

**5 August 2021**  
**For Immediate Release**

## **Paralympians Honoured for Resilience While Goalball Sweeps Most Prizes at Singapore Disability Sports Awards 2021 Presented by Haw Par Corporation**

- *Three-time Paralympic gold medallist Yip Pin Xiu takes home Sportswoman of the Year (Resilience) title*
- *Tokyo-bound para cyclist Steve Tee Wee Leong, alongside pilot Ang Kee Meng named Sportsman of the Year*
- *Goalball community takes home three awards with national goalball women's team winning Team of the Year (Resilience)*

Three-time Paralympic gold medallist Yip Pin Xiu has been named Sportswoman of the Year (Resilience) at the Singapore Disability Sports Awards (SDSA) 2021 presented by Haw Par Corporation. This marks the second time Yip has won the Sportswoman of the Year award since the SDSA returned in 2019.

Organised by the Singapore Disability Sports Council (SDSC), the SDSA presented by Haw Par Corporation aims to recognise the achievements and contributions made by individuals or groups in the disability sports community. Given the lack of competitions globally amidst the health pandemic, SDSA 2021 was dubbed a special 'Resilience' edition, with the event celebrating members of the disability sports community for their display of the Paralympic values - courage, determination, inspiration and equality - during the 2020/2021 financial year (1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021).

Yip, who last competed internationally in January 2020, has been finding different ways to keep herself in form for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games, since the pandemic hit in early 2020. Besides self-training at home, Yip also undertook COVID-19 testing regularly to be able to train safely at the pool and gym, when restrictions allowed. Pin Xiu managed to clock Season Bests for the Women's 50m Backstroke S2 (1:05.79) and Women's 100m Backstroke S2 (2:16.34) at the Haw Par National Youth Swimming Championships 2021. Outside of a full-time sports career, the former Nominated Member of Parliament (NMP) also volunteered her time for multiple causes, including the World Para Swimming High Support Needs Committee, the Safe Sport Commission, the National Youth Council and the Singapore Disability Sports Council.

Yip's coach, Mark Chay Jung Jun, was named the Coach (High Performance) of the Year (Resilience) for his coaching efforts and giving back to sport as a NMP.

"I am very happy to win the Sportswoman of the Year title, in what has been a challenging year for everyone. Apart from performing to the best of my abilities in the pool, I want to also contribute to sports and create an environment for others to follow in my footsteps. These two years have been very different without the usual competitions and camps. We have prepared for Tokyo 2020 to the best of our abilities in this situation and I am looking forward to race for Singapore," said Yip.

Cyclist Steve Tee Wee Leong, together with pilot Ang Kee Meng, was named Sportsman of the Year (Resilience). Tee's meteoric rise in the sport of para cycling will see him debut at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games, making the pair Singapore's first-ever tandem male cyclists to the Paralympic Games. Tee had taken a sabbatical from his job in 2019 to focus on his lead-up to Tokyo 2020, which was scheduled for August 2020 originally. This act was echoed by Ang, who committed himself to support Tee's full-time training. When the pandemic hit and delayed Tokyo 2020 to 2021, both battled with multiple mental struggles to persist in their training.

"This journey has taught me the need to trust the process and to stay focused on what I can do to improve. The situation is mostly out of our hands but the onus is on my pilot and I to continue training hard and improving our craft. I am honoured to be named the Sportsman of the Year alongside my pilot Kee Meng. I want to dedicate the award to everyone who has supported us on our journey to the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games. The journey is like a roller coaster ride for me, from having setbacks of back injuries and going through surgery last year. This didn't stop me from bouncing back three months later to make it a comeback to continue to train for the Paralympic Games. I would like to dedicate my quote to everyone out there, 'Do not allow setbacks to hold you back, bounce back from your setbacks to make it a comeback'." said Tee.

The goalball community was the biggest winner of the night, picking up three of the nine awards. The national goalball women's team scooped up 'Team of the Year' while team coach Hansen Bay was named Coach (Developmental) of the Year. For their efforts in promoting the sport of goalball through innovative experiences and events such as the VisAbility Fitness Challenge 2020 and the VisAbility 2 on 2 Goalball Challenge 2021, the Goalball Singapore club won the Community Impact Award (Events & Initiatives).

Sportsboy of the Year (Resilience) went to Aloysius Gan Kai Hong, who started playing boccia at the age of 7, aided by his competition partner and father, Gan Keng Aik. Sportsgirl of the Year (Resilience) also went to a fellow boccia athlete, Lim Yu Fei Faye, and her competition partner and father, Lim Boon Ghee. Both Gan Keng Aik and Lim Boon Ghee, who stepped up to act as volunteer coaches for other boccia athletes when the pandemic restrictions required training to be split into bubbles, were nominated for the Community Impact Award (Volunteering) but lost the award to Goh Nigel Mark Jian Huang. Goh, an overseas university student who decided to make full use of his time, being unable to travel out of Singapore for his studies, to volunteer at the para powerlifting team's trainings instead.

"Despite a dearth of competition opportunities this past year, it was all the more important to celebrate the determination, courage and inspiration of our community during these challenging times. Sport has shown that it is a societal leveller and one that can be enjoyed by everyone, including persons with disabilities. We are grateful that Haw Par Corporation was agreeable to help us emphasise this through their continued support for the awards," said Dr Teo-Koh Sock Miang, SDSC President.

The virtual award ceremony was graced by Mr Alvin Tan, Minister of State for Culture, Community and Youth & Trade and Industry, and Mr Brian Loo, Group General Manager, Haw Par Corporation.

“COVID-19 has impacted the sports community and resulted in many having to explore new, novel methods of training. Despite the challenges, we know that the spirit and dedication of our Team Singapore athletes has never wavered. I would like to congratulate all nominees, winners and the community. They have supported one another and shown tremendous resilience in the past one and a half years. Let’s continue to support our athletes and cheer them on at the upcoming Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games. Let’s work together to create more inclusive opportunities for the community to experience the beauty of sport,” said MOS Tan.

A supporter of the SDSC since 2015, Haw Par Corporation renewed their commitment to support SDSC and disability sports through their corporate social responsibility initiative, with a donation of \$120,000 in 2021 to the SDSC. This is the third year that Haw Par Corporation is the presenting partner for the SDSA. The corporate donation will also be channeled towards developing the sport of boccia and bringing the sport to the community through the WeHeartBoccia Programme.



*From left to right: Mr Brian Loo, Group General Manager, Haw Par Corporation, presenting the donation of \$120,000 to Mr Eric Tseng, SDSC Executive Committee Member*

“We are proud to support the growth of disability sports in Singapore. The para athletes and the community have time and again shown us what it means to be dedicated and to show resilience in the face of challenging circumstances. We wish all para athletes continued success and good health. In particular, we extend our well-wishes for all Team Singapore athletes competing at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games. We are cheering you on”, Mr Wee Ee Lim, President & CEO, Haw Par Corporation Limited.

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**Please download the images (credit: SDSC unless otherwise stated):**

<https://bit.ly/SDSA2021Media>

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### **About Singapore Disability Sports Council**

Singapore Disability Sports Council (SDSC) is the national body championing and aims to transform the lives of Persons with Disabilities through sport as a form of rehabilitative therapy, or as a means to realise their potential. Besides providing platforms for the learning of sports, SDSC trains talents to represent Singapore at regional and international competitions. Find out more at [www.sdsc.org.sg](http://www.sdsc.org.sg).

### **About Haw Par**

Haw Par Corporation Limited, a Singapore-grown multinational Group, is listed on the Singapore Exchange since 1969. The Group is an enterprise with a strong consumer healthcare business that promotes healthy lifestyles through its healthcare products. The largest contributor to the healthcare business comes from a brand that it owns — Tiger Balm, one of the world's leading and most versatile topical analgesic brands. Besides the consumer healthcare business, the Group also engages in the leisure business and holds significant investments in securities and properties.

[www.hawpar.com](http://www.hawpar.com)

## Annex A: Singapore Disability Sports Awards 2021 Presented by Haw Par Corporation Winners

<b>Sportsperson Category</b>	
Sportboy of the Year (Resilience)	Aloysius Gan Kai Hong (Boccia) & ACP Gan Keng Aik
Sportsgirl of the Year (Resilience)	Lim Yu Fei Faye (Boccia) & ACP Lim Boon Ghee
Sportsman of the Year (Resilience)	Steve Tee Wee Leong & ACP Ang Kee Meng (Para Cycling)
Sportswoman of the Year (Resilience)	Yip Pin Xiu (Para Swimming)
Team of the Year (Resilience)	Women's Goalball Team (Goalball): Norliana Bte Mohamed Ajam Inez Hung Huimin Joan Hung Huixin Christina Aw Peiwen
<b>Contributor Category</b>	
Coach (High Performance) of the Year (Resilience)	Mark Chay Jung Jun (Para Swimming)
Coach (Developmental) of the Year (Resilience)	Hansen Bay (Goalball)
Community Impact (Volunteering) Award	Goh Nigel Mark Jian Huang (Para Powerlifting)
Community Impact (Events & Initiatives) Award	Goalball Singapore (Goalball)

Please Note

ACP: Athlete Competition Partner

## Annex B: Singapore Disability Sports Awards 2021 Winner Profiles

Sportsperson Category		Profile
Sportboy of the Year (Resilience)	Aloysius Gan Kai Hong (Boccia) & ACP Gan Keng Aik	<p>After missing out on the 2017 ASEAN Para Games (APG), the women's team refocused and managed to qualify for the 2019 APG, which was sadly cancelled. The pandemic dealt a further blow to the team's preparations and aspirations.</p> <p>Hansen re-directed the motivation of the team with new goals that were aligned with Goalball Singapore's Vision: To have a sustainable team sport not just for the blind but for everyone! He coached them to take on responsibilities to organize and manage two unified events: The VisAbility Fitness Challenge, and The VisAbility 2 on 2 goalball competition. Both events saw visually-impaired persons pairing up with sighted persons to compete and have fun together, while adhering to the SMM restrictions.</p> <p>Part of Hansen's coaching philosophy is to "Dream the Impossible BUT focus on doing what's Possible!" This is an extension of the key psychological skill of letting go of the outcome and focus on what we can control. Not only has this skill helped the players cope with the challenges of competitive sport, but it has also helped them cope with challenges in their lives, and the uncertainties brought about by the pandemic.</p>
Sportsgirl of the Year (Resilience)	Lim Yu Fei Faye (Boccia) & ACP Lim Boon Ghee	<p>Olympian swimmer Mark Chay took a leap into coaching para swimming in 2019. His past experience and guidance have been a valuable insight, combining what he knows and adapting it to para swimming. In early 2021, he led Yip Pin Xiu to achieving a new season best in her 100 S2 Backstroke event. Mark continues to work with SDSC to strategise and craft swimming programmes for athletes. Mark is also a Nominated Member of the Parliament.</p>
Sportsman of the Year (Resilience)	Steve Tee Wee Leong & ACP Ang Kee Meng (Para Cycling)	<p>In 2004, Steve was diagnosed with retinitis pigmentosa, a rare disease that begins with a partial loss of vision and eventually leads to total or near-total blindness. Then only 23, Steve could no longer play some of his favourite sports such as football and cycling. He went through a period of desolation and isolation. However, he soon bounced out of it and mustered inner strength to live his life to the fullest. Steve decided to focus on solutions instead. Having captained the Singapore team at the 8th ASEAN Para Games at five-a-side football for the visually impaired in 2015, Steve made his switch to para-cycling two years later. For tandem para-cycling, a visually impaired athlete, called the stoker, is paired with a sighted counterpart, who is called the pilot. Steve's pilot is former national cyclist Ang Kee Meng. Together, Steve and Kee Meng have competed at numerous regional and</p>

		<p>international competitions. They have also qualified for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games.</p>
<p>Sportswoman of the Year (Resilience)</p>	<p>Yip Pin Xiu (Para Swimming)</p>	<p>Yip Pin Xiu was the youngest member of the Singapore contingent at the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games, but she was also the brightest star, bringing home Singapore's first ever Paralympic gold medal. Pin Xiu was born with Charcot Marie Tooth, which means her muscles degenerate progressively with age. She had started swimming when she was five and began swimming competitively at the age of 12.</p> <p>In 2008 at the Beijing Paralympics, she produced Singapore's first Paralympic gold medal and a silver medal, winning the S3 50 metres backstroke final and coming in second for the 50 meters freestyle final. On her return from Beijing in 2008, she was awarded the Public Service Medal. Fast forward to 2016, at her third Paralympic Games, Pin Xiu won two Gold medals in the Women's 50m and 100m Backstroke S2 event. She also set two world record for both events with a time of 0:59.38 and 2:07.09 respectively.</p> <p>She had a breakthrough year in 2019, which saw her win two gold medals at the 2019 World Para Swimming Championships in the Women's 50m and 100m Backstroke S2 events; 9 years since her last world championship title in 2010. This earned Singapore a slot at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics Games.</p> <p>Despite no international competition, the fruit of Pin Xiu's grit, determination, and resilience showed in the local swimming meets organised by SDSC. She achieved a new season best ( 2:16.34) for her 100 S2 Backstroke event.</p> <p>Pin Xiu actively gives back to the community. She now serves on World Para Swimming High Support Needs Group, Singapore's National Youth Council as a council member and has a role on the Safe Sport Commission.</p>
<p>Team of the Year (Resilience)</p>	<p>Women's Goalball Team (Goalball):          Goalball Women's Team:          Norliana Bte Mohamed Ajam          Inez Hung Huimin          Joan Hung Huixin          Christina Aw Peiwen</p>	<p>The women's goalball team have been very dedicated in their training and proved themselves during the Asia Pacific Goalball Tournament 2019, beating strong-house neighbour, Malaysia, to take 5th placing at the competition. They also pulled off an upset over high-ranked Iraq, with a last-minute goal.</p> <p>Despite personal challenges last year, the team showed resilience by letting go of things that are out of their control and directed their efforts towards things that are within their control. Taking the initiative to be ambassadors for their sport, the team helped with the organisation of two unified events, together with Goalball Singapore. They</p>

		took the opportunity to position Goalball as an inclusive sport, despite the restrictions and stringent safe management guidelines, and focused on promoting the sport to more people in the community.
Contributor Category		Profile
Coach (High Performance) of the Year (Resilience)	Mark Chay Jung Jun (Para Swimming)	Olympian swimmer Mark Chay took a leap into coaching para swimming in 2019. His past experience and guidance have been a valuable insight, combining what he knows and adapting it to para swimming. In early 2021, he led Yip Pin Xiu to achieving a new season best in her 100 S2 Backstroke event. Mark continues to work with SDSC to strategise and craft swimming programmes for athletes. Mark is also a Nominated Member of the Parliament.
Coach (Developmental) of the Year (Resilience)	Hansen Bay (Goalball)	<p>After missing out on the 2017 ASEAN Para Games (APG), the women's team refocused and managed to qualify for the 2019 APG, which was sadly cancelled. The pandemic dealt a further blow to the team's preparations and aspirations.</p> <p>Hansen re-directed the motivation of the team with new goals that were aligned with Goalball Singapore's Vision: To have a sustainable team sport not just for the blind but for everyone! He coached them to take on responsibilities to organize and manage two unified events: The VisAbility Fitness Challenge, and The VisAbility 2 on 2 goalball competition. Both events saw visually-impaired persons pairing up with sighted persons to compete and have fun together, while adhering to the SMM restrictions.</p> <p>Part of Hansen's coaching philosophy is to "Dream the Impossible BUT focus on doing what's Possible!" This is an extension of the key psychological skill of letting go of the outcome and focus on what we can control. Not only has this skill helped the players cope with the challenges of competitive sport, but it has also helped them cope with challenges in their lives, and the uncertainties brought about by the pandemic.</p>
Community Impact (Volunteering) Award	Goh Nigel Mark Jian Huang (Para Powerlifting)	Volunteering with SDSC came by chance. Nigel was studying overseas but returned home due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. As an avid powerlifter, Nigel saw that para powerlifting needed some assistance and he jumped at the opportunity. He volunteers his time as a coaching assistant for para powerlifting. He commits his time 3 times a week to assist the para powerlifting team. Nigel wants to help build the ecosystem of the sport and he is now a qualified Technical Official for para powerlifting.
Community Impact	Goalball Singapore (Goalball)	Goalball is unlike any other disability sports which are adapted versions of traditional able-bodied sports.



<p>(Events &amp; Initiatives) Award</p>		<p>Goalball is a para team sport played by athletes with visual impairment and to promote the sport, Goalball Singapore was formed in 2015. Goalball Singapore's vision is to have a sustainable team sport, not just for the blind, but for everyone.</p> <p>Goalball Singapore continues to promote inclusion, even with the ever-changing Covid-19 restrictions. Sports is often used as a medium to forge friendships, and amidst such isolating times, the group continued to stay focused on their vision to promote inclusion and partnered with different organisations to organise two inclusive events earlier in the year.</p> <p>Goalball Singapore's 'VisAbility' fitness challenge saw both visually-impaired persons, pairing up with sighted persons, to form teams to perform several exercises, to hit a joint target of 1000. Goalball Singapore also organised the VisAbility 2 on 2 Inclusive Goalball Competition, where unified teams of both visually-impaired and sighted persons competed together in a modified Goalball competition.</p> <p>Regardless of the pandemic, the group remains dedicated to promoting Goalball as a sustainable team sport.</p>
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Please Note

ACP: Athlete Competition Partner