

# Chess players Tin, Gong 'happy' despite final losses

**Deepanraj Ganesan**  
In Hanoi

Losing two gold medals in Armageddon tiebreakers might seem like a catastrophic event for Tin Jingyao and defending champion Gong Qianyun, but the duo were happy to pick up two silvers in the men's and women's rapid chess respectively yesterday.

Competing at the Quang Ninh Ex-

hibition Centre in Quang Ninh, the SEA Games finals went down to the wire for 21-year-old debutant Tin and defending champion Gong, 37, after their respective matches against married couple Nguyen Ngoc Truong Son and Nguyen Pham Le Thao ended 1-1 after two rounds of play.

Both matches were settled by an Armageddon tiebreaker, where players first draw lots to determine their colour.

The player with white pieces has

more thinking time on the clock than the black, but the player with black pieces has the advantage of winning the game if they can hold their opponent to a draw.

Despite missing out on gold, Tin, an undergraduate at the National University of Singapore, was delighted to pick up his second medal after winning a bronze in the men's standard individual last Sunday.

He said: "I was happy enough just to have reached the final. The

level (at the Games) has been quite strong so it's a bonus to be getting a medal."

While Gong, who was the first Singaporean to win a SEA Games gold in the sport in 2019 – was not able to defeat her fellow Woman Grandmaster in the final, she was happy to be on the podium after a poor outing in the women's standard individual.

She said: "I was disappointed after the first day so even before the final, I was happy to be able to get a medal."

"I could have done better today as well but it is a good learning experience for me."

Both chess exponents will look to go one better in their final event, the men's and women's blitz, on Friday.

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Gong Qianyun (left) and Tin Jingyao with their silvers from the women's and men's rapid chess respectively yesterday. PHOTO: KEVINGOHWM/INSTAGRAM