

sport kevin kung



Did you know? The origins of volleyball date from 1895. It became an Olympic sport in 1964; beach volleyball was added at the 1996 Games

A rapid rise on court

From an inter-class competition to being a core player in Hong Kong's youth basketball side - that's the inspirational story of point guard Alfred Wong Lut-yiu.

Alfred, who turns 18 on Monday, is in Form Six at Cognitio College in San Po Kong.

In Form One, Alfred's friend and classmate Ling Chun-long asked him to form a basketball team for an inter-class competition. "We lost in our first-year attempt but my class [later] successfully captured the C grade title. This encouraged me to further develop myself in the sport," said the Diamond Hill teenager.

When Alfred was in Form Three, he joined a Wong Tai Sin team in a district basketball training scheme. "That was my first serious training and I just couldn't

progress. I joined the scheme again in Form Four."

His training got better and last year he trained with the Second Division side Fukien Athletic Club. During the summer, he was selected to play in the Nike All-Hong Kong Youth Basketball League for the first time. Alfred then represented Hong Kong in the China High School Basketball League, held in Chongqing (重慶) in March, where Hong Kong finished fifth out of 12 teams. "I didn't expect that I would achieve my targets that fast," said the 1.83-metre player.

This year, Alfred represented the Kiu Luen team in the Second Division. During the summer, he joined the Nike league again, with his team winning tournament titles.

He became part of the Hong Kong under-18 team that competed in the Asia Under-18 Championship

held in Ulan Bator, Mongolia, last month.

"I spent my whole summer on basketball. It was tiring but enjoyable. I was delighted as this was my only chance to play in an international junior tournament before I turn 18. In training, I told myself this could be my once-in-a-lifetime chance. It was an amazing experience to play against top junior teams in Asia."

Compared to other top student basketball players in Hong Kong, Alfred started really late. But he has turned into a top player in just two years, thanks to a determined attitude.

"I think I had some luck, but my attitude played a major role in my rather smooth path [to success]. I am a good listener and I always get feedback from my coaches and teammates, no matter if it is positive or not. I analyse the comments I receive and take advice wisely. At the same time, I tend to keep a low profile and build my skills and ability on court."

Alfred, the school team captain, dreams of becoming a local First Division player, but for the moment,

he is focusing on success in the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education exam. He also wants his injured friend, Chun-long, "to be fit again soon to join me next month to defend our Division Two title in the inter-school basketball competition".

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Alfred Wong represented Hong Kong at the Asia under-18 basketball championship last month. Photo: Kevin Kung



say it

inspirational (adj) 啟發的 **delighted (v)** 高興的 **tournament (n)** 比賽

up-and-coming 積極進取的 **attitude (n)** 態度 **morale (n)** 士氣