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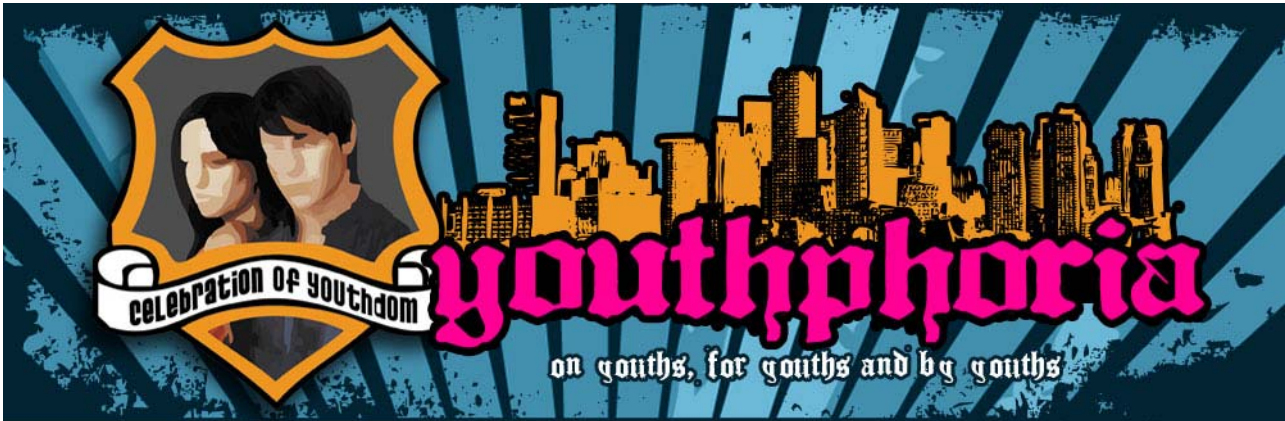
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Breaking News >> Street Talk

**Meet the NTU student who was one of NBA Basketball Without Borders' Top 24 players**



**NTU's HEY! Magazine**  
 By Chrystal Chan

Story reproduced from NTU's magazine, HEY! (available in print, online, and for tablet and mobile).  
 For more HEY! stories, click [here](#).  
 Wong Wei Long is not one to back down in the face of adversity.

At 16 and with a diminutive 1.71m frame, he faced off against a statuesque 1.98m opponent at the Nike One-on-One championship.

He won, much to the surprise and jubilation of the crowd, who was cheering for him – the underdog.

The 26-year-old is now a member of the Singapore Slingers, Singapore's official basketball team, and has been representing the country in international basketball matches since he was 16.

Along the way, he has gotten used to the spotlight, having been featured in magazines such as NTUC's *Lifestyle* and *FHM* as one of Singapore's top athletes.

His star has been on the rise ever since that celebrated win. Wei Long was picked to play with the under-18 squad at an international match in Quezon City, Philippines, where his team emerged second.

He continued to train hard for the next two years, earning himself a spot at the prestigious NBA Basketball Without Borders camp, which gathered athletes from all over the world. There, he was chosen by the coach as one of the top 24 players of the camp.



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"It was a fantastic feeling to be able to compete with top basketball players, and to meet NBA legends like Dwight Howard and TJ Ford at the Adidas Superstar Camp in Beijing," he recounts.

That same year, he was asked to join the Singapore National Men's Basketball Team as well as the development squad of the Singapore Slingers. Not everything was smooth-sailing, though, as national service beckoned.

"I could only train at night, which I did for two seasons, but it was really hard and I found it quite stressful. I didn't think my skills would ever match up to that of the other international players on my team and I was on the verge of giving up."

But he decided to give it one last try, deferring the start of his engineering studies in NTU for a year to concentrate on perfecting his skills. That risky move paid off when Wei Long achieved his career high last year with an impressive 29 points score in a game against Vietnam.

Last year was also when he decided to take a break from being a full-time player.

"Getting a degree is very important to me and my parents. I want to work and contribute to society," he explains.

"Currently, I'm juggling my studies, coaching primary school students and going for basketball training, but I'm surviving. NTU makes its learning resources readily available, so I can attend online lectures for my core modules and learn independently, which has certainly helped," he adds.

Wei Long doesn't intend to make basketball his lifelong career. His dream is to be a teacher, so he plans to stay on in NTU to get his teaching qualifications. A Normal Stream student, his life was turned around by two inspiring teachers back in secondary school.

"When I was younger, I was quite rebellious, but I had two teachers who really earned my respect, and they've inspired me to take this path. What's more, I also love to share and impart knowledge," he reveals.

"For me, basketball will always have a place in my heart, but career-wise, teaching is what I want to do."

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