

Liu goes under knife for foot injury in Britain

Track star waits a day before having surgery on torn Achilles tendon, Chen Xiangfeng reports.

Injured Chinese star hur- Liu recover quickly. dler Liu Xiang will undergo surgery in Britain on Thursday — two days after he crashed out of his 110m hurdles heat at the London Olympics and tore his Achilles tendon — although there



had been some dispute about when he should undergo treatment.

Reports said Liu should have had the surgery on Wednesday in London because Achilles tendon injuries should be treated immediately. The reasons for the one-day postponement have not been made public.

It's also reported that Liu's appointed surgeon performed a very successful operation on English soccer superstar David Beckham's tendon injury.

Because Liu is a national hero for his outstand- tendon is the same injury ing achievements in track, which is mostly dominated by non-Asian athletes, Liu's suffering has drawn the attention of the central government and China's Olympic delegation.

China's delegation released a statement on Wednesday. "We highly praise Liu's fighting spirit on the track even though he was injured at the first barrier," it said.

"Liu has contributed remarkable glory to Chinese sports in his career and has been struggling with his injury for the past few years. He still kept his head high and fully prepared for the Games. We will try our best to treat his injury and wish him a swift recovery."

Liu earned a standing ovation from the 80,000 spectators when he limped down the track to symbolically cross the finish line, kissing the last hurdle before being consoled by fellow competitors and leaving in a wheelchair.

It has also been confirmed that his torn right Achilles



Gold medalists (from left to right) Zhang Jike, coach Liu Guoliang, Wang Hao and Ma Long of China acknowledge the crowd during the victory ceremony for the men's team table tennis competition on Wednesday.

CHINA COMPLETES

State Councilor Liu Yandong called the delegation's chief official and Liu.

Xinhua News Agency reported Liu Yandong gave her best wishes and praise to Liu Xiang's performance and the Olympic spirit he showed on the track. She also asked the delegation to start the surgery as soon as possible and hoped to see

that forced him to pull out of the Beijing Olympics' first heat. Liu underwent foot sur-

gery in a US hospital right after the Beijing Games.

The nearly three-hour operation took place at the Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center in Houston, Texas, and was undertaken by surgeon Tom Clanton, who also treated Houston Rockets center Yao Ming. Liu's surgery was deemed successful at the time.

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Liu Xiang is helped by other athletes after his injury Tuesday.

TABLE TENNIS SWEEP Emphatic victory in men's team final seals deal for the mainland again **By ASSOCIATED PRESS** in London

China completed a sweep of all four golds in table tennis at the London Olympics with a \setminus 3-0 victory on Wednesday over South Korea in the men's team final. Table tennis is a source of

national pride in China with some jokingly calling it "China ball". China has won an amazing

24 of 28 gold medals since the sport entered the Olympic schedule in 1988. The Chinese won two gold

and two silver medals this time in singles. They may have taken the

bronze medals too if nations had not been limited to two singles players instead of three. China also took the women's

team gold on Tuesday. Estimates suggest 500 million Chinese watched the

men's final on TV. Many viewed China's semifinal against Germany as the

"real" final, when the Chinese won 3-1 against a stubborn team led by Timo Boll, the top-ranked non-Chinese player in the game.

China's Ma Long defeated Ryu Seung-min, the 2004 Olympic singles champion, in the first match of the best-offive series, which combines singles and doubles.

That set the stage for China's sweep, with gold medalist Zhang Jike beating Joo Saehyuk, followed by the doubles victory.

Zhang, who struggled to beat Joo, turned to the pro-China crowd after the gold

was sealed and raised his right fist in a salute, reminding it he'd delivered.

Germany defeated Hong Kong 3-1 to take bronze.

Adham Sharara, the president of the International Table Tennis Federation, has encouraged China to share its expertise, afraid the world will grow bored of dominance by one country.

He said it has been cooperating, also aware that one country's dominance could dull interest.

"It will change in the next four or five years," Sharara said on Wednesday.

"You will see other teams will win. Otherwise, of course, it's very disturbing to have the same — whether it's China or the US — winning for too long."



SERGEI GRITS / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Oh Sang-eun, (left), and Ryu Seung-min of South Korea compete against China in the men's team table tennis gold medal match on Wednesday. South Korea lost 0-3.

Games mean really big business for companies

Olympics provide opportunity for commercial success, reports Diao Ying from London.

he most expensive ticket for the opening ceremony of the London Olympics cost \$3,140 and a ticket for one of the track finals could cost as much as \$1,130. With a special pass slung across his neck, hanging from a purple lanyard, George Hamilton, a Chicago businessman, has access to all the events.

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However, he has no time to watch sport. As the head of Olympic marketing for Dow Chemical, a worldwide partner of the London Olympics, Hamilton is far too busy. "I've got

accreditation to all the venues but, as a top sponsor, I have no time to see any of the events," he said.

Dow Chemical declined to disclose how much it paid to sponsor the Olympics, but Hamilton said that the company is aiming to garner business worth \$1 billion over the next 10 years. He and his colleagues are busy selling their wares during the Games.

Those lucky enough to attend London 2012 — from officials from more than 100 countries, to construction companies, designers and engineers - are all potential clients for Hamilton and Dow Chemical.

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