



Yip Pin Xiu

Seven-time Paralympic Gold Medallist

Seven-time Paralympic gold medallist Yip Pin Xiu is a true trailblazer, breaking boundaries as a para-athlete and as a voice for the community.

Diagnosed with Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease at age 2, a progressive nerve condition that causes muscle weakness and loss of sensation, which left her unable to walk as a pre-teen, Pin Xiu never allowed that to set limits for herself. The youngest of the Singapore contingent at the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games, Pin Xiu brought home Singapore's first-ever Paralympic gold medal at the age of 16.

At her third Paralympic Games in 2016, Pin Xiu won two Gold medals in the Women's 50m and 100m Backstroke S2 events at Rio. World records were also set for both events, with a time of 0:59.38 and 2:07.09 respectively. In 2021, Pin Xiu successfully defended both titles at the Tokyo Paralympic Games, despite the global pandemic causing a year of delay to the games.

In 2024, Singapore's golden girl continued to dominate at the Paralympics in Paris, achieving a special three-peat of back-to-back titles in both events (50m & 100m backstroke S2) from Rio 2016, Tokyo 2020 and Paris 2024, achieving yet another milestone for Singapore. She remains the only Singaporean para-athlete to have won gold at the Paralympics.

Last year, Pin Xiu won gold in the women's 50m backstroke S2 at the World Para Swimming Championships in Singapore, securing her eighth world title on home soil.

Out of the pool, Pin Xiu has received the inaugural President's Award for Inspiring Achievement; for her outstanding accomplishments and contribution to society. She has also been named Sportswoman of the Year at the Singapore Disability Sports Awards consecutively from 2019 to 2025.

The youngest Nominated Member of Parliament (NMP) in Singapore, Pin Xiu advocated for inclusion, better sporting culture in Singapore and proposed for a national code to be developed to address sexual harassment in universities during her tenure as an NMP (2018-2020).

Pin Xiu also co-authored the book: “The Mermaid Who Became a Champion,” where she shares the story of her remarkable journey, from being bullied in school to becoming a champion at the Paralympic Games, and of how she overcame obstacles and met life’s challenges.

Ultimately, Pin Xiu’s greater purpose goes beyond the pool. Advocating for inclusiveness, people with disabilities and other marginalised groups will always be a big part of Pin Xiu’s life. She is also very passionate to share how all the values of sport translates to life, where consistency, marginal gain and perseverance contributes to winning despite all odds.