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United's Taiwanese players hoping to be trailblazers

By Maryo Sherwood

Canberra United's Taiwanese imports hope their W-League foray can inspire more players from their island to pursue soccer careers.

Sydney-born Yueng and defender Chiang ying Lin arrived in Canberra this week to officially join United for the second season of our W-League.

They said they were the first women from Taiwan to pursue soccer as a career.

"Most of our friends, they are very surprised," Yueng said this week via a translator. "They never thought they could play outside their country.

"We are excited that we have opened a door and that hopefully more will follow.

"We just hope that easier girls will be encouraged to work hard and try for more after they see what we can do."

But for Yueng, 23, it's something she has been trying to do for a while.

She has trialled in Japan three times in the past 12 months.

The first time she was given a spot on a team, last August, but the club collapsed due to the global financial crisis.

The second time she trialled for was unsuccessful.

The third, early this year, she was, last was told, again due to the global financial crisis, the club couldn't pay foreign players and she couldn't afford to stay there.

Then came the chance she had hoped for.

On a visit to Asia, Capital Football technical director Ian Shaw saw the Taiwanese women's team play and said the players should come and trial, but didn't think much would come of it. Longer shot it did. Yueng, Lin and a third player Kandice were each way in the ACT to trial last month.

Canberra United coach Ray Jones liked what he saw and signed up both Yueng and Lin to be her players in his line-up for the second season of the W-League.

"I want to challenge myself, because in Taiwan it's very hard because of the poor environment to get to the highest level. But I want to improve my soccer," Yueng said.

"I've played against the Australian national team a number of times and I think that the intensity and ability is very good, so that if I trained and played with them then that would be very good."

Jones is hoping that they will also be good for Canberra United. Lacking both experience and goal-scoring power, through injury and unavailability this season, Yueng and Lin will bring back to Canberra United.

Both have played in the national team for the past six years and Yueng has been noted in tournaments as a match-winning midfielder and a top-shot goalscorer.

She was named as the best player in the AFC under-19 tournament in 2002.

Jones is hoping that the surprise factor will help Canberra United, at least in the first game against Brisbane Roar on October 3.

IMPORTS: Canberra United players Shao-Yueng Yueng, left, and Chiang-ying Lin.

▲澳洲坎培拉時報上月曾以「台灣球員要當拓荒者」為題，報導加盟當地女足隊的曾淑娥、林瓊鶯。（曾淑娥提供）

木蘭國腳 旅澳處女秀落敗

李弘斌／綜合報導

澳洲女足聯賽（Westfield W-League，簡稱W聯賽）昨天開踢，台灣國腳曾淑娥、林瓊鶯所屬的坎培拉聯，首戰雖以0比3不敵上季冠軍布里斯本怒吼，但兩位木蘭女將均以主力之姿先發，並踢滿全場，仍替台灣女足踏出了第1步。

「心情不好，因為我們輸了，」阿娥賽後表示：「我不想給自己打分數，因為還有很多要進步的空間。教練要我上去多控球和傳球，有機會就射門，不過我都在傳球，沒射到門，還需要適應吧！」

坎培拉聯本季調整打法，希望在進攻中加重地面短傳的比重，阿娥身穿代表攻擊核心的10號球衣，林瓊鶯也坐穩主力中後衛的位置。

坎培拉當地相當重視台灣女將的到來，《坎培拉時報》上月19日以「台灣球員要當拓荒者」為題，報導阿娥和林瓊鶯到澳洲踢球、希望替台灣球員開拓生路的故事，昨天的電視轉播也多次提到兩人的背景和經歷。

W聯賽為期3個月，阿娥和林瓊鶯各可領到2000澳幣薪資，折合新台幣約5萬5。雖然金額不高，但吃、住由球隊負擔，又能專心踢球，已是國內女足球員相當羨慕的待遇。

國立臺灣體育學院圖書館藏