

THE NANJINGER

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In this issue of The Nanjinger we welcome Misha Maruma as our sports columnist for “Bats, Balls and Bails”. Such coverage of the active life is long overdue; consider Mr. Maruma consigned to the dugout, to stay.

Food and hygiene are never far from the headlines in China; recently more so with the re-emergence of so called bird flu. Whether it be that or horse meat making its way into burgers, near the top of the suspect list will always be the supply chain.

So it is that we turn our attention this month to stories of how China moves stuff around its gargantuan area. In the Sui Dynasty, canals dug over hundreds of years were linked together, joining all parts of the country; now containers are fast tracked from the Bohai Rim to Xi’an as servants to our retail whims. Nanjing’s very own Zhongshan Wharf (see cover) was inescapably intertwined with the trade of opium; now it is the cold storage of our pork or milk that grabs the headlines.

All this and much more herein. Welcome to logistics from The Nanjinger.

Message in a Bottle



By Misha Maruma

Sport or Game?

What's the difference between a sport and a game? It is a question that has caused fractious arguments for people who believe that a nine dart check out is an example of their athletic prowess. Some argue that it does not matter about the definition of your activity of choice, but rather that you see it as a way of life. I lean to the view that if you win it's a sport, if you lose it's only a game.

Believe it or not Nanjing is a haven of sport and you; discerning and alert reader, have now found a home for your sporty pursuits. Rather than wonder where to find some like-minded sports fans, now you can join them. We plan to regularly bring you a plethora of knowledge about both sports and games in Nanjing. Whether you have lived in Nanjing for years or have just recently arrived, this is for you; the avid sports fan.

Some of the features that we will bring you during the forthcoming months include a certain hostel-

ry's monthly pool championship; we will find out the colour of your money as the hustlers take to the baize at this regular event. Then comes Cricket in the Far East; just who are the Nanjing Disco Ducks and how have they managed to take the colonial game out of the colonies? Texas perhaps truly does hold 'em to a T; we will find out from the regular punters if poker really is more than a game.

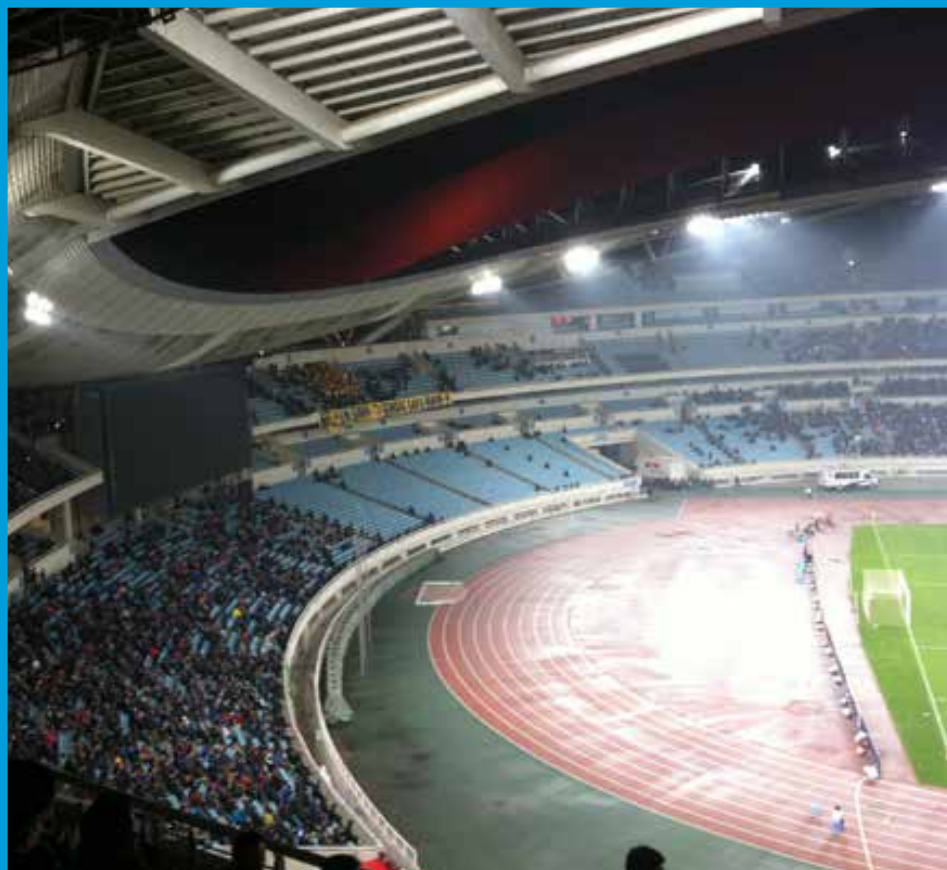
As well as these upcoming features, we will continue to indulge our readers with tales of sporting events and ways for you to use your time wisely. Fancy 18 holes of golf, but want to keep warm? See how to cultivate the perfect swing while staying indoors. Learn your "overpair" from your "flush draw" with our guides to improving your knowledge of the games we cover. Want to get out of the house and involved in a team? Then make it a date here next month so that we can help you do exactly that; you may hold the key to your next victory. Just remember; if you lose, it's only a game. **N**

A Sino-Japanese Postmortem

By Misha Maruma


It has been said about football that, "It's a war and it brings out the same primitive instincts that go back thousands of years". In the case of China and Japan we only have to go back 70 years to remember war between the two countries. In the more cerebral arena of the football pitch, battle between the two countries was recently resumed.

Jiangsu Sainty qualified for the Asian Champions League for the first time in their history by finishing second in the Chinese Super League in 2012. As fate would have it the first visitors to Nanjing were Vegalta Sendai, runners-up of the Japanese J League last year. The game was played on 12th March 2013 and proved to be an all out assault by Jiangsu even if they didn't manage to land that killer blow. Against the backdrop of a recent political spat, the game succeed-



ed in attracting an attendance of 45,000. The 100 Japanese fans that made the journey, although outnumbered 10 to 1 by the Chinese security, were in good voice, occasionally rousing themselves to support Vegalta on a rare foray into the Saintry area.

The game was somewhat of a damp squib, literally. A half-time downpour did not stop the incessant forward march of Jiangsu pressure though. The chances came and went without Saintry able to score the fateful goal that would have seen the Chinese supporters go wild.

So it was honours even on a night of history in Nanjing. Unfortunately there was no winning goal to cap such a memorable night for Jiangsu Saintry. 

Rugby is moving in China By Andrea Zapponi

One day a big man with a kind face came to my classroom when I was 8 and talked about rugby, a sport that is enjoyable, disciplined, requiring physical fitness and athleticism, iron self-discipline, courage, friendship and a big respect for teammates, opponents and the rules. He was really passionate and his passion was transmitted to me. I asked my mother to take me to the rugby pitch.

Slightly more recently, in Nanjing I joined the “Nanjing Rockets Rugby Club” made up of a group of people passionate about this sport. We meet just once or twice a week, playing between us. Unfortunately this sport is almost unknown in China, and our friends’ teams were in Chengdu or Xiamen...

It is not easy to move fifteen people around China, so our initial aim was to find some teams “around Nanjing”. After our first successful hooks ups with teams in Wuhan and Hangzhou, Rugby is now really starting to move in China. In addition to the so-dubbed Yangtze Delta Division (YDD) teams are emerging in many cities; there is even a Sino Tens National League that also allows for the creation of social events which will attract more people.

Wuhan Baiji, Hangzhou Harlequins and Yancheng Red Cranes are the teams that will play the YDD along with Nanjing Rockets in 2013. The matches will be played on two “match days” hosted by two of the four cities, rotating every year. The two best teams of the YDD will join the Finals Phase of Sino Tens League in Shanghai. The division “match days” are to be organized as “Rugby Festivals”, with junior matches and an after match party. In 2013 the guest cities will be Wuhan in April and Hangzhou in June. 