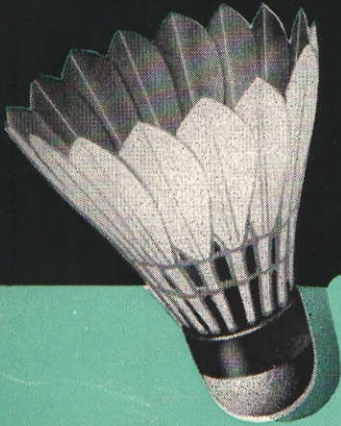


# Bird Chatter

OFFICIAL BADMINTON MAGAZINE



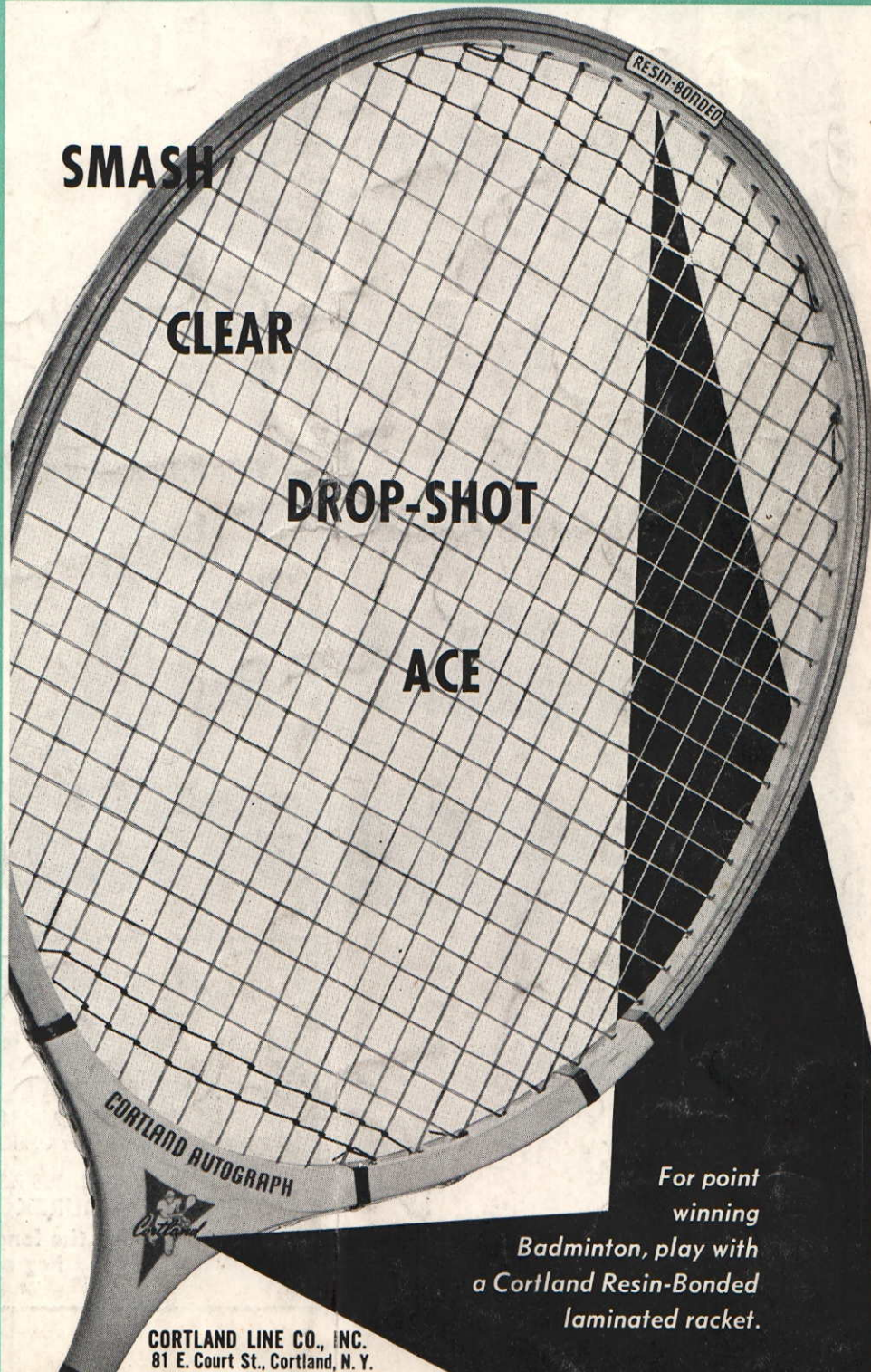
NOVEMBER, 1948  
VOL. 8  
No. 1

*In this Issue*  
EARLY FUNDAMENTALS  
OF BADMINTON

by  
KEN DAVIDSON



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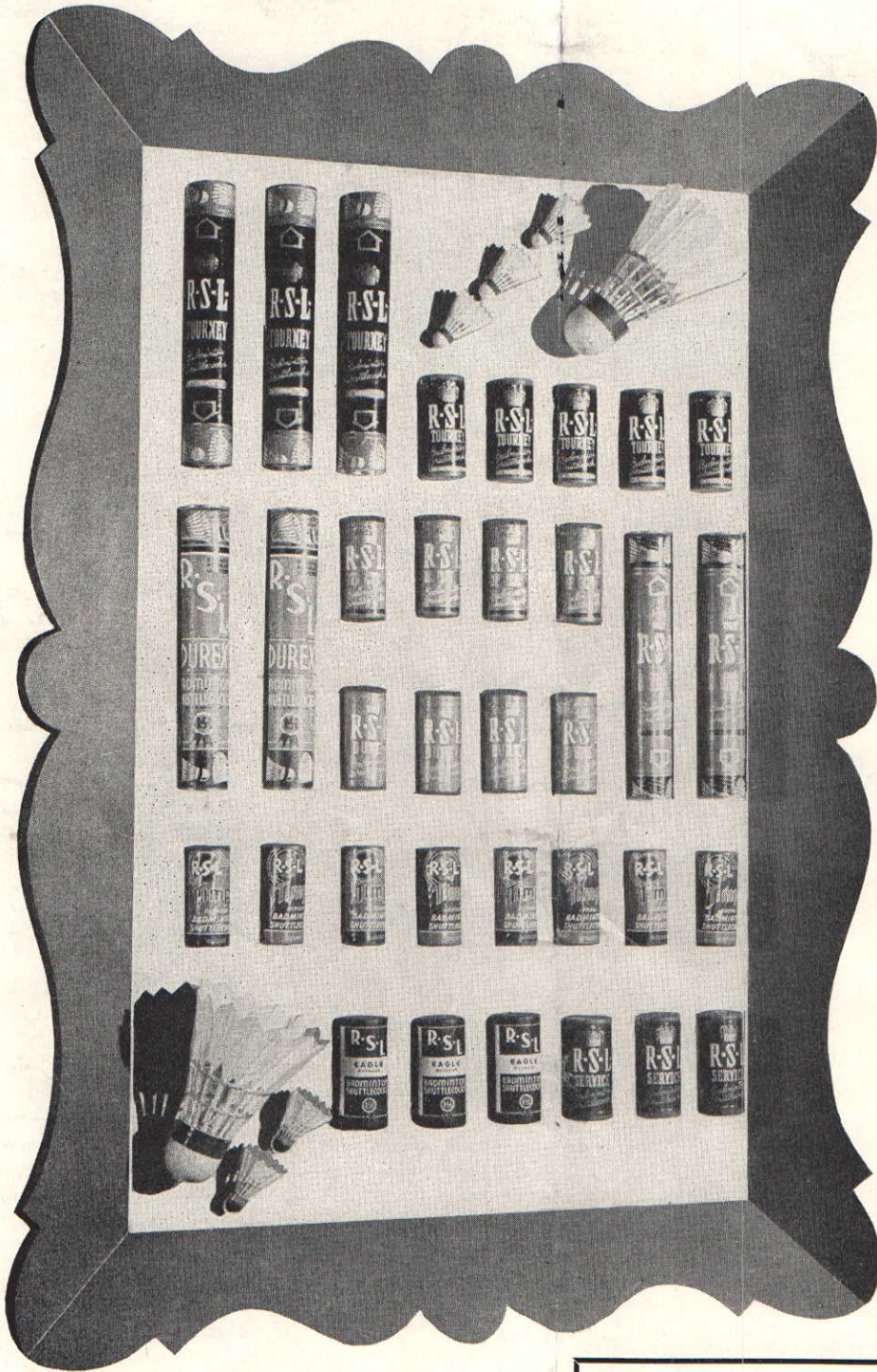
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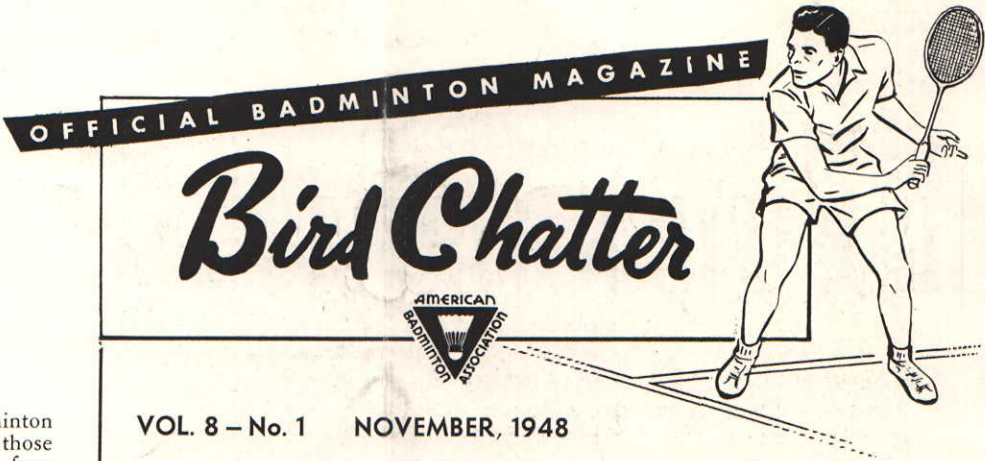
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VOL. 8 - No. 1 NOVEMBER, 1948

### THANKS, DON AND JOHN

In Massachusetts this summer the Bird Chatter office lights were turned out for the last time. Don Richardson and John Garrod laid aside their editor and business managers cloaks.

John and Don accepted the Bird Chatter duties in the 1943-44 season from Justin Canfield, then from Chicago, and spent many, many long evening hours from that time worrying and fretting over the association's magazine.

As it had happened to Justin it happened to John and Don. Their "baby" grew too large for them and was beginning to demand much more time than any two men could be expected to give.

Badminton should be forever grateful to these pioneers of Bird Chatter who have broken the path and pointed out a well marked road to follow. Nearly all the changes made in this issue and many changes planned in the future issues are the ideas of these Bird Chatter founders.

So thank you Don and John and you too Justin. Bird Chatter will always be your "Baby".

BOB KILDALL, *Editor*

### BADMINTON'S GREATEST YEAR

We are in the midst of the most important year in the history of the American Badminton Association.

Due to the efforts of the officers of preceding years, we are now able to say—"Badminton is a major sports activity of this country." For we not only have state, regional and national tournaments but are also engaging in the International Badminton Championships, the most ambitious badminton event ever undertaken. And more American people than ever are following and participating in our sport.

Every director of this association, every state or sectional officer, and every badminton player must realize that he has to take a large share of the responsibility that this rapid growth has placed on all of us.

The future is bright.

T. M. ROYCE, *President*  
*American Badminton Association*

### AN OPPORTUNITY

Member Clubs will have an unprecedented opportunity during the coming season to attract new members and increase civic support in their own communities.

This is because of the formation of the Patrons Association, the Thomas Cup matches and the possible American tour of the All-India team.

All clubs are urged to support these events to the limit, which I am sure will result in welcome benefits to every club.

HAM LAW, *ABA Secretary*

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# KING DAVID'S COURT

By MORTON MOSS

*Sportswriter of the Los Angeles Examiner*

Reprinted from SPORTFOLIO, April, 1948  
(Copyright Jacobs Sports Magazines, Inc.)

BACK IN 1941, Dave Freeman, the elongated California pixie who rules the nation's badminton realm, was giving the opposition the bird at the Southern California championships.

He had tumbled, joshed and yelled his way into the final against Johnny Murphy of San Diego. Johnny was then a more than ordinarily capable batsman when he took a swipe at the feathered shuttlecock.

A friend asked Freeman, the 5 ft.-11 in., 145-pound Pasadena blond, how he expected to fare with Murphy. Freeman, casually, as though flicking an ash off a cigarette, replied, "I won't let him make nineteen points."

Freeman's boast, for so it was then erroneously considered, leaped from lip to lip among players and spectators at the tournament. Murphy, of course, heard of it, too, and his determination rose with his temperature. He had a large rooting section when he popped out on the court and made menacing gestures over the net at David.

Johnny quickly ran up nine points in the first game of the two-out-of-three match. It appeared, as the bird whizzed lustily across the strings, that Freeman was scheduled to suffer frightful embarrassment by the time the belting reached an end.

Freeman, however, still retained his poise, if you can call it poise when a natural clown keeps up a constant spray of zany chatter as a-badmintoning he does go. He seemed oblivious to Murphy's lead.

But was he? Alas for Murphy, no! Nine was the finish of Johnny's scoring that game. Placing the bird with excruciating perfection, retrieving the apparently impossible, Freeman shut off Murphy and streaked to a 15-9 victory.

Again, in the second game, Murphy was the first to rack up nine points.

Now he needed but one more point to prick the bubble of Freeman's 19-point prediction. Many a heart did nip-ups. Murphy strove with might and no little main. But never interrupting his hilarity or equilibrium, Freeman turned off Murphy's scoring tap once more and sped to the title with another 15-9 game.

That was seven years ago. Today when national men's singles titleholder Captain David Guthrie Freeman, M.D.—he had to obtain Army leave from the Canal Zone for the badminton nationals at Waco, Texas, April 1, 2 and 3—deigns to offer a prediction about the score of one of his games, he is accorded rapt attention. It is realized by one and all that the game will be wrapped up just that way.

It can be safely said that in no sport has there even been a figure who dominated his field with such fantastic invincibility. Since 1940, he has lost one singles match, and, excluding this mistake, he hasn't even dropped a single game. This match was captured from him and gloated over by Chester Goss who teamed with Dave in 1940, 1941 and 1942 for the men's doubles championship. Dave poofed the match away in a minor tourney. Chet has received numerous drubbings from Freeman—before and after—and has built no illusions on the

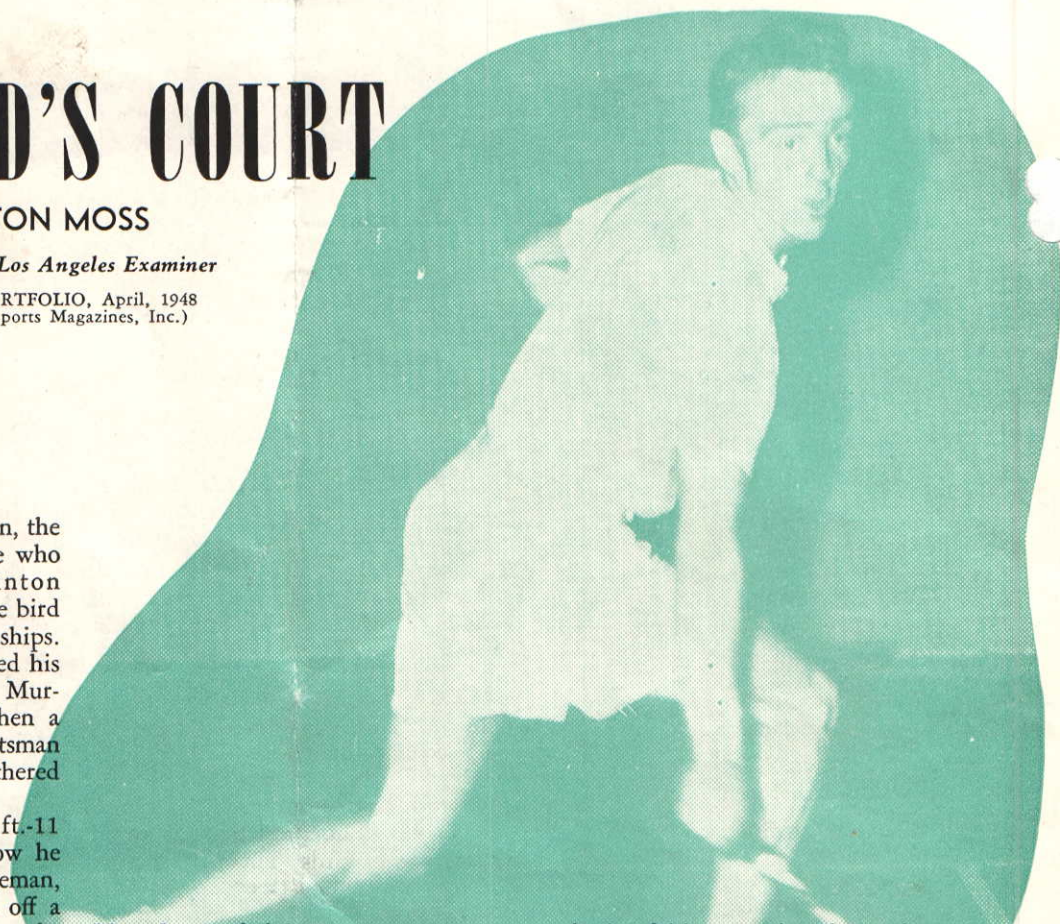
basis of his one miraculous win.

Dave notched his first National Singles title in 1939 at New York. The following three years, until the war erased the Nationals in 1943, he toted his equipment to Seattle, Cleveland and Durham, N. C., and, with astonishing simplicity and goodly supply of slapstick humor, confirmed his singles rule. From 1940 through 1942, in addition to his singles and men's doubles titles, he was boss of the birds with Sally Williams in mixed doubles.

Freeman, carrying more than 300 titles of various descriptions in his foot locker, planed up from Panama last April for resumption of the Nationals in the Pacific Auditorium of Los Angeles. He plastered a badminton kayo on Carl Loveday of Montclair, N. J., 15-8, 15-8, in the singles final and paired with Webb Kimball for the doubles bauble.

If it has anything to do with a racquet—then it's Davey's racket.

Freeman once played tournament tennis regularly. If you thumb through this 27-year-old's brilliant record, you will find that he owns triumphs over international stars Jack Kramer and Ted Schroeder. Dave was National Junior Tennis champion in 1938, but since then he has thrown in his lot primarily with bad-



minton, except for an occasional tennis foray.

"Freeman was Davis Cup material," mourns Perry T. Jones, secretary for the Southern Lawn Tennis Association. "If he had concentrated on tennis, I feel sure he would have been one of the country's outstanding players."

But Freeman found that tennis required intensive and protracted practice. This was something he wasn't willing to give it. He preferred badminton, for which he doesn't practice at all—in the accepted sense of the word. Aside from the sharpening he gets in tournaments, and the exertion of a social game now and then, he usually polishes up a week end before a tourney is to begin. No more. "I play badminton just for the fun of it," he explains.

Yet, though he feels when he plays tennis he goes from badminton to worse, he tried his hand at the confounded business again last summer, for want of stimulating badminton competition in Panama. Just like that, he grabbed the Caribbean Area singles championship. This earned him a ride to Washington, D. C., where he emerged victor in a worldwide Army tournament. Then, the top ten Army tennis wallopers were thrown against the Navy's top ten, and Dave banged through to win the singles and share doubles domination.

His tennis adventures have enabled him to mix the strokes of that athletic exercise with those of badminton in a manner that is sometimes startling. There is a free wrist movement in badminton. Tennis utilizes mainly shoulder and forearm with a locked wrist.

From tennis, he derived the badminton backhand with which he whacks the bird when it is about six inches off the ground, swooshing it over the net only to plummet as an unnerving dropshot. From badminton, he brought to tennis an overhand shot wherein he raises his right arm, then flashes the racquet over his left shoulder and cross-courts the ball to his right.

Freeman has found that a tennis match exhausts him for two or three days thereafter. A badminton match attacks mainly his wind and he can pump up sufficient energy to bat the bird hither and yon effectively within an hour.

In 1941 Dave was graduated from Pamona College, where he played golf and was a cross-country runner—there was no badminton team at the school—and prepared to enter Harvard Medical School. He knew that Boston was the hub of American squash racquets and decided that he would take up the sport as a conditioner while in the East.

He lived near Boston three years and conditioned himself so well that he won the New England Squash Racquets cham-

ptionship, tantamount to mastery of the country. The tenor of New England newspaper comment was that the Californian beat them at their own game. One sports writer wrote, kidding with tears in his eyes, that he would be glad to escort Dave to the train.

Dave, an athlete with plenty of forehead, left Fair Harvard with a medical degree in 1944. He learned to use the stethoscope as part of his Army service. Then, the Army lend-leased Dr. Freeman to Gorgas Hospital, a civilian institution in the Canal Zone. His home now is in Balboa, with his wife Dolly and two sons—Rees, 4, and David, Jr., 2. He's expected to be released from the Army in July and plans a residency in pathology at San Diego County Hospital.

His Vassar-educated mother, Dr. Margery Freeman, assistant professor of Religion at Occidental College, Eagle Rock, California, once said to him in amazement after a badminton match:

"The bird comes so fast, I don't understand how you see it and return it."

Dave shrugged, "Sometimes I don't see it. I just stick out my racquet and hit it. It's just instinct."

Freeman was 12, a student in grade school at Pasadena, when he originally discovered the mysteries of badminton. He was introduced to them by a schoolmate, a Japanese-American lad named Jimmy Arima. Jimmy's mother made and sold badminton birds. There were some she couldn't sell, and these caught Jimmy's attention.

"Let's try the silly game, Davey," he suggested one day to the youngest of the five children of Dr. Robert Freeman, eminent Presbyterian minister of Pasadena. Jimmy stuck out a chubby little mitt loaded with shuttlecocks.

Davey agreed. They took their birds, added a couple of racquets and entered a local Pasadena tournament, Arima was only so-so, but Davey was good. He gained five trophies in the Class B Junior Divisions. He carted them home and told his mother they were the last trophies he would ever win because he couldn't play in Class B anymore. Even great men are sometimes wrong.

*Editor's Note: This article was written before the Eighth Annual United States Badminton Championships held in Waco, Texas. However, there is little change in Mr. Moss's story as Freeman successfully defended his title without allowing any opponent to rack up more than nine points against him.*

His mother recalls dotingly that when Davey was a mere 18 months old, somebody gave him a tennis racquet as a gift. She preens over a picture of him which she still has, showing him swinging it for service.

"He's jolly, chain lightning and an exhibitionist," his mother describes him, her face vividly animated. "He likes to play to the gallery. He's very much like his preacher father who died seven years ago. An audience stimulates Davey, too, just the way it did his father. He gives the gallery a good show."

"Davey has a very competitive temperament. He's at his best in a tournament. It exhilarates him. He hasn't as much stamina now as he used to have. Just for fun, he'd let an opponent run ahead of him 10 points, then he'd whizz through to win. It was like a cat playing with a mouse. He seldom does that now, though."

Bob Noble, who was president of the Southern California Badminton Association for eight years and now is its official photographer, fishes vainly for words when requested to give the key to the Freeman genius.

"He's just far up there in a class by himself," Noble says. "There are some talented players shooting for his title—but they won't beat him. Only old age will."

Badminton, according to Noble, is now at its strongest point of development throughout the country, after recovering from the near blackout caused by the war. Freeman's continued colossal presence, thinks Noble, had much to do with the sport's splendid recovery. A record crowd of 4,700 oh'd and ah'd at the Pan-Pacific finals in the resumption of the Nationals at Los Angeles last year.

On the Pacific Coast, Los Angeles, Seattle, Spokane and San Francisco are centers devoted to the flight of the birds. As the eye travels eastward, Oklahoma City, Waco, Chicago, Cleveland, New York, Montclair, New Rochelle, Baltimore and Boston keep 'em flying.

Once when Noble was director of a major tournament at the Sports Center in Hollywood, midway in the tourney Freeman asked him, "When do I go on?"

"Twenty minutes," Noble said.

"Well," said Freeman, "that just gives me time to bowl a game."

Freeman was overheard by a guy whom he had just soundly beaten and eliminated on the badminton court.

"Bowling is one game I can beat you at," chipped in this character.

"I'll take you one," said Freeman.

They went over to the Sunset Bowling alleys, a step away, and Freeman thundered through a 210 game. His opponent was blasted off the lanes.

*(Continued on Page 18)*

# How to play Badminton

## EARLY FUNDAMENTALS by Ken Davidson

*First of a series of Badminton instruction articles which will appear in each issue of BIRD CHATTER, Official Badminton Magazine.*

**M**ANY BADMINTON PLAYERS of both sexes often start out at the beginning of their respective careers in this fascinating game of leisure and pleasure by dismissing lightly any thought of learning the first fundamental of the game—the correct grips.

### How to Hold the Racket

It is also amazing the number of good athletes who continue to let the incorrect holding of their racket handicap them from making the most of their natural abilities. A review of all basic principles by players of even long years of experience may find a flaw in their stroking which some thought and practice when they first started to play could have prevented. To correct a flaw after it has become a habit is harder than learning the right way but it can be done, with concentration and practice. All champions in every sport regularly check the fundamentals of their particular activity to see that they have not carelessly strayed away from the solid foundations on which they have built their success. Even though you may not have the desire or time to become a champion much more enjoyment and satisfaction from Badminton will be gained by playing strokes correctly rather than purposeless idling around on a court. Let's start at the beginning—the correct grips.

Speaking generally, there are only two kinds of Badminton strokes . . . the FOREHAND, which applies to any shot in which the shuttlecock is hit on the right side of the body and . . . the BACKHAND, used to hit the shuttle on the left side of the body, or across the body. If you play with the racket in the left hand, you will, of course reverse all the instructions.

### Forehand Grip

Balance the narrow side of the racket on a table with the playing surface side of the racket at right angles to the table. Then place the end of the handle of the racket at the bottom of the palm

of the hand—the end of the racket handle being next to but not touching the wrist. Close your fingers and thumb around the handle of the racket so that the "V" formed by the forefinger and thumb rests on the side of the handle in line with the narrow side of the head of the racket. The racket handle should lie diagonally across the palm of the hand, and the fingers should lie along and around the handle. The fingers should not all be bunched together; the forefinger should be slightly apart from the other fingers at approximately a forty-five degree angle across the handle as is the thumb on the opposite side of the handle. Care should be taken to see that the "V" formed by the forefinger and thumb is kept in line with the narrow side of the head of the racket as nearly 100% of untrained beginners have the "V" in line with the flat side, or playing surface side, of the head of the racket which results in a restricted wrist action and a loss of hitting power, particularly from the back court. A few players do use, occasionally, this variation of the forehand grip for "rushing" services and some odd shots near the net (usually on returns directed at their head and shoulders). Owing to its partial success in blocking some shots at the net in Mixed Doubles play some women players lapse into the habitual use of this grip for all their play but it is very apparent that, owing to the restricted wrist movement, they make weaker and weaker returns as they play strokes further and further way from the net. The novice should stick strictly to the regular forehand grip which can be used for all forehand strokes no matter whether they are made at the front of the court or from the back line.

When held out at arms length the racket should continue in a straight line with the arm. If it sticks out from the hand at a ninety degree angle after holding the arm straight out you will find that the fingers are bunched together across the handle and that no space has been allowed between the forefinger and the other three fingers.

The fingers and thumb should hold the racket firmly but not tightly, other-

wise the wrist and forearm muscles become tense and rigid. The hand and wrist must remain firm but free and supple at all times so that the maximum of speed and strength of a stroke can flow through to the head of the racket when it actual contacts the shuttle.

This one fault of gripping the racket in a "death" hold is a very common mistake and is the reason why many a 200 pound fully trained athlete gets very little speed from an otherwise well hit smash—all the power of the body and arm stops in the rigid forearm and wrist so consequently the racket head moves forward at a comparatively slow pace for all the effort applied—or rather, misapplied. On the other hand, many a female weighing 120 pounds gets the maximum speed from the racket head, correctly directed by a firm but supple movement of the hand and wrist, to hit crisply and cleanly a shuttle from one end of the court to the other. Another common failing on the part of a novice is to grip the racket so that two or three inches of the handle juts out below the little finger and some go so far as to place their forefinger up the actual shaft of the racket and use it more or less as a pointer towards the shuttle. These errors greatly restrict the free movement of the wrist and creates a pushing action instead of a hitting action.

### Backhand Grip

A mental hazard often seems to trouble some Badminton players, both novice and expert, whenever the word "backhand" crops up, but a proper backhand grip will materially help overcome such handicap.

Until the novice becomes accustomed to the flight and pace of the shuttle he may find it easier to use the forehand grip for shots on the backhand side (with the arm crossing the body) but remember ALL backhand shots, no matter what grip is used, are hit with the **opposite** side of the playing surface of the racket to that used for forehand shots. (The thumb should be on the same side of the racket as the hitting surface for all forehand shots and on the non-hitting surface side for all backhand shots.)

## CORRECT BADMINTON GRIPS

The backhand grip, as used by practically all the experts today, is accomplished by letting the racket handle slide around slightly (upwards and away from the body) in the hand from the forehand grip so that all of the thumb is pressed against the side of the handle nearest to you, with the tip of the thumb pointing straight up towards the head of the racket. The pressure of the thumb behind the racket provides added power and control. This grip can be used effectively for all backhand shots hit in front of and level with the body. It also keeps the racket in a straight line with the arm, and gives the longest reach possible when the arm and body has to be fully extended to stretch for shots high and deep in the backhand corner of the court. As in the forehand grip, the forefinger should be kept slightly apart from the other three fingers. If the fingers are bunched together it causes the racket to stick out from the hand at a ninety degree angle and results in a **rolling** of the wrist and forearm and fails completely to make use of any wrist snap.

If you allow your opponent to hit a shuttle past you and you have to make a backhand shot with your back facing the net then the backhand grip with the thumb straight up the handle cannot be used and a grip similar to the forehand grip will have to be attempted. (On this particular grip the thumb slides a little down and more across the handle, as does the forefinger, and it will meet and rest against the top section of the middle finger.) This modified forehand grip may also have to be used for low backhand shots near the net in order to obtain the steep angle of return required to get the shuttle up and over the net.

Some players feel that there is little time to change grips in a fast exchange of shots but once a racket has been brought under control it becomes second-nature to change from the forehand grip to a backhand grip, or vice versa, as the racket is being taken back on the back-swing.

On all grips try to develop a good sense of touch in the fingers—the forefinger, the thumb and the little finger especially “feel” the position of the handle and direct and control the head of the racket in its contact with the shuttle.

Once this degree of proficiency is attained, a player may find it possible to improvise a hold in order to make a return from a difficult position. For instance, an extra two or three inches

*(Continued on Page 20)*



Photos—BOB NOBLE

# NATIONAL TOURNEY TO CHICAGO

## UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS SITE OF EVENT

**I**T'S BACK HOME AGAIN for the 9th Annual United States Badminton Championships for the A. B. A. executive committee has awarded the meet to Chicago, the birthplace of the event.

The University of Illinois Gymnasium at Chicago, April 14, 15, 16 will be the scene of the big event. The gym has twenty courts and a seating capacity of 4,500. There are individual lockers for both men and ladies with shower facilities.

Tentative hotel accommodations have been made at the Drake and Knickerbocker Hotels and the intention is to keep the Drake Hotel as official tournament headquarters. Both hotels are seven or eight blocks from the gymnasium and a little distance from the Chicago Loop.

Because of Chicago's central location geographically the entry should be the highest yet reached by a national championship. Pictures, the program of events, committees and other pertinent information will be carried in a later issue of *Bird Chatter*.

The nation's outstanding men's player, Dave Freeman, Pasadena, will be shoot-

ing for his seventh consecutive title. Freeman has been undefeated in match play since he won his first title in New York in 1939. With Wynn Rogers, his new men's doubles champion, Freeman will seek his 6th straight doubles win.

Ethel Marshall, Buffalo, the top U. S. ladies player will be attempting to set a new ladies record as she seeks her third straight title. No lady has ever won the U. S. crown three times.

The other defending champions also should be in attendance. Mr. and Mrs. Clint Shephens, Baltimore, as the first Eastern team ever to win the mixed doubles event will attempt to hold this gain. The first National was held in Chicago in 1937.

No winner of the 1937 Chicago National figured in the 1948 championship lists. Walt Kramer, Detroit, won the singles that year after setting a record of winning the Michigan State title for seven years straight. Kramer was a Swiss gift to badminton as he was born in Buchs, Switzerland. He now lives in Seattle.

Mrs. Del Barkhuff Cunningham, from

Seattle, was a bundle of fight for her 5' 3½" height and 122 pound weight. She had defeated everyone on the West Coast before reaching Chicago and winning the ladies singles crown. Mrs. Cunningham was born in Saskatoon, Canada, and now resides in Oregon.

Chet Goss and Don Eversoll both of Los Angeles defeated Don and Phil Richardson of Massachusetts that year to win the men's title. Goss figured in nearly every men's doubles championship from that time until the war.

Mrs. Cunningham and Zoe Smith Yeager, Seattle, took the ladies doubles crown. Zoe, now of New Rochelle, is still very active in badminton, being on the runner-up ladies' team this season.

Mrs. Cunningham and Ham Law, Seattle, took the mixed title in 1937. Ham is the present secretary of the A. B. A.

There was no veteran's event as that championship was not established until 1938 in Philadelphia.

The Midwest Association, of which Chicago is a part, has always been considered a foremost badminton area. It has had many years of experience in running tournaments including the annual Midwest for which it has had entry lists running over the three hundred mark.

It is estimated that over 10,000 people will witness the games with a capacity 4,500 at the finals.

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\*"P.F." means Posture Foundation

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# "What's wrong with Badminton..."

In his article "What's Wrong With Badminton and Tennis in Pittsburgh," Jacob Lipman pointed out a problem that is found throughout all areas.

The article was printed and distributed through the courtesy of the Pennsylvania Rubber Company.

"There is nothing wrong with the local slump in Badminton and Tennis that more courts, expanded promotion and a few clinics for youngsters couldn't remedy," says Mr. Lipman. "All of you know that Badminton and Tennis need a shot in the arm."

"The most decided factor in the downward trend is the lack of facilities. The facilities that we now have in Pittsburgh are entirely inadequate for the development of play among non-club members. In the whole city of Pittsburgh there is not one installation suitable as a tournament site, either for Badminton or Tennis.

"Members of both The Pittsburgh Badminton and The Pittsburgh Tennis Association should concentrate with the city recreation officials to create interest and urge them to build more courts, both indoor and outdoor.

"Our problem is to sell these games to the masses instead of to the private social clubs. The game of Badminton is still considered a 'sissy' game by most youngsters and many adults. The backbone of all games is the youngsters. There is no valid reason why Badminton and Tennis could not be promoted in the same way as the other sports.

"A committee should be formed to work with the recreational departments of the City and High Schools with the idea of establishing clinics to educate the youngsters in the games of Badminton and Tennis.

"This same committee should also help sponsor school tournaments and underwrite the necessary prizes. All used tournament shuttlecocks and tennis balls should be prorated to youngsters who are anxious to learn to play. Some thought should also be given to a smaller court for children under 14.

—★—

## Graham Cromwell Prexy

Graham Cromwell, Towson, has been elected President of the Maryland Bad-

Other officers are Mr. Wm. Rodenhi, Jr., Vice-Pres.; Mr. F. E. Wheeler, Treas.; and Mrs. E. Tillery, Sec.

*Mrs. Tillery, Correspondent*

## ★ ALL CLUBS COMPETE IN NEW CONNECTICUT PLAN

An executive committee meeting of the Connecticut Badminton Association was held in the New Haven Y.W.C.A., New Haven, September 29, with plans for the opening season up for discussion.

Presided over by President Howard Sharp the meet included Vice-President Edwin Quinn; Secretary Alma Piippo, Treasurer Larry Amann, and representatives Joe Sullivan and Don Hersam.

Ed Quinn, chairman of team play for the coming season, will present a plan for combined team of men and women to play every club in the state, rather than confining play to sections of the state.

Joe Sullivan, tournament chairman, reported that present plans indicate that the state Class A championships would be held in Waterbury this year, and the State Class B titles would be decided either in Bridgeport or New Haven.

*Correspondent, Don Hersam*

# MacGregor BADMINTON RACKETS for *standout* **standout**

On the badminton court, with a "MacGregor" in hand, you can be confident that you're playing with a perfect racket. The same wood-

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working skill, hand craftsmanship and precision manufacturing ability gained in building the finest golf clubs in the world throughout the last half century go into the manufacture of MacGregor badminton rackets. So—when you buy, be sure to see your MacGregor sporting goods dealer or professional. He has a complete line of badminton sets and accessories made by MacGregor.

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# BADMINTON ON ICE

Reprinted from Bird Cage, Chicago Badminton Club



*Editor's Note: This is a story of one person's impression of the famous "Badminton on Ice" act of the Ice Capades.*

SKATING is one of the fastest ways you can travel on a level under your own power, and Hugh Forgie and Stig Larson, play the fast game of badminton on ice skates. They thrill the thousands that see them every year in the Ice Capades with this super-speed and coordination.

We couldn't but wonder what had prompted Hugh to leave the conventional "solid" gym floor and the grip of gum rubber, to insure fast foot work, and to get on such "slippery" things as ice skates. We cornered him after the show and modestly Hugh told us about working out the timing of his almost impossible shots, and the racing thoughts that flash thru his mind as he speeds on skates to return a drop-clear with more than 20,000 pairs of eyes on him. He MUST make that shot, and it MUST go over the net. (Ed. Note: He makes them too!) But, says Hugh, a lot depends on the Commentator who builds up the tempo for the spectators, as with his patter, puts on the finishing touches to a performance that otherwise might look like "a couple of guys just practicing, and waiting for the starting whistle to blow." It seems that this is the explanation for the failure of several acts in the early history of "Badminton on the Stage."

Going further into the history of this form of entertainment, we learned that

the first badminton act with a commentator was staged by Ken Davidson and Thelma Kingsbury in New York, in 1936. They first appeared in the Rainbow Room but success soon vaulted them into the Roxy Theater. Shortly afterward, Thelma became ill and Hugh Forgie was solicited to take her place. Another man in the act made considerable difference in the speed displayed, and so successful were the team of Davidson and Forgie that they were booked for the Palladium in London, England, in 1938. There they ran for 38 weeks and did a Command Performance. Forgie's brother, Tom, was playing hockey in the Olympics, which were receiving much publicity, and thru him, Hugh was approached as to the possibility of badminton being played on ice. Hugh felt that this feat might be accomplished, but, altho a former hockey player himself, he of course was not available at the time. As a result of this discussion, six Canadian hockey players, during their off season, played badminton on ice in three English Ice Shows.

With the war clouds boiling, Davidson and Forgie returned to the United States. Forgie contacted the Ice Capades Managers and readily sold them the idea of badminton on ice, but before being able to play, he joined the armed services and was sent to the Aleutian Islands. There, as in many other places, he set up courts and organized the game

for fellow brothers in the service of their country. On returning to civilian life, he was offered a job with the Ice Capades and immediately signed up—without a partner! Stig Larson, a schoolboy hockey player from Connecticut, had heard a lot about Hugh Forgie, and had been waiting for his return to the east where he might become his student in badminton. In Forgie's deft hands, Stig quickly developed into one of the national ranking players. This brave pair of lads staged their first show on ice at Atlantic City—WITHOUT ANY PRACTICE!!!

The Ice Capades is the largest show of its kind in the world today, and the Forgie-Larson act has been a part of it for more than three years—they have played to over 6,000,000 persons. During the past season the act has been televised and in that way reaches many more. Where these two have it over all others, is that formerly it was "good skaters" trying to play badminton on ice, and now it is "expert badminton players" playing the game on skates.

## ★ DAVIDSON HOLDS CLINIC

Ken Davidson, nationally known Badminton professional, has a series of exhibitions coming up in the schools of California. He is setting up a clinic to teach the physical education teachers the basic principals of badminton so that they will be better able to instruct their pupils.



# BADMINTON UNDER THE NAZIS

THE FIRST ATTEMPTS at playing badminton in Norway were made during the first World War. Mr. Hudson—the British consul at Alesund—had brought the game along with him from his native country.

In 1939 The Norwegian Badminton Association was joined to The National Norwegian Badminton Association of Athletics and The International Badminton Federation.

Two main factors are responsible for the fact that Norwegian badminton has not had the same rapid development as Danish. One of them is the great interest taken in our winter sport, skiing, skating, bandy and ice-hockey, the season of which is the same as ours, and the other is the long distances between the places that should have possibilities of being badminton-minded.

This year Hjalmar Lystad won as his personal property the Cup of The Danish Sporting-Article Industry, and also His Majesty The King's Cup. The winner of the ladies' single gets a share in the Nor-

Reprinted from the "Frederiksberg Badminton Klub Magazine" of May, 1948, of Copenhagen, Denmark

By Gunnar Dorenius, secretary of the Norwegian Badminton Assoc., Oslo

wegian Badminton Association's Cup.

Before the war all Norwegian athletes were members of one of the two federations, The Norwegian Federation of Athletics and The Workers' Athletic Federation. These federations had for several years been in close collaboration, and in 1940 everything was prepared for the foundation of a new league—The Norwegian League of Athletics. Everything was ready, but a few weeks before the constituting meeting the "Nasjonal Samling" (The Norwegian Nazi-Party) intervened and demanded to have a "Leader of Athletics" appointed by Quisling (the Norwegian Nazi leader) as the highest authority. All representatives refused to collaborate with such a leader, and as at the same time some of the best Norwe-

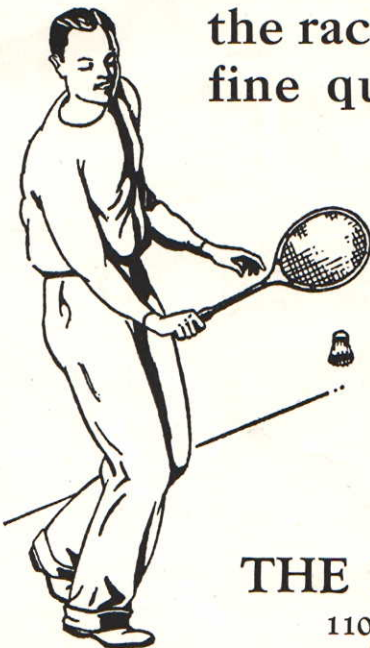
gian athletes were arrested the "athletes' strike" began and lasted for the duration of the occupation. The badminton players and their leaders all followed the parole. Some players tried to play "underground," but gradually all halls were seized, and the import of material being stopped the whole thing ebbed away. The Nazis tried to arrange some tournaments, but they all resulted in failures.

In order to improve our contact with our neighboring countries it was the plan of the Norwegian Badminton Association to arrange an international tournament in the autumn, and we invited the two best Danish and Swedish players, but on account of the trip to India (of the three Danish players, Mrs. Tonny Ahm, Gunnar Holm and Tage Madsen), it has to be postponed. Still we hope to be able to arrange the tournament this autumn as a jubilee-tournament.

★  
CORRESPONDENTS

The copy deadline for the January-February issue of *Bird Chatter*, Official Badminton Magazine, is December 15.

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# Journeys and Topics

## SIX TOURNAMENTS PLANNED BY NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Six tournaments have been planned for the 1948-1949 season by the Northern California Badminton Assn., including the California State Open to be held in San Francisco, March 18, 19 and 20 tentatively.

The other tournaments are as follows: Open Mixed Doubles, Palo Alto—Dec. 5 B. Tournament, San Mateo—Nov. 19, 20, 21

Athens Annual Open, Oakland—Jan. 14, 15, 16

Northern Calif. Open, San Francisco—Feb. 11, 12, 13

B. Tourney, Oakland—Apr. 22, 23, 24.

All dates are tentative.

Ozzie Hilton, Vallejo, has been elected the new NCBA president; Dave Copenhagen, Vice-President; Lloyd Gowen, Secretary; and Walter Brandt, Treasurer. Also on the Board of Directors are Tom Ough and Don McCorkle.

The Association is planning to send out a duplicated news release regularly to all clubs.

*L. E. Gowen, Correspondent*

## 114 PARTICIPATE IN U. of W. BADMINTON PROGRAM

The University of Washington Intermural Sports statistics show that 114 men participated in the Winter Badminton program which was won by the Phi Gamma Delta.

Bill Deacon, unattached, defeated Mike Scanlan, unattached, to take the singles.

## Close Matches Feature L. A. "B & C" Flight Meet

The 4th Annual Los Angeles "B" and "C" Flight Tourney was held at Los Angeles City College June 11, 12 and 13.

### COMPLETE RESULTS: "B" FLIGHT

WOMEN'S SINGLES, Betty Bean def. Lois Harraughty 2-11 11-5 11-1; MEN'S SINGLES, Jim Bishop def. Bert Estabrook, 15-10 15-5; WOMEN'S DOUBLES, Bean-M. Miller def. B. Gudie-K. Bowers, 15-11 15-6; MEN'S DOUBLES, Bill Overkamp-Bishop def. J. Bachom-B. Knowles, 15-9 15-8; MIXED DOUBLES, Overkamp-M. Carr def. B. Estabrook-J. Pons, 15-8 15-11.

### "C" FLIGHT

WOMEN'S SINGLES, M. Hale def. S. McKenna 7-11 11-3 12-10; MEN'S SINGLES, Lou Read def. Al. McLeod 15-11 9-15 15-11; WOMEN'S DOUBLES Sylvia Soloman-Louise DuVall def. June Boyley-Betty Frisz; MEN'S DOUBLES, Marvin McClain-McLeod def. Don Smith-Chet Kiger 15-8 8-15 18-15; MIXED DOUBLES, Jack Frisz-Betty Frisz def. Claude Welcome-Irene Gardner 15-9 11-15 15-7.

## OREGON RE-ELECTS JIM HODGKINS

The Oregon Badminton Association officers and Board of Directors met the middle of September and made plans for the '48-'49 badminton season.

Jim Hodgkins from Beaumont Commerce Badminton Club was reelected President, Mrs. Reo Farmer of Salem "Y" Badminton Club was elected Vice-President, Mrs. Del Schaer of Reed College Badminton Club was elected Treasurer, Al Brown of Multnomah Athletic Club was named Tournament Chairman, Pete Lewis of Beaumont-Commerce Badminton Club was selected as Publicity Manager and Mrs. Ila Marlatt of Multnomah Athletic Club was asked to be Bird Chatter correspondent.

Following are the tentative dates for tournaments scheduled in Oregon: Oct. 20-21 Husband-wife handicap double elimination tourney to be held at Oswego

Lake Country Club; Nov. 15-19; Oregon Closed Fall Handicap tourney to be held at Multnomah Athletic Club; Dec. 6-10 Novelty Tournament; Jan. 17-21 Oregon Closed Tourney; Mar. 5-6 Oregon Open.

Mrs. Del Barkhuff Cunningham, who was National single title holder for 1937 and 1938, who shared honors with Mrs. Zoe Smith Yeager in 1937 for the National ladies' doubles and who, with Hamilton Law won the National Mixed Doubles title for 1937 and 1938, is living out near Oswego Lake. She is the proud mother of a year old daughter. She is a member of the Multnomah Ath. Club and will return to badminton play again this season.

Multnomah Athletic Club held its first "Opening Mixer" for badminton players Wednesday night, Oct. 6, with about 100 players participating and 150 in attendance at the buffet supper. Two badminton movie shorts were shown at the end of the evening. Another "Mixer" will be held in January. The Multnomah Club is the largest Member Club of the Association, having approximately 225 badminton players.

*Correspondent, Mrs. Ila Marlatt*



LOS ANGELES "B" TOURNEY—(1) L. to R., Betty Bean, Marguerite Miller, Kay Bowers, Betty Gudie. (2) Jack Frisz, Betty Frisz, Irene Gardner, Claude Welcome. (3) Claude Welcome, Jack VanPraag, Jess Dalzell, Dick Lundy, Bob MacLeod, Tom MacDougal. (4) Chet Kiger, Don Smith, Bob MacLeod, Marvin McClain. (5) Bill Knowles, Jack Bachom, James Bishop, Bill Overkamp. (6) Betty Frisz, June Bayley, Sylvia Soloman, Louise DuVall. (7) Bert Estabrook, Jeanie Pons, May Carr, Bill Overkamp.



### MISSOURI STATE JUNIORS

(1) L. to R.—Mary Catherine O’Gorman, Virginia Nemeč, James Tancill, Pres. Missouri Bad. Assn., Audrey Mathis, Pat Galbreath. (2) Gerald Gokenbach, Ken Aderholt, Chief Referee, Larry O’Connell. (3) M. Gratia, Joan Goessling. (4) Larry O’Connell, John Evans. (5) Don Brown, Ted Moehlman Jr. (Number 8 ranking U. S. Singles player), Jack Ure.



### Missouri State Holds Junior Outdoor Tournament

Following the lead of the National organization in promoting play for Juniors, the Missouri Badminton Association held a tournament solely for Junior players on July 9, 10 and 11.

Play was held outdoors on four hard-surfaced courts at Manhasset Village, St. Louis County, Missouri. The weather was calm and cool which, coupled with excellently lighted courts, provided ideal playing conditions.

Some 65 odd players entered a total of 161 events, competing for Singles, Doubles and Mixed Doubles titles. In order to attract the very young players the tourney was divided into two age groups—Juniors, for those 14 through 17 years of age, and Small Boys and Girls for those through 14 years of age.

There is little doubt that an all Junior indoor tournament will be held early in '49. One of the most effective means of promoting Junior play is to hold separate Junior Tournaments.

### RESULTS

**JUNIOR BOYS' SINGLES**, Don Brown def. Jack Ure 11-3 8-11 11-1; **JUNIOR GIRLS' SINGLES**, Pat Galbreath def. Bobby Wehner 11-3 11-2; **JUNIOR BOYS' DOUBLES**, Don Brown-Jack Hodges def. Charles Miller-Jack Hendren 15-0 15-1; **JUNIOR GIRLS' DOUBLES**, Pat Galbreath-Audrey Mathis def. Mary O’Gorman-Virginia Nemeč 15-8 15-5; **JUNIOR MIXED DOUBLES**, Don Brown-Pat Galbreath def. Jack Ure-Yvonne Hug 15-8 15-2; **SMALL BOYS' SINGLES**, Gerald Gokenbach def. Larry O’Connell 11-7 12-10; **SMALL GIRLS' SINGLES**, Joan Goessling def. M. Gratia 11-0 5-11 11-5; **SMALL BOYS' DOUBLES**, John Evans-Larry O’Con-

nell def. Herpel Perkins III-Bob Kolb 18-15 7-15 15-9; **SMALL GIRLS DOUBLES**, Carol Bansbach-Mary Albers def. Joan Ebner-Shirley Giesler 15-6 7-15 15-10; **SMALL BOYS' & GIRLS' MIXED DOUBLES**, John Evans-Joan Goessling def. Bob Kolb-Carol Bansbach 15-12 8-15 15-3.

Correspondent, John B. Hayes, Pub. Ch. Missouri Badminton Assn.



### HAYES LEADS MISSOURI BADMINTON ASSOCIATION

The following officers of the Missouri Badminton Association were elected at a meeting held in St. Louis on October 15, 1948:

President, John B. Hayes; Vice-President, Albert L. Galbreath; Treasurer, Carl Lundvall; Secretary, Mrs. Peg Goessling; Executive Committee, James Tancill, Chairman; George Horne, Franklin Hack, Miss Betty Carpentier, Charles Ochs.

Peg Goessling, Correspondent

### Elms-Templeton Surprise At Manhattan Beach Events

The Second Annual Manhattan Beach Mixed Doubles Tournament was held August 21 and 22. These matches are very novel with regular mixed, sub-octet play-off, and a veteran mixed event. The latter match is for any man and woman whose ages add up to 75 or more.

The highlight of this year’s tourney was the new team of Gene Elms and Barbara Templeton. They won the sub-octet play-off and nearly ran over Dave Freeman and Helen Tibbetts in a close three game match in the quarter finals.

### RESULTS:

**REGULAR MIXED**: Dave Freeman-Helen Tibbetts def. Irl Madden-Mildred Jude 15-6 15-8; **VETERANS MIXED**, Gene Elms-Thelma Scovil def. Lewis Rulison-K. Bowers, 15-11 15-11; **SUB-OCTET**, Gene Elms-B. Templeton def. R. Cole-Marianna Gott, 15-9 7-15 15-2.



AT MANHATTAN BEACH—(1) Gene Elms, Barbara Templeton, Marianna Gott, Roy Cole. (2) Gene Elms, Thelma Scovil, Larry Cole, Elizabeth Anselm, Kay Bowers, Lewis Rulison, Helen Mullin, Barney McCay. (3) Trophies Manhattan Mixed—Mantle in Club Lounge. (4) Gene Elms, Thelma Scovil. (5) Irl Madden, Mildred Jude. (6) Lewis Rulison, Kay Bowers. (7) Tex Mays Trophy presented by Tex to Helen and Dave—2nd year. (8) Buzz Hunter, Thelma Scovil, Dottie Hann, Bill Busby, Helen Tibbetts, Dave Freeman, Mildred Jude, Irl Madden.

**Janet Wright Wins Close Match at Semana Nautica**

The beautiful Montecito Country Club played host to the 8th Annual Semana Nautica Tourney over the 4th of July week-end.

The women's singles saw a three game battle with Janet Wright pulling that all-important last game from Helen Tibbetts.

The men's singles was another three game fight with Martin Mendez downing Wynn Rogers 15-17, 15-9, 15-6.

**RESULTS: "A" FLIGHT**

**WOMEN'S SINGLES**, Wright def. Tibbetts 3-11 11-9 11-5; **MEN'S SINGLES**, Mendez def. Rogers 15-17 15-9 15-6; **WOMEN'S DOUBLES**, Marianna Gott-Dottie Hann def. Wright-Connie Davidson 15-11 15-12; **MEN'S DOUBLES**, Irl Madden-Norm Blanchet def. Gene Elms-Mendez 17-15 15-12; **MIXED DOUBLES**, Rogers-Loma Smith def. Madden-M. Jude 15-10 15-9; **VET'S DOUBLES**,

Gene Elms-Moon Mullins def. Lewis Rulison-Hulet Smith 18-17 12-15 15-9.

**"B" FLIGHT**

**WOMEN'S SINGLES**, E. Gwinette def. Mrs. M. Mullin, 11-3 11-3; **MEN'S SINGLES**, B. Wells def. M. Morehouse 15-7 11-15 15-8; **WOMEN'S DOUBLES**, B. Gudie-K. Bowers def. Lois Smedley-Carol Jennings 15-1 15-6; **MEN'S DOUBLES**, Lou Read-Al Kirby def. B. Heideman-J. Houghton 15-11, 15-8; **MIXED DOUBLES**, Read-Bowers def. J. Bishop-J. Gibbs, 14-17 15-12 15-11; **VET'S DOUBLES**, T. Taylor-T. Erkkila def. H. Endene-M. McElhanney 15-7 15-5.

*Helen Tibbetts, Correspondent*

**★ WILSON TO PUBLISH BOOK**

Charles Hare and Olen L. Parks of the Tennis and Badminton department of Wilson Sporting Goods Company have announced that that company is planning a pamphlet called "How to Play Badminton" for early distribution.

**MASSACHUSETTS LAUNCHES ACTIVE SEASON**

Weeks of preparation were evidenced at the Annual Fall Meeting of the Mass. Badminton Association held Oct. 14 at the University Club of Boston.

The committee programs for the year presented by Pres. Charles Newhall and his chairmen indicated a full season of league play, tournaments and junior activity. Changes presented in policies for ranking and the consequent realignment in the proper classes should provide for increased and better competition in the B. C and D classes. Membership is already about the same as last year and new clubs recently formed in both Metropolitan Boston and Western Mass. are being contacted.

The tentative tournament schedule subject to approval by the ABA Tournament Committee is as follows:

- Dec. 3, 4—A-C Men's Doubles at University Club
- Dec. 16, 17, 18—Class D Championships at Winchester
- Jan. 13, 14, 15—Class C Championships at University Club
- Jan. 22nd—Men's Doubles (Open) at Gut'N Feathers
- Feb. 3, 4, 5—Class B Championships at University Club
- Feb. 24, 25, 26—State Championships at University Club
- March 17, 18, 19—New England Championships at University Club

League play commences Nov. 9th with two Men's Doubles divisions and one mixed group. In the men's league the B-C division includes Quincy, Hyde Park, Gut'N Feathers, Shady Hill, and YMCA., and in the C division—Maugus, Watertown, Winchester and Needham. The mixed group shows C-D teams from Maugus, Hyde Park, Quincy, Needham and Winchester.

Junior activity is headed by organized state instruction with a professional in charge at the University Club commencing Saturday, Oct. 30th and will be held every Saturday morning from 10 to 12 a.m. Other clubs operating junior groups include Maugus, Waban, Weston and Gut'N Feathers. Date of the State Junior Championships is not yet determined but is expected to be held in February.

Bird Chatter material has been placed in the hands of all clubs and a special drive for subscriptions is being supervised by Don Richardson and June Tinglof. Great interest was displayed in the new cover and ideas as presented to the annual meeting.

Other officers of the State Association for this season are: Vice-president, John Munroe (Shady Hill); Secretary, June Tinglof (Back Bay); Treasurer, William Walker (Watertown).

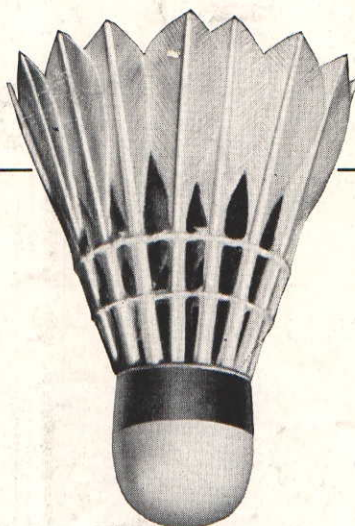
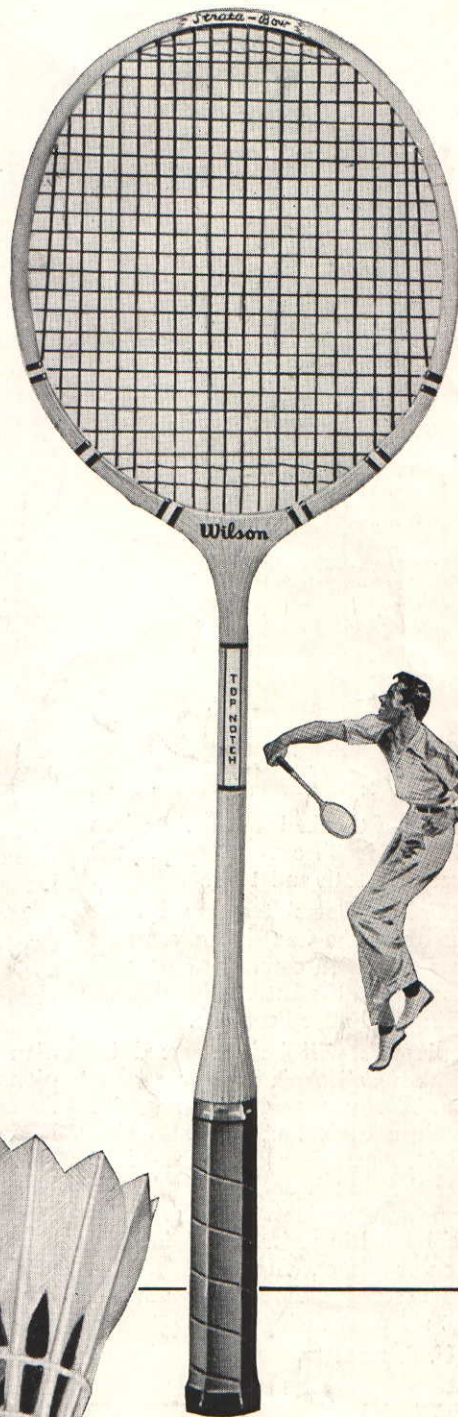


**SEMANI-NAUTICA SHOTS**—(1) Marten Mendez, Wynn Rogers. (2) Irl Madden, Norm Blanchett, Marten Mendez, Gene Elms. (3) James Bishop, Joan Gibbs, Kay Bowers, Lou Read. (4) Janet Wright, Connie Davidson, Marianna Gott, Dottie Hann. (5) Wynn Rogers, Loma Smith, Mildred Jude, Irl Madden. (6) Lois Smedley, Carol Jennings, Kay Bowers, Betty Gudie. (7) Malchom Morehouse, Bob Wells. (8) Gene Elms, Moon Mullin, Hulet Smith, Lewis Rulison. (9) Janet Wright, Helen Tibbetts. (10) Madden, Jude, Smith, Rogers.

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## BADMINTON EQUIPMENT



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# SIR THOMAS CUP

## AMERICAN ZONE FINALS IN PASADENA



PASADENA, CALIFORNIA will be the scene of the finals of the American Zone Sir Thomas Cup playoffs next December 11th and 12th.

The United States' team will meet the winners of the Canada-India match to determine which country will represent this zone in the International playoffs in England next February.

The playoffs will be sponsored by the Southern California Badminton Association. The games will be played in the Pasadena Civic Auditorium which seats 2,968. There is a clearance of 37 feet over the courts, and other playing conditions are excellent. Tickets may be obtained by writing Mrs. Virginia Hill, 460 Spencer Street, Glendale 2, California. The starting time of the matches will be 7:45 p.m. each night.

The U. S. team has not been chosen

as yet by the Thomas Cup Committee, headed by Warren Wheary, Chicago. The team is expected to be chosen from the following players: David Freeman, Pasadena, Calif.; Martin Mendez, San Diego, Calif.; Carl Loveday, Montclair, New Jersey; Robert Williams, Niagara Falls, N. Y.; Wynn Rogers, Arcadia, Calif.; Clinton Stephens, Baltimore, Md.; Barney McCay, Alhambra, Calif.; Ted Moehlmann, Jr., University City, Mo.; George Harman, Ponca City, Okla.; Norman Blanchet, Oakland, Calif.

If the U. S. squad is the winner of the American Zone they will draw Malaya in the first round in England next February. Malaya is the only entry in the Pacific Zone. If the U. S. should defeat Malaya it will meet the European Zone winner. The European team will be the survivor of the matches between France, Scotland, England, Ireland, Denmark and Sweden.

Most observers expect Denmark to capture the European crown. This spring Danish players swept the All-England Championships. Last winter, in competition with Malayan and Indian teams in the India National Championships, Tage Madsen, Number 3 Dane player, and Paul Holm, Number 2 Dane player, lost both singles and men's doubles to Malayan players. S. A. Durai, Malaya, won the singles and Samuel and Chan Leong, famous brother team of Malaya, took the doubles title. However, Jorn Skaarup, Number 1 ranking Dane, who won the All-England meet, did not make the trip.

India expects to meet easy competi-

tion in the American Zone. Neither Canada nor the U. S. has ever been tested in international competition and the Indians may find the caliber of play much higher than anticipated.

The nation winning the International Badminton Championship, commonly known as the Thomas Cup Matches, will be host nation for the next meeting in 1952. The champion nation will stand out of competition and shall be challenged for the Championship by the nation winning the final match between the zone winners.

The teams are composed of not more than six or less than four amateur men players. Each match consists of 5 men's singles events and 4 men's doubles matches with the team which wins the majority being declared winner.

The Canadian-Indian matches will be played in Toronto the first week of December at the Carleton Club.

During their stay the India squad hopes to tour the U. S. and Canada and engage in match play. This will be the first time a foreign team has invaded America since the English team, headed by Sir George Thomas, came over about 20 years ago.

Sir George Thomas, Bart., president of the International Badminton Federation, donated the Thomas Cup to the Federation in 1939. Sir Thomas was All-England singles champion from 1920 thru 1923. He won his first All-England title in men's doubles in 1906 and his last title, also in men's doubles, in 1928.

He is one of three players to ever win a perpetual cup for singles in the

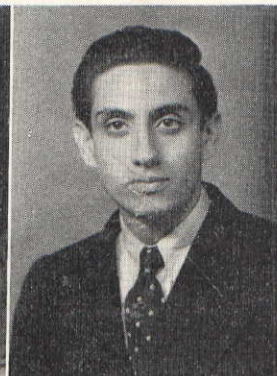
## PLAYERS TO REPRESENT INDIA IN ZONE PLAYOFF



B. V. ULLAL



DAVINDER MOHAN



B. D. SHROFF



VIJAY MADGAVKAR



GEORGE LEWIS



fifty years of All-England Championships. In 1921 he won men's singles, men's doubles and mixed doubles, to be one of the few men to make a clean sweep in this oldest of badminton tournaments.

Next season will mark the Golden Jubilee of the All-England Championships and many Thomas Cup players are expected to stay over and compete in these events on March 5th.

From 1910 to 1946, the All-England Badminton Championships were held in the Royal Horticultural Hall at Westminster.

The International badminton competition is this game's counterpart of the Davis Cup for Lawn Tennis.

The India team leaves Bombay by air Nov. 5, for London. They leave Southampton November 9th by S. S. "Aquitania" for Halifax.

Davinder, Mohan Lal is the best India player. A quiet, unassuming person, he covers the court with ease and he has tremendous reach and retrieving power. He has a powerful smash.

George L. Lewis captains the team. At 37 he is the oldest player and ranks second to Mohan. His court strategy is exceptionally good. Quite a clown on the court, Lewis caricatures the peculiarities of his fellow players to everyone's amusement.

D. G. Mugwe is essentially a doubles player who is very good at the net. He is the team's only lefthander.

Henry Ferreira is a "runner" who has very good stamina.

A flashy player but rather inconsistent is B. D. Shroff.

One of the younger players, G. Hemmady plays a cool game and has good footwork.

B. V. Ullal is a good doubles player who anticipates the shot well.

Vijay Madgavkar, Secretary All India Badminton Association, has an astonishing variety of strokes and a terrific smash. His teammate Lewis says he is a very moody and temperamental player and definitely past his best. With his clowning reputation, most observers consider that Lewis is being facetious. Madgavkar has been secretary of the association for the last eight years. He also plays a good game of Billiards, Bridge, Cricket and Tennis.

President of the India B. A. is His Highness Maharaja Gaekwar of Baroda, who is one of the richest men in the world today. He was a recent visitor to the U. S.

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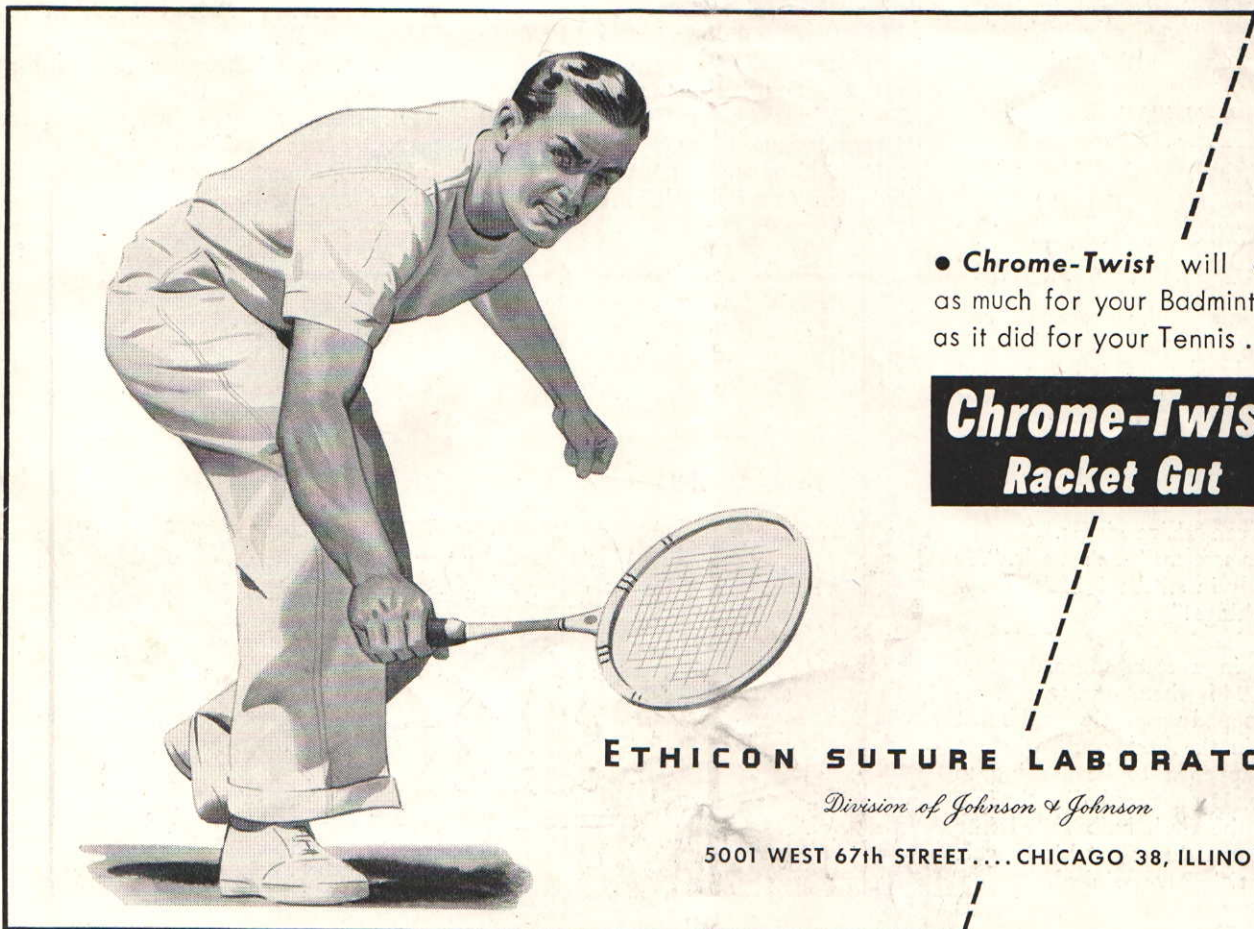
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## Don Williams Heads Patron's Association

Don Williams, Boston, has been chosen the first president of the American Badminton Patron's Association. George McCook, Pasadena, is the Vice-president and Warren Wheary, Chicago, is Secretary-treasurer.

One of the most important projects facing this association is providing for the participation of players in the International Badminton Championships in England. All the Association activities are directed toward building up badminton in the U. S.

Badminton Associations or persons can become founder members by contributing \$50.00 on admission. Corporations can become founder members by donating \$100.00 on admission. Sustaining members are individuals or badminton associations who contribute \$10.00 on admission.

The terms of continuance of memberships in this corporation shall be provided by the association's board of trustees.

Plans call for 200 founder members.

A board of trustees of 26 members scattered throughout the U. S. is in the process of formation.

Correspondence regarding the Patron's Association should be sent to Warren Wheary, 1805 So. 55th Ave., Chicago 50, Ill.

The A. B. P. A. has been organized as a separate organization from the A. B. A. itself. It is not managed by the present officers and directors.

More information is to be carried in a later issue of Bird Chatter.

## WESTERN N.Y. ADVANCES PLAYER RANKINGS

On September 21, the Western New York Badminton Ass'n. held its first meeting at the Buffalo Athletic Club to discuss plans concerning badminton play for the 1948-49 season.

The following local district players were advanced in rating as a result of their improved play:

### From B to A:

Robert Mack, Robert Eckis, Jack Christman, Richard Salem, Jane Shaw, Margaret Michlin, Jane Moriarity, Alice Jackson and Evelyn Sharmach.

### From C to B:

Jae Garmony, Ann Mack, Jean Harris, Jose Ferraraccio, Clara Jung, Esther Szulist, Dolores Zintek, Loretto Ruth, Betty Ackley, Clara McCabe, Ruth Becker, Rose Salemi, Errol News, Randy Rice, William Swann, John Marcello, Melvern W. Stewart, William H. Morse, David Walsh, A. Burnett, John Fuess, E. Moses, Walter Studer, Preston Ruth and Walter Carmichael.

Correspondent, Jack Bowling

★

## J. E. ROBSON TAKES CROWN

J. E. Robson and Miss M. Kerr took the singles crowns in the National Badminton Championships held in Dunedin, New Zealand last August.

Miss M. Kerr also won in mixed doubles with G. Pearce and in ladies' doubles with Mrs. P. Hawksworth.

Mr. Robson won men's doubles with A. L. Scott.

Graham E. Neill, Correspondent

★

## KING DAVID'S COURT

(Continued from Page 5)

Mrs. Helen Tibbetts, Freeman's mixed doubles partner who lost a close one with him in the 1947 nationals to titlists Rogers and Virginia Hill, is amazed and amused by Dave in equal proportions.

Very seriously, she will tell you about his unorthodoxy of style, his tremendous sense of timing, his remarkable footwork, brainwork and wind. She will claim that, while superhuman at singles, he is merely superb at doubles. Then suddenly, she bursts in to a convulsive giggle.

"He's such a scream!" she squeals. "He keeps everybody in stitches! He's always doing crazy things!"

Such as?

Well, like in a state tournament at Burbank in 1946 when, during one sequence, he plopped purposely on the seat of his pants in the back court where a cameraman happened to be waiting to take a picture. Dave stared directly into the lens. As the flash bulb flared into violence, Freeman thrust out his tongue.

"How's that?" Dave winked.

He's such a scream. But nobody bosses the birds like King David.

## MIAMI DEFEATS TAMPA IN CLUB MATCHES

The newly organized Tampa YMCA Badminton Club was host to the Miami Club, Saturday, October 2 at the Hillsborough High School gym. Miami took a 6-2 victory with Virginia Palmer, in women's singles, and Mrs. R. D. LaHayne-Joanne Young in women's doubles salvaging the pieces for Tampa.

The Tampa group was organized last April and meets twice a week at the YMCA. Officers are Elmer Linn, President; T. H. York, Vice-President and Mrs. La Hayne, Secretary.

Active members are: Joe Dalton, Dr. W. C. Myers, J. P. Lane, James Arnold, Randall Carey, R. D. LaHayne, Dick Lotz, Bill Roberts, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Menendez, and Misses Rolene LaHayne, Nancy Corey, Allene Britain, Joanne Young and Virginia Palmer.

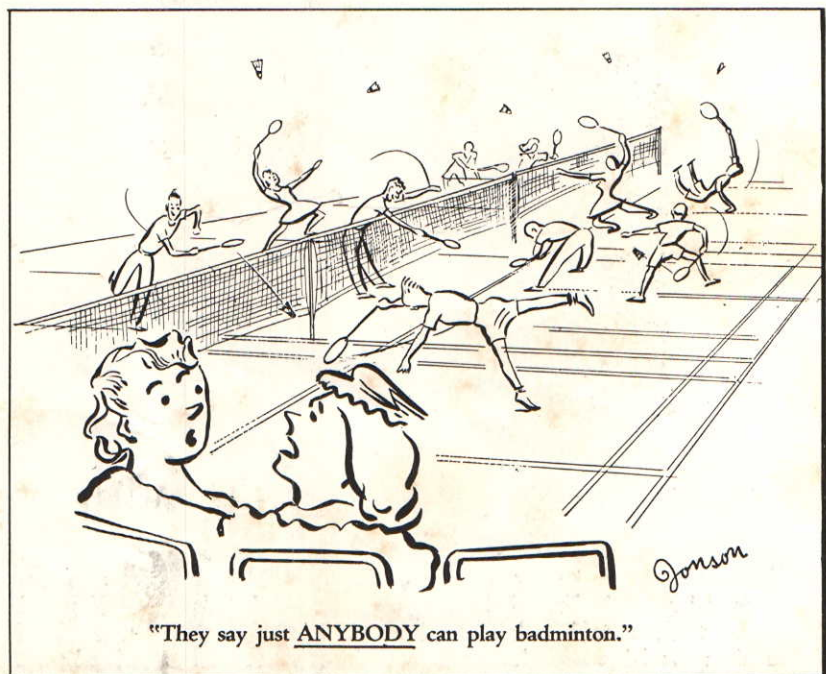
Tampa expects to hold its City tournament during November.

Mrs. LaHayne, Correspondent

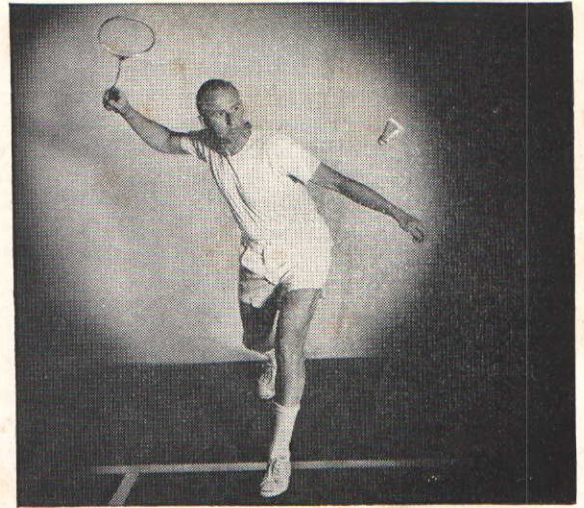
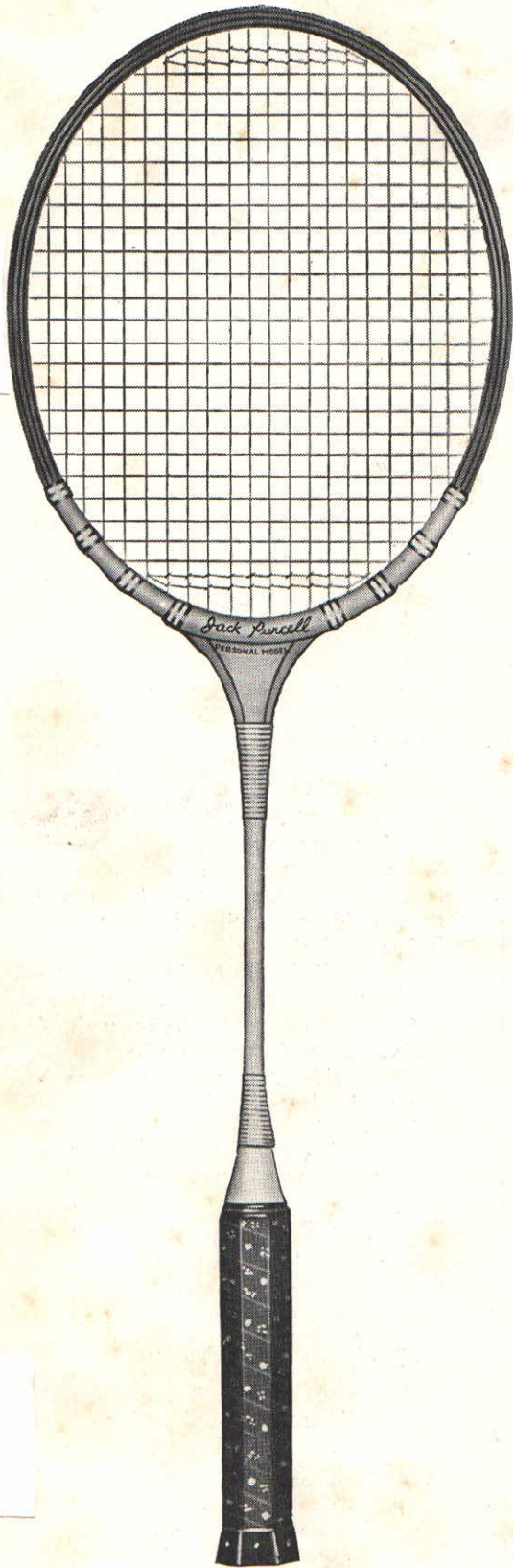
★

## "LET'S PLAY BADMINTON" STILL IN DEMAND

"Let's Play Badminton," the 16 m.m. color and sound film is still in great demand by clubs, schools and colleges. Application for showing should be made to the nearest distributor: General Sportcraft, 215 Fourth Avenue, New York 3, N.Y.; Victor Sports Company, 4501 Packers Avenue, Chicago 9, Illinois; Jas. B. Dick Company, 719 West Olympic Blvd., Los Angeles, California.



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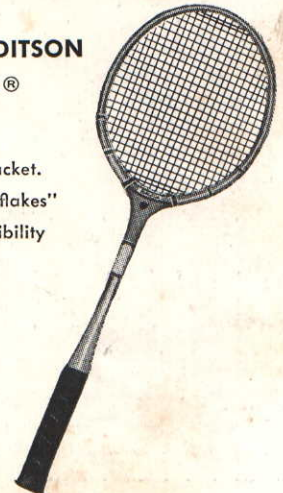
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without added  
weight.



## EARLY FUNDAMENTALS OF BADMINTON

(Continued from Page 7)

can be added to the length of the reach by allowing the end of the racket handle to slide up through the palm of the hand until only the forefinger and the thumb, with some aid from the middle finger, are holding the last inch or two of the handle. Not much power can be generated by this irregular grip but, on some occasion when a point is urgently needed and the shuttle is not too far away from the net, it may be found possible to reach out and guide, rather than hit, the shuttle back over the net. Or, in extreme cases, a backhand return might be made possible by allowing the handle of the racket to swivel on an axis formed by holding the sides of the racket handle between the middle of the forefinger and the middle of the thumb. The end of the handle leaves the palm of the hand as the three other fingers relax their grip and the head of the racket describes an outward arc which finishes at right angles to the arm. Although an amazing angle

body. It is a most important link too for the wrist provides the final movements in a series of movements which combine to make up a complete stroke. Each movement must be timed perfectly to get the best results but the proper use of the wrist will determine whether or not the stroke has power and crispness. A rigid or tensed wrist provides no impetus to the racket head, it merely acts as an extension of the arm. Players who play with a rigid wrist, and they are legion amongst the ranks of tournament players as well as in the novice class, use a punching action with the arm, wrist and racket kept in one straight line from the elbow. (These players wonder why their arms become tired.)

The wrist must provide some motion of its own.

The faster the racket head can be swung, with control, the more power you can put into your strokes—an important factor from the base line. The

full swing on a forehand stroke the wrist will bend almost 180 degrees from the beginning of the stroke to the completion of the follow-through. The degree of bending may diminish somewhat as less power is needed for shots nearer the net. The bending back of the wrist and its bending inwards on the follow-through should be present on ALL strokes, even on the most delicate of net shots which are played within an inch or two of the top of the net. For these shots of fine touch the wrist must remain firm and supple and not dangle loosely, thereby "babying" the shot. Many tournament players fail on this particular stroke, after they have positioned the body and extended the arms perfectly, because they hold their wrist still (not necessarily rigid) and offer a "dead" racket to the shuttle. However slight it may be, there must be some forward motion of the wrist for these close net shots.

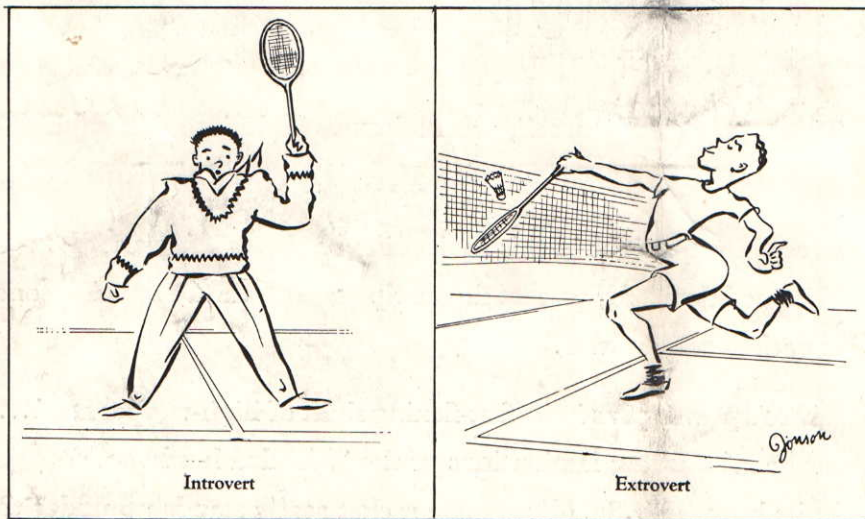
If the forehand grip is retained for use on the backhand side, the wrist action is just the reverse of the normal forehand wrist movements—with the wrist being inwards first (on the backswing) and then outwards on the follow-through.

The regular backhand grip, with the thumb placed straight up the handle, has a different wrist action. The wrist bends sideways. It moves towards the thumb side of the hand on the backswing, and then released forward towards the little finger side of the hand on its way to contact the shuttle and the consequent follow-through. Although the wrist can only be bent half as much sideways as it can backwards the slight loss in distance is greatly offset by the extra snap imparted by the pressure of the thumb which is behind the racket handle on the backhand grip.

On a full swing on the backhand, after contact is made, it will be noticed that the racket has a tendency to turn over (away from the body) on the follow-through. Do not try to stop this natural follow-through movement. Allow the wrist to freely follow the direction of the racket head and a strong, rhythmic stroke will result.

### "Practice Makes Perfect"

By swinging at an imaginary shuttle the novice will more quickly mold these wrist actions into a complete, even uninterrupted movement. One way of finding out whether or not you are getting your wrist "into" the stroke is by listening to the sound of the racket going through the air. Take a full swing with the arm—if you keep your wrist locked there will not be much sound but if the wrist is cocked and then released mid-way through the



of return is possible it naturally follows that there cannot be much strength in such a flimsy hold. Needless to say, these and other extraordinary unorthodox grips can only be used by players of long experience and they should not displace the regular use of the normal forehand and backhand grips.

Some slight variations may occur in comparing individual grips owing to the difference in the length of fingers, the width of the palm of the hands or the size of the racket handle used but no player can hit the shuttle successfully unless he or she holds the racket in a firm, relaxed manner for all strokes from any part of the court.

### Wrist Action

The wrist is the connecting link between the racket and the rest of the

novice must first learn to cock the wrist back as far as possible.

On the forehand, the wrist bends backwards in the direction of the back of the hand and comes forward again bending inwards towards the palm of the hand. The wrist should be cocked backwards until the very last moment and only released a fraction of a second before the racket head actually strikes the shuttle. Contact with the shuttle is made as the wrist (and racket head) straightens out but there must be no stopping of the forward motion of the wrist at this point. As the wrist continues forward and bends inwards at the start of what is known as the follow-through, the racket head will go ahead of the wrist and arm for the first time in the complete stroke. On a

## EARLY FUNDAMENTALS OF BADMINTON

swing there will be a swishing sound as the racket thrashes the air.

### Wrist Deception

The wrist plays the most important physical part in the deception of the game.

As we have seen, the wrist can bend backwards, forwards and sideways. Control over these wrist movements can reach such a high standard of perfection that they can be made at all speeds—fast to slow. This change of pace is most effective when all the preliminary actions of the stroke look alike. For example, the arm may look as though it is coming through quickly to make a smash and the wrist, cocked back, may add its additional pace to the arm or it may come through slowly—with a slow-motion action—and the shuttle, instead of flashing over the net as a smash, may float gently down near the net as a drop-shot. Or, an "obvious" looking soft shot may instantly become a fast one by a sudden quickening of the wrist.

Not only can the wrist change the pace of a shot at the last moment but it can also alter the direction of the return. By turning the wrist slightly

one way or the other as the forearm moves into stroking position the shuttle can be directed to one side of the court or the other.

No individual can become one of the great players of Badminton until the flawless blending of these two wrist movements are perfected to keep the racket head under complete control.

The quickness with which the wrist can be brought into action so late in the production of a stroke, without giving any indication of the return's speed or direction, makes Badminton the most deceptive of all sports.

Remember, the wrist movement is a complete movement of its own but it is not the only movement in the production of a stroke—footwork, body positioning and arm action must be correct for the wrist to be utilized to the best advantage.



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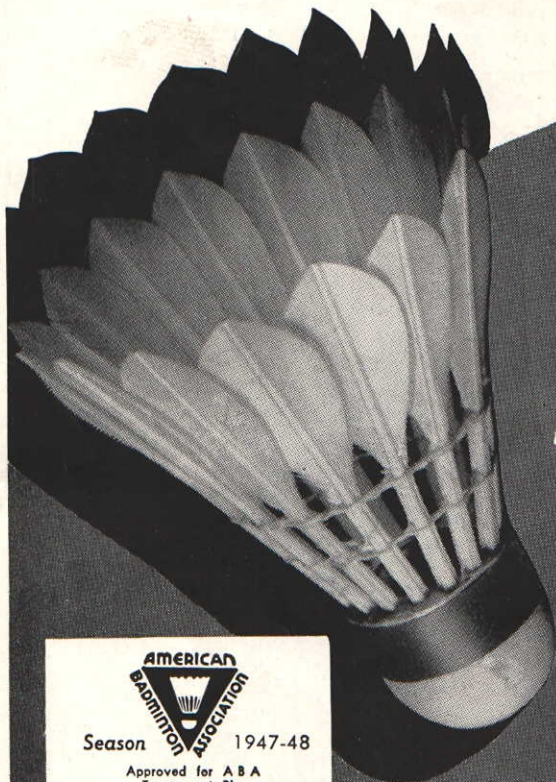
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## Letters to Editors

Sir:

I still think the name "National Shuttlecock" would be an improvement instead of Bird Chatter.

Ted Jarrett  
New York City

● Readers, what do you think?—Ed.

Sir:

Please send me some more subscription blanks. I've already got my quota down to 797!!

Joel Baker  
Washington, D. C.

● Maybe we should raise the quota.—Ed.

Sirs:

... the boys at home (India) are anxious to know the badminton potentiality of this country. More so as India is in the American Zone and meets the U.S.A. in the second round.

Mr. P. M. Jhaneri  
New York City

● Mr. Jhaneri should have said MIGHT meet the U.S.A. in Los Angeles in the second round. A tough Canadian Thomas Cup team could upset the apples in Toronto.—Ed.

Sirs:

Please call on us for any help you may need from Connecticut. We will do our best for you.

Don Hersam  
New Canaan, Conn.

● Just one of hundreds of letters from badminton enthusiasts. All have been very helpful and are appreciated.—Ed.

Sir:

Shuttles need attention just like a car but few if any players read the instructions on the outside of the shuttlecock tubes. Just for a test, have you read the instructions on the outside of a dozen tube which has a humydrôle?

Kenneth R. Davidson  
La Canada, California

● No.—Ed.

Sirs:

I was checking the list of clubs in Connecticut and there are about 21. So if we can get 14 subscriptions from each club that should give us our quota.

Ken Kost,  
Bridgeport, Conn.

● From a Connecticut sparkplug comes the logical answer to the quota problem.—Ed.

Sirs:

How do you propose that beginners like myself ever improve their badminton when the better players pass us up for games?

M. Johnson,  
Seattle, Wash.

● M. Johnson has hit a touchy spot that deserves an answer. How have you solved this problem in your district?—Ed.

## DANES RELEASE RANKINGS

Players that the winners of the American Zone Thomas Cup matches will probably meet in the final playoff in London are included in the following Danish Ranking Lists for 1947-1948. These lists were released September 13th, by the Danish Badminton Association.

Men's Singles, Jorn Skaarup; Ladies' Singles, Tonny Ahm; Men's Doubles (both teams ranked equally), Jorn Skaarup-Preben Dabelsteen, Tage Madsen-Borge Frederiksen; Ladies' Doubles, Tonny Ahm-Kirsten Thorndahl; Mixed Doubles (both teams ranked equally), Jorn Skaarup-Tonny Ahm, Tage Madsen-Kirsten Thorndahl.

Correspondent—K. Lunoe  
Frederiksberg Badminton Klub  
Copenhagen, Denmark

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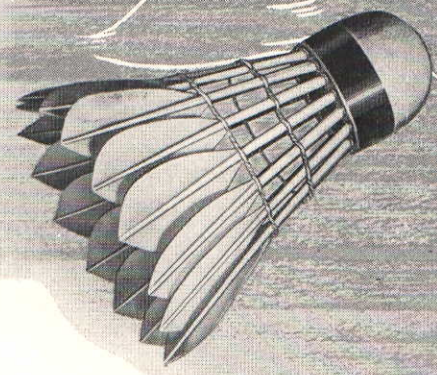


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