



DONALD

**Ryan Wong.**

## Resolute Ryan

OVERCOMING personal adversity and loss can be overwhelming, especially so for one who has not crossed the threshold of adulthood.

Ryan Wong's golfing ambition was almost halted prematurely at the departure of his mother early this year. The eleven-year old had picked up the game due to the nurturing of an unrelenting interest sparked by a billboard sign he saw at the tender age of three-and-a-half years old.

Now the student of the Australian International School has bravely soldiered on, backed by his father KS Wong who juggles his schedule between managing his convention management business and Ryan's playing schedule.

Due to his school timetable that does not coincide with our national school semesters, Ryan's participation in the local amateur circuits is limited. But that has not stopped him from marking his mark in the winners' circle resulting in a berth at the MGA National Under-14 Super Junior Squad 2010/2011.

Participation at SportExcel events has proven fruitful for Ryan beginning with his maiden win as Overall Champion for the 2007 Elite Circuit (Under-8 age group). This was followed by the Champion title of the first leg of SportExcel Under-10 age group in 2009.

In the following year, Ryan won the Malaysian Junior (Under-11) that was held in Sabah, while he finished first runner-up at the SportExcel

event held at A'Famosa and the Mizuno Junior held earlier this year.

Competing abroad, Ryan who trains under Andrew Myles at the Mizuno Academy in Bukit Jalil, was placed first runner-up in the Under-10 category at the 2010 Jakarta World Junior Championship.

On further shores, Ryan was placed 34th at the 2011 Callaway World Junior Championships out of 132 players in the Under-12 category. He was ranked first in the tournament as the player who made most pars.

Continuing with his US stint, Ryan finished 23rd out of 88 players at the Optimist International Junior Tournament (Under-13 age group category). He was then invited to play in the Optimist World Cup immediately after and he did admirably shooting even-par 72 on the course despite not having any practice rounds. The World Cup was played on the Championship course that hosted the PGA Honda Classic.

After the Optimist International, Ryan went to play in the US Kids World Championship in the Under 12 age group in Pinehurst, North Carolina, where he shot four-over-par 220 over three days to finish tied 22 from a field of 163 players from around the world.

That good performance was rewarded with a place in the International World Cup Team, where he was one of ten international players battling against the strong American team who eventually emerged triumphant.