Miss Chan Yuen-ting

Miss Chan Yuen-ting is the first-ever female coach to have led a professional men’s soccer team to win a top-flight championship anywhere in the world – an achievement which has earned her recognition from the Guinness Book of World Records. Under her leadership, Eastern Sports Club won the Hong Kong Premier League championship and Senior Challenge Shield titles in 2016, when Miss Chan was 27 years old. For her achievements, Miss Chan was named the Asian Football Confederation’s Women’s Coach of the Year. She was also honoured by BBC 100 Women as one of the world’s 100 most influential and inspirational women of the year 2016. She continues to equip herself with professional training, in sports medicine and in coaching. Recently she has stepped down from her role as chief coach to become a strategy analyst, to enable her to complete her training for the Asian Football Confederation’s Professional Coaching Diploma, the highest level of coach education available in soccer.

Miss Chan’s achievements are truly impressive, but her story has been far from smooth sailing. What it reflects is one young woman’s dedication and perseverance to overcome all odds in pursuit of her passion. Miss Chan was first drawn into the world of soccer during junior high school, attracted by David Beckham’s good looks and legendary free kicks. One summer, despite her family’s objection, she forged her mother’s signature and joined a soccer training course. Since then she has never looked back. After graduating from high school she was accepted into the The Chinese University of Hong Kong’s Geography and Resource Management Programme, where she continued to play soccer and began to enrol in coaching courses and to teach soccer classes to children. Upon graduation, she took up a part-time job as a data analyst and assistant to the coach of a professional soccer team, making $6000 per month – when her peers were earning two to three times that amount. Her family were unsupportive of this choice. After all, what parents do not want to see their children get a job with a stable career path and good income, especially after seeing them work for a hard-earned place in university? To stave off parental objections, Miss Chan said to them: “Give me one year, I will give up if it doesn’t work”. One year turned into another and then another, resulting in inevitable arguments which affected her relationship with her parents. But when they saw how focused she was and the enjoyment she derived from her work, they started to pay attention to her team and even began to attend matches.

Parental objections aside, there are obvious challenges for a woman in a leadership role in the male-dominated world of professional soccer. Coaching was one of the few options where Miss Chan could combine her passion for soccer with a career, for it is impossible for a woman to play as a professional as there are no pro women’s teams in Hong Kong. As Miss Chan has never played professionally, tremendous leadership and communication skills are needed to gain credibility in the eyes of her team. Miss Chan believes that good leaders must be detail-minded. In her own words, “If you fail to plan, you plan to fail”. Just as important is the ability to empathise with the players, in order to motivate them and to bring out the best in them. Being the chief coach of a professional team comes with tremendous pressure. Results are important. Every match counts; sponsorships and even the survival of the team depend on them. Miss Chan believes that ultimately it is one’s attitude that determines how much one can achieve. When faced with difficulties, do you complain or focus on finding a solution?

Miss Chan readily admits her own failures and the many difficulties she faced, but she believes that: “When you love something and are willing to make sacrifices for it, you will try to overcome all difficulties; you will not give up so easily. When you can get through the most difficult times, you will see the rainbow. You can’t win all matches; there will be hard times. You win some and you lose some. My philosophy of life is to try my best and not give up in the face of adversity. You will lose. You will be disappointed. It is how you deal with the failures that makes a difference.”

Miss Chan’s passion for soccer, her belief in herself, and her positive attitude are what enabled her to go “against all odds” to reach where she is today. She believes in the rewards of hard work and persistence in following your heart to do something you truly love. Her achievements and her exemplary attitude towards life are what we all, as educators, hope to inspire in our students.

Mr Chairman, in recognition of her unbending spirit and unswerving dedication to soccer over the years, and for her outstanding contributions to the development of the sport of soccer in Hong Kong and beyond, may I present Miss Chan Yuen-ting to you for conferment of an honorary fellowship.

Citation written and delivered by Professor Annie Chan
陳婉婷小姐

2016年，當時27歲的陳婉婷小姐帶領東方女球隊，奪得香港聯賽冠軍和高等組銀牌，她亦成為全球首位帶領男女職業足球隊奪得頂級聯賽錦標的女教練，列入體育史世界紀錄大全。陳小姐的成就卓越，多次入選名單，奧運為亞洲足協年度最佳女教練，以及在國際WBFC「市聯百名2016」節目中，入選為最具影響力和徵集的100位女士之一。陳小姐不斷在運動教育和教學專業上持續進修，最近她辭去東方女教練一職，轉為擔任球隊教練團的技術分析員，為希望專注於選練，提早完成亞太足協職業級教練證書課程，這是足球界最高級別的教練課程。

陳小姐成就卓越，但其經歷並非一帆風順。她的父親是著名足球運動員，她在進修，但最終達成自己的目標，陳小姐就讀初中時，受到大學「孫」俊朗的外表和高氣質的自由球員所吸引，開始對足球產生興趣。在某年暑假，她不理

家人反對，偏離母親親身，偷偷參加了足球訓練課程。自此她勇往直前追逐足球的夢想。大學

畢業後，她獲清華大學經遠教育管理學系取錄，一面讀書，一面繼續踢足球，其間修讀

足球教練課程，並執教青年足球隊。大學畢業後，陳小姐在職業球會擔任數據分析及青教練

助理，月薪僅得6,000港元，而同樂友人的薪金卻是她的兩倍。當時家人並不支持她，畢

竟，母親父母不希望子女有一份發展穩定和有潮流的工作。特別是這麼難得能夠成為大學

畢業生，為了支撐父母，陳小姐說：「給我一年時間吧，如果真的不行，我就放棄。」但一年

復一年，她依然不肯放棄，無可避免地與家人有所爭執，甚至影響她與父母的關係。不過，

父母終於明白她的決心，看到她如何全心全意投入工作，如何從工作獲得快樂和滿足感，他

們開始支持她的球隊，甚至開始到球場觀眾比賽。

陳小姐面對的挑戰，才真正來自父母的反對。因為女性，要在男性主導的職業足球世界裡掌

舵，並不容易。香港並沒有職業女子足球隊，陳小姐不可能成為職業女子足球員。在香港能

夠讓她滿足對足球的熱愛，及發展足球事業的機會其實不多，教練是其中一個可能性。由於

陳小姐從來沒有踢過職業足球隊，要在專業的球隊中獲得大家的信任，必須具備極為出色的

領導能力及溝通技巧。陳小姐認為，好的領導者必須有信心，她很贊同一句話語：「如果你

沒有好的計劃，那你要作好準備，接受後果。」在此以外，她認為對球員有同理心同樣重要，

這樣纔能激勵和鼓勵他們的鬥志和潛能。球員成績非常重要，擔任職業球會的主教練的壓

力也異常沉重。每場比賽都很重要，對球會的融資和生存空間有直接的影響。陳小姐認

為，一個人有多大成就，取決於個人的態度和對困難時，你只是會抱怨？還是專注尋找解

決方法？

陳小姐認為承認失敗，亦面對許多困難，但她認為：「如果你熱愛某樣事情，願意作出犧

牲，你便會盡力克服所有困難，也不會輕言放棄。當你走過了最困難的時間，便會看到彩虹。

你不可能在所有比賽中勝出，但總會面對低潮，比賽一定有消有輸。我的人生哲學就是盡力而

為，面對逆境不放棄。你會輸，也會感到失望，但重要的是你如何面對失敗。」

陳小姐對足球的熱情，對自己的信念，以及積極的態度，令她得以排除萬難，獲得今天的成

就。她相信刻苦努力，堅持心裡的信念，把自己真正喜愛的事情，必會有所回報。陳小姐的

成就，以及她人生態度的積極，正是我們所有教育工作者希望感化學生的方向。

主席先生，為表揚陳婉婷小姐多年來對足球界坚定不移的奉獻和不屈不撓的精神，以及對

香港以外其他地區足球運動發展的傑出貢獻，本人謹恭請閣下頒授榮譽院士銜予陳婉婷小

姐。

賀辭由陳效能教授撰寫及宣讀