

Fifth Place for Lee Ho Ching and a Potential World Cup Place

Beaten by DPR Korea's Ri Myong Sun at the quarter-final stage of the Women's Singles event at the GAC 2014 Honda Asian Cup in the Chinese city of Wuhan; Lee Ho Ching recovered to gain a very creditable fifth place when matters concluded on Saturday 22nd March.

After losing to Ri Myong Sun (11-8, 11-9, 11-6, 11-5), the 21 year old overcame Thailand's Nanthana Komwong (11-8, 11-9, 15-13, 9-11, 11-1), before causing a major upset by defeating Singapore's Feng Tianwei, the no.3 seed, to end the tournament on a high note.

Lee Ho Ching succeeded in six games (11-5, 14-12, 7-11, 11-8, 7-11, 4-11, 11-6); currently Lee Ho Ching stands at no.22 on the Women's World Rankings, Feng Tianwei is at no.7.

Furthermore, the win gives Lee Ho Ching a major chance of gaining an invitation to the Women's World Cup later in the year.

Players finishing in the first three positions at the GAC 2014 Honda Asian Cup qualify for the Women's World; earlier in the year it was the same at the DHS 2014 Europe Cup. However for the continents of Africa, Latin America, North America and Oceania it is just one player.

A total of 20 players are invited to compete in the Women's World Cup, with one place being reserved for the reigning World champion, one spot to guarantee a host nation representative and a "Wild Card" at the discretion of the International Table Tennis Federation.

It means that there are seven further places to fill; however, with no national association being allowed more than two players and Li Xiaoxia the reigning World champion, in effect it means there are eight more places.

In order to fill these positions, the World Ranking of the players who did not gain automatic qualification, is taken into account until all places are filled. In the first instance the status of the player who finished in fourth place in Asia and Europe plus the second placed players in Africa, Latin America, North America and Oceania is taken into consideration, the highest ranked gains the verdict.

It is a procedure that continues until a full complement of 20 players is reached.

Meanwhile, Ding Ning won the Women's Singles title beating Chinese National Team colleague, Li Xiaoxia in the final (11-9, 8-11, 11-9, 11-6, 7-11, 11-6) with Singapore's Yu Mengyu clinching third place. In the vital play-off match, she accounted for Ri Myung Sun (5-11, 11-5, 9-11, 4-11, 11-5, 13-11, 11-3).

Success for China in the Women's Singles event, it was the same in the counterpart Men's Singles competition.

Ma Long accounted for compatriot Fan Zhendong in an all-Chinese final (11-9, 11-8, 9-11, 11-6, 7-11, 9-11, 11-8); Japan's Jun Mizutani secured third place beating Chinese Taipei's Chen Chien-An (11-5, 4-11, 11-6, 11-7, 13-11) with Korea's Kim Minseok securing fifth spot.

He beat India's Sharath Kamal Achanta in the vital decisive contest (11-6, 13-11, 8-11, 11-7, 11-7).