Sisters miss gold by seven pinfalls

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As with the women’s singles final the day before, yesterday’s women’s doubles final went down to the wire.

To be exact, the final frame of the sixth and final game.

But this time, there was to be no joy for Singaporean sisters Cherie and Daphne Tan at the Jaya Ancol Bowling Centre.

While Cherie, 23, kept her nerve to beat Malaysia’s Sim Li Jane by two pins on Tuesday, the Tan sisters missed the gold by seven pins yesterday, with Malaysia’s Zanida Azlida and Jacqueline Sijore clinching the title.

As they packed their stuff, Daphne, 21, said to her elder sister: “At least you beat them by two pins yesterday.”

Cherie’s retort: “Yesterday I anyhow threw a strike, but today cannot.”

Later, the National University of Singapore undergraduate said: “I thought I bowled quite well today actually. Most of my shots were good, but I don’t know why my scores turned out like that.

“I haven’t paired with my sister in the doubles so far, and being sisters are very close. We really wanted to win the gold together because it’s something to brag about. Maybe it’s just our luck.”

Despite flashing a smile for the cameras, Daphne said: “I am very disappointed because the margin of seven pins is a very close one.

“We had a very tough pair of lanes in the fifth game and we didn’t get the carry.”

Despite struggling on the long-oiled lanes, the Tan sisters’ conservative percentage bowling shot them to the head of the 15-pair table by the third game.

But the Singaporeans lost their lead by the end of the fifth game to Azlida and Sijore, with six pins the difference between the two pairs.

Separated

The lead changed hands several times during the last game, where the Singaporeans and Malaysians were separated by a pair of lanes.

Sijore was on top form with six consecutive strikes, but faltered with a split-six spare in the ninth frame.

Cherie, on the other hand, scored two strikes in the eighth and ninth frames to set up a thrilling finale.

If she struck out in the final frame, the title was the Singaporeans’ for the taking.

Unfortunately, Cherie could only manage a nine-spare and another nine.

In the two-o’s doubles yesterday afternoon, Malaysia’s Adrian Ang and Alex Liew took the gold with 2,555.

Philippines’ Biboy Rivera and Frederick Ong clinched the silver with 2,490 while Malaysia’s Syafiq Ridiwan and Zulhazman Zulkifli took the bronze (2,454).

Ng Chiew Pang and Keith Saw were the highest-placed Singaporeans at fifth (2,363),