

KENNETH R. DAVIDSON
MEMORIAL AWARD FOR SPORTSMANSHIP

To every sport there comes, eventually, someone whose skill and dedication to that sport makes him a dominant world figure and entitles him to be called a "great" in his field. Ken Davidson was a "great" figure in Badminton. His untimely death in an air crash Christmas morning of 1954 in Prestwick, Scotland, was a stunning blow, and a deep loss to the world of Badminton. This tragedy ended the career of a man whose skill covered all phases of Badminton. He was a champion amateur player, a beloved professional entertainer, an authoritative writer, and a world renowned coach. Much of the current interest in Badminton in this country is a reflection of the spirit of Ken Davidson's untiring effort to promote interest and participation in the sport. Wherever he went in the world, Ken won the heart and support of Badminton enthusiasts.

Ken Davidson came to this country from England in 1935 as a representative of General Sportcraft Company, LTD. He was then an internationally known cricketer as well as a Badminton player. Among his Badminton honors, he held British and European titles, and was Captain of the Scottish Inter-national team. Before turning professional, he captured singles, mixed, and doubles titles in United States tournaments.

Ken's amazing skill and versatility on the courts eventually led him performing in exhibition matches throughout this country. Early in his entertainment career, Ken began playing with one of his most famous partners, the Canadian, Hugh Forgis. It was then that Ken Davidson added his sense of humor and showmanship to his remarkable ability with the racquet and developed their great comedy act. With Hugh and subsequent partners, Ken regaled audiences all over the world with his clowning tactics. He brought audiences cheering to their feet from Radio City and the Roxy to the London Palladium. He later participated in a command performance before the Royal Family of England.

Davidson brought his family from England and settled in California. Subsequently he collaborated with Lealand Gustavson, and the two wrote a text on Badminton, "Winning Badminton". The book has been published abroad and is an acknowledged authority on the strategy and technique of the game.

Coaching was the next phase of his favorite sport that Ken Davidson tackled. One of his great interests was junior development, and to this end he devoted much time and tireless energy. He coached and managed the first two United States Thomas Cup teams, and was scheduled for this position again in 1955. Just before his death, Ken had completed a highly successful Asiatic tour with Judy Devlin and Margaret Varner. The high regard with foreign officials and players held for Ken Davidson made him an invaluable good will ambassador for Badminton.

In honor of Ken Davidson, the American Badminton Association in 1955 initiated an annual Ken Davidson Memorial Award. It is awarded to the player in this country who is adjudged to have contributed the most to Badminton, and whose sportmanship, attitude, and achievement best exemplify the spirit of Badminton held in such high esteem by Ken Davidson himself.

We salute Ken Davidson and hope that his fine spirit may continue to inspire all who participate in the great international sport of Badminton.

ADULT AWARD

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1955 - Janet Wright
San Francisco, California | 1970 - Ted Moehlmann, Jr.
St. Louis, Missouri |
| 1956 - Helen Gibson
E. Norwalk, Connecticut | 1971 - Charles Thomas
Natchitoches, Louisiana |
| 1957 - Eddy Choong
Penang, Malaya | 1972 - Stanton Hales
Claremont, California |
| 1958 - Susan Devlin Peard
Owings Mills, Maryland | 1973 - Rosemary McQuire
Bristol, Connecticut |
| 1959 - Joseph Alston
Pasadena, California | 1974 - Virginia Lyon
San Diego, California |
| 1960 - Wayne Schell
Boston, Massachusetts | 1975 - Dorothy O'Neil
Norwich, Connecticut |
| 1961 - Helen Tibbetts
Gardena, California | 1976 - Don Paup
Vienna, Virginia |
| 1962 - Ethel Marchall
Buffalo, New York | 1977 - Tom Carmichael
Ortonville, Michigan |
| 1963 - Lois Alston
Padedena, California | 1978 - Chris Kinard
Pasadena, California |
| 1964 - Dick Mitchell
San Diego, California | 1979 - Jim Poole
Westminster, California |
| 1965 - Taylor Caffery
New Orleans, Louisiana | 1980 - Ray Scott
Papillion, Nebraska |
| 1966 - Judy Hashman
England | 1981 - Vicki Toutz
Los Alamitos, California |
| 1967 - Beatrice Massman
Buffalo, New York | 1982 - Pam Brady
Grand Blanc, Michigan |
| 1968 - Waldo K. Lyon
San Diego, California | 1983 - Cheryl Carton
San Diego, California |
| 1969 - Wynn Rogers
Arcadia, California | 1984 - Dave Ogata
San Diego, California |