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15-year-old Sang Hyeok Woo sets high-jump mark at Sun Angel Track Classic

By Richard Obert

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- 존 고디나 월드 투척센터에서 2 주간의 해외전지훈련 중이던 우상혁선수는 가장 늦게 선수등록을 하고 선엔젤 클래식대회에 참가함.
- 2.16m 를 3 차시기에 성공을 하였으며, 동료선수들과 기쁨을 나누었음.
- 기존 선엔젤 클랙식 대회 고등부 기록은 2.10m 이었고, 2.19m 를 3 회 도전 하였지만 실패함.
- 동료선수들은 키가 크고, 한국어가 적힌 유니폼을 입은 웃는 우상혁선수가 이렇게 잘 뛸 거라고는 생각을 못하였음.
- 센터 부코치 닉은 우상혁이라는 존재를 알리는 좋은 계기였으며, 2 주간 훈련을 지켜보니, 우 선수는 월드클래스 선수가 될 정신력, 신체능력, 감정 조절능력 이 세가지를 다 가진 선수라고 함.
- 대회 종료후 우상혁선수는 영어는 전혀 말하지 못하지만 사진을 찍으려고 줄을 선 미국선수들과 웃는 얼굴로 소통함.

Sang Hyeok Woo wasn't on the original performance list for Thursday's boys high jump at Sun Angel Track Classic.

The 15-year-old, here from Seoul on a two-week spring break training at former Olympic thrower John Godina's World Athletics Center in Phoenix, was a late entry.

By the time he was about to clear 7 feet, 1 inch on his last try at Arizona State's Sun Angel Stadium, Woo was a celebrity among the local high school athletes, who gathered around the high jump section and clapped in unison as he let out a 'Whoop!' and ran toward the bar.

Woo had broken the Sun Angel Track high school meet record at 6-11, before clearing 7-1. He missed on three tries at 7-2.

Neither Chandler's Michael Poiriee-Shelton nor Phoenix North Canyon's Bryant O'Georgia knew who they were up against when the tall, smiling kid in short shorts showed up with Korean writing on his jersey. Both cleared 6-6. Poiriee-Shelton was awarded second place, based on fewer attempts.

Nick Sheuerman, who works with Woo at World Athletics Center, said there was nothing against overseas athletes competing in the Sun Angel.

"It was good exposure," Sheuerman said.

Afterwards, athletes lined up to pose for pictures with Woo, who spoke no English but connected with his smile.

"Based on the impressions we've seen in a couple weeks of training, he has all of the mental, physical and emotional capabilities to be at the world-class level," Sheuerman added.