

Talented and accomplished though he was, Thaddeus was also respectful, filial, courteous and ever dependable. "Thaddeus was

an asset wherever he went... '85" Belinda recalls tenderly. A quiet achiever, the modest teenager never talked about his sporting achievements and some of his secondary school teachers were stunned to find out, after he passed away, that he was a National Triathlete.

When asked what she found most endearing about her nephew, Belinda cites his forthrightness and sense of justice. "He was always quick to point out any unfairness he saw. Some would say he was not 'street smart' but to me this positive trait in today's dishonest world, where right is touted as wrong and vice versa, deserves merit."

Every bit an inspiration to young people, Thaddeus was all about humility, determination, sportsmanship and generosity with a zest for life. "He loved and respected his parents dearly and teenagers have much to learn from him in this respect," adds Belinda. When asked if Thaddeus would have anything to share with us, Belinda offers this: "To everyone, young and old, live your life to the fullest. Live each day as if it were your last. Tell the people around you that you love them. Have no regrets."



With Mother's Day just over and Father's Day around the corner, we would like to wish Thad's parents, Angie and George, a belated Happy Mother's Day and Happy Father's Day in advance. Know that your angel is watching over you from above...

"Running the Full Distance: Thaddeus Cheong" is on sale at the Club's reception counter at only \$13. All proceeds will go towards the Sarawak Church building fund in Betong for the indigenous people.