



Theresa Goh aims to do well enough in Eindhoven to qualify for her third Paralympics, so she can have another shot at success in London in two years' time. ST FILE PHOTO

Goh has unfinished work at Paralympics

By JEFF ANG

THERESA Goh will be at Changi Airport on National Day to board a plane for Eindhoven for the International Paralympic Committee World Swimming Championships from Aug 15-21.

With her will be four other Singapore swimmers - Lawrence Tay, Chew Zi Ling, Benson Tan and Paralympic gold medallist Yip Pin Xiu.

Success in the Netherlands will earn Goh, 23, and her teammates places to the 2012 Paralympic Games in London.

Should that happen, it will be Goh's third shot at Paralympic glory. She returned home empty-handed from Athens 2004 and Beijing 2008.

Her experience in the Chinese capital has fuelled her thirst for one more shot at Paralympic success.

After breaking world records in the 200m breaststroke (4min 17.38sec) in 2007 and 50m breaststroke (52.62sec) in 2008, Goh was widely tipped to win Singapore's first Paralympic medal in Beijing.

But she came up short, missing the podium in the 100m and 200m free-

style, as well as finishing fourth in her pet event, the 100m breaststroke.

Instead, Pin Xiu delivered gold, in the 50m backstroke, as well as silver, in the 50m freestyle.

Goh's lacklustre performances in the Chinese capital left her gutted.

"I was staring at the scoreboard and looking for my name after my race. It didn't sink in that I didn't win," Goh, who is pursuing a part-time degree in sports and exercise science, recalls.

"In my mind, I kept questioning if all this was real. It was pretty surreal."

According to Goh, she could feel the huge expectations on her to deliver a medal in Beijing. Perhaps those expectations worked against her.

But two years on, it is her own desire and expectations that is driving her towards another shot at the Paralympics.

Since Beijing, Goh's timings have been "up to expectations", according to the Singapore Disability Sports Council.

"Then, I thought about giving up swimming for other sports but no longer. I feel that I have some unfinished business to take care of at the Paralympics," she said.