



Dalpatadu making waves at world stage

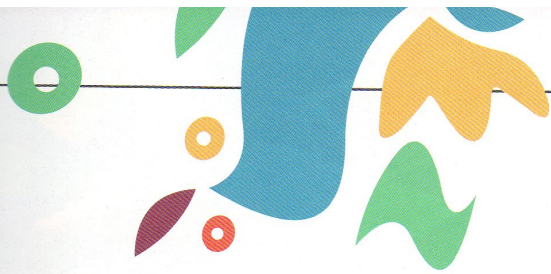
Victory against all odds

When the little known young Sri Lankan archer Ravien Dalpatadu had to face World Number 3 Feng Hao of China in the pre-quarterfinal of Men's Recurve 60m at the Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires, Argentina, nobody would have given him a chance.

Instead of settling for a respectable defeat however, the archer from S. Thomas' Bandarawela made it an opportunity to announce himself at the

world stage by claiming a 6-5 victory against all odds which should go down as the highest point of his career thus far.

"It was very satisfying to be able to beat the World Number 3 because I knew it won't be easy. But then again this was an opportunity to show what I was capable of and the years of hard work finally paid-off. I was very happy with that," Dalpatadu said of his triumph.



Since the start of his career, the 17-year-old has been able to secure 24 gold medals in both domestic and international tournaments. In his journey to glory, Dalpatadu has won many admirers and supporters, but one person believed in him more than anybody else – his greatest strength; his father.

“Of course his support is unbelievable. When you win you would be appreciated by many, but when things don’t go to the plan, that’s when you need the support most. I have got to say my father has been my greatest strength and my mother has been very supportive. Even when I am out of country, they would always call me and encourage me,” Dalpatadu said.

