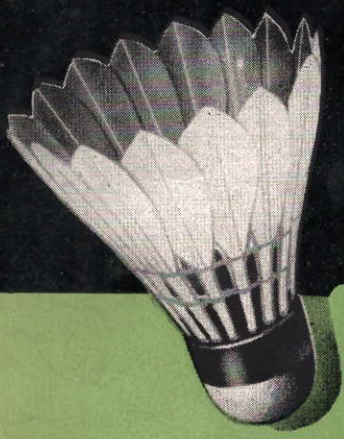


Bird Chatter

OFFICIAL BADMINTON MAGAZINE



JAN - FEB, 1950
VOL. 9
No. 2

In This Issue—
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Bird Chatter



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The Advertisers in Bird Chatter make possible the publication of this magazine, and are contributing directly to the promotion of badminton and the development of the American Badminton Association. They deserve the highest consideration by our readers.

Vol. 9, No. 2 - January-February, 1950

THANK GOD FOR BADMINTON

The Communists take over South China. The national debt rises to a new high. Over 500 are killed in holiday accidents. And a murderer strikes down five in an Eastern city.

Have another aspirin?

Atom bombs can devastate every American city. Depression is predicted. "You're a liar" rings in Security Council meetings. Cost of living rises.

How about a soft couch in a good psychiatrist's office?

Then comes Tuesday and Thursday nights. And a flying shuttlecock blanks out the world's woes and becomes a "Kigmy" for every man's frustrations. After exhaustion and a good night's sleep the scare headlines are reduced to their true worth.

We should all thank God for this game called badminton. For it's the safety valve on our lives.

ROBERT KILDALL, *Editor*

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Everybody Reads Bird Chatter



By ROGER BIRTWELL

Courtesy of Boston Sunday Globe

Gut 'n Feathers

IF A PREACHER were to mount the pulpit of the old Universalist Church in Marblehead, Mass., some Friday evening—he'd probably screech for a psychiatrist.

For, as he turned to face the congregation, he'd find that all the pews were missing.

Even the floor itself would be missing.

Then—gazing into the nether regions beneath the floor—he would see a lot of grown men galloping around in their underwear.

He probably would be more startled, even, than Rip Van Winkle was when awakened from his 20-year snooze in the Catskills. Rip arose from his slumbers and found men bowling. And bowling was something Rip understood. He'd been an old candle-pin blaster himself.

But our bewildered present day parson would behold a sight even more astonishing. For, down on the basement floor of the church, he'd see several of Marblehead's leading citizens running hither and

Bottom Photo (L to R) John Wales (back), Kibby Coe, Charlie Newhall, Jack Clarke, Charlie Rolfe.



yon, swinging latticed fly-swatters at a darting object that looks like a headless humming-bird.

For, unless our preacher had grown up in India, there is a good chance he'd be unacquainted with the game of badminton. And there are very few Universalist preachers among the Moslems and the Hindus.

The game started in India. Then it spread to England. There it picked up its name, through being played at an estate called Badminton. And, more recently, it is being played rather extensively in Canada and the United States.

And in the eastern United States, one of the chief badminton centers is Marblehead.

Folks used to grin—and point significantly at the side of their heads—when several Marblehead badminton enthusiasts, back in 1932, used to play in a vacant garage. For badminton is a Winter game, the garage was unheated and the players used to pursue the "headless hummingbird" clad in overshoes. That is, the overshoes were worn by the players—not the humming-birds.

But grins and wisecracks failed to deter George Stephenson, Ted Rudd, George McQueston and other badminton addicts from keeping everlastingly at it. In 1932 folks had a lot of time on their hands and the original players soon found that their "gang" was expanding.

Chilblains for the Idle

There wasn't sufficient room for all to be playing at once, and they soon found that idle players got chilblains.

Then, several enterprising players had the idea of the vacant Lyceum Theatre, a local amusement temple where the 'Headers' once observed the antics of Mabel Norman, Ben Turpin and John Bunny.

As the theatre had to be rented and this involved the use of money, the badmintonists—most of them experienced business men—decided to incorporate.

They decided on the name of Gut 'n Feathers, Incorporated.

The word "gut," of course, came from the gut of their badminton racquets. "Feathers" came from the plumes of the so-called "bird" that serves as a ball. Actually the feathers don't come from the humming-bird. The origin of the best feathers, however, is just as bizarre. They were plucked from the ribs of Czechoslovakian ducks.

Gut 'n Feathers, Inc. rented the theatre for \$250 per annum, ripped out the orchestra seats and installed both a court and — ah, soothing warmth! — a potbellied coal stove.

Then the game—or the club, at least—caught on. Playing in a freezing garage in one's overshoes may have seemed slightly daft. But playing in a movie theatre with a coal-stove and articles of incorporation somehow invested the par-

ticipants with an air of importance. Membership became socially desirable—and all the better families wanted to join.

"Fine," agreed the charter members of Gut 'n Feathers, Inc. "With more members, we can have a better clubhouse." So they extended their enrollment to a limit of 50 memberships — each membership embracing an entire family. They floated a bond issue of \$10,000 and bought the Universalist Church.

Their acquisition of the church was abetted by the fact that the Universalists had joined with the Unitarians for services in the Unitarian Church.

Social and Athletic Leadership

At present Gut 'n Feathers—which, like Readers Digest, started in a garage—is among the leaders of social and athletic activity in the seaside city.

Marblehead folk of previous generations gathered in their church Sunday



mornings. Nowadays, the principal weekly gathering is at 6:30 Friday night. Women members—in pairs—take turns at serving as hostesses and providing a buffet supper. The price is always 98 cents per capita, and you can eat as much as you can—as long as the victuals last.

After eating, the gathering turns to badminton. And play lasts until well into the night.

An indication of the popularity of the club and its Friday night gatherings is that—in order to prevent overcrowding—there is a sort of "unwritten rule" that no member shall attend two Friday night suppers in succession. For there are fifty-five families, some of them quite sizeable, who have membership now.

The Friday night meetings usually are preceded by cocktail parties in the homes of various members, and Friday nights in Marblehead are thus regarded as a gala occasion for all. It is easy to understand why the club usually has a sizable "waiting list" of families desiring membership.

Tournament Attracts Tops

Chief athletic event of each season at

the old Universalist Church is the annual Gut 'n Feathers invitation tournament. This tournament, which on occasion has attracted some of the foremost badminton players in the world, was held last Winter on Saturday, Jan. 22.

It is a one-day tournament, so the committee cuts the entries down to 16 two-men teams.

During his days in the Harvard Medical School, a few seasons ago, Dave Freeman—the nation's top-ranking player—played in the Gut 'n Feathers invitation.

And in 1948 invitation tourney spectators witnessed a remarkable exhibition by a one-legged player—Don Kerr. Kerr, who is not to be confused with the former Exeter and Harvard baseball player of the same name, comes from Louisiana. Don lost one leg, above the knee, in childhood.

Yet Kerr, paired with Carl Loveday of

Montclair, N.J., fought his way to the final round before bowing to a team from New Rochelle, N.Y., Dick Yeager and Ed Shields.

Members of the club can use the clubhouse at practically any time. But usually Wednesday morning and early afternoon are devoted principally to women's doubles, Sunday morning to men's doubles, and Friday night to mixed doubles.

"How about singles?"

"Badminton singles," replies Charles E. Rolfe, last year's president, "is too gruelling a game for anybody."

"And how," we inquired, "did you come to remove the entire main floor of the Universalist Church? Couldn't you have had courts on both the main floor and the basement as well?"

"We could have," chuckled Rolfe, "if it weren't for one of our members named Ben Langmaid. He's 6 feet 4 inches tall, and when he tried to play in the basement, he kept hitting the rafters with the sweep of his racquet.

"So we had to tear down half the church for him."

Historical Boston Invites Juniors

STORY NOTE

Following the Chicago Nationals, ABA President and Mrs. T. M. Royce visited in the East. Tremendously impressed with Boston, "Tim" believes that every youngster should be entitled to a visit to this "birth-place of freedom." That the important Junior Nationals will be held in Boston this year should be an opportunity for every badminton family to award this priceless trip to its children.



By T. M. Royce

HERE ARE so many places of interest close by Boston's University Club, site of the 4th Junior Nationals, that no participant will come away without having his knowledge of early American history greatly enriched.

At the University Club you are only one block from Copley square, one of the finest municipal squares in the country. The Boston Public Library with nearly two million volumes, the fine Copley-Plaza hotel and Trinity Church bracket the square.

The Boston Common is a leisurely six minute walk from Copley square by Boylston street. About 47 acres in extent, the Common was sold to the town of Boston in 1634 for less than \$150. The British assembled on this spot for their march on Lexington and Concord, 22 miles away. They also mustered here for their attack on Bunker's Hill (really Breed's Hill.)

As you proceed through the Common, to your left is Beacon Hill. It was on Beacon Hill that Boston began

because of the lack of good water in the original settlement, Charlestown. Rev. William Blaxton moved there when he located an abundant spring and Governor Winthrop and others later joined him.

The State House, on Beacon Hill, has many famous paintings on its walls. Hanging from the ceiling since 1895, is the Sacred Cod Fish made of pine and almost five feet long.

At benches inside the Common are groups in earnest discussion. You will find subjects from every day incidents, the evils of strong drink to how the Communist party intends to overthrow the government by force being discussed. You will know you are in the midst of an offshoot of the Town Meeting which still exists here.

Coming from the Common you step onto Tremont street where Lafayette paraded on his mission to lay the corner stone of the Bunker Hill monument in 1825.

About 100 feet to your left is the Park Street Church where "America" was sung for the first time—by school children on July 4, 1831. Visitors are welcome.

Adjoining Park Street Church is the Old Granary Burial ground. On the gravestones are many famous names: Mary (Mother) Goose, James Otis, Samuel Adams, John Hancock, Paul Revere, Benjamin Franklin's parents, Peter Fanueil, the victims of the Boston Massacre, "Pine Tree Shilling" John Hull and many others. You will

have no difficulty locating the graves of Adams and Otis as they have fresh flowers which are placed there every day.

Further on Tremont street at the diagonal corner of Tremont and School street is the King's Chapel and the King's Chapel Burial grounds. Billy Dawes is buried here. On an April night some 175 years before the 4th Junior Nationals, he passed over Boston Neck past the guard on the same mission as Paul Revere. So that at least one would get through, Dawes took one route and Revere another. Dawes is an ancestor of Rufus Dawes Beach, former ABA secretary, and Charles Dawes, former U. S. vice-president.

The beautiful interior of King's Chapel is open to visitors. Built in 1717, the pulpit is the oldest still in use in the U. S.

Turning left from the chapel you will come to the Parker House Hotel, 60 School street, where Parker House rolls originated and the Boston City hall.

One block south from here is Washington street one of the principal business streets of Boston. Within three blocks many of the larger theatres and department stores are located.

Old South Meeting House

At the corner of Washington and Milk streets is the high spired Old South Meeting house also known as the Old South church. It rivals Inde-



Pictures—Boston Chamber of Commerce

"OLD SOUTH MEETING HOUSE" ON BUSY WASHINGTON STREET

"OLD NORTH MEETING HOUSE"

pendence hall in Philadelphia as a revolutionary shrine.

You will be able to walk in the front door instead of climbing through a window as John Warren did in March 1775 when he went to make a speech on the fifth anniversary of the Boston Massacre. The front steps and aisles of the church were filled with British soldiers on a "sit-down strike" to prevent the speech. They failed. Imagine making a speech as did the 34 year old Boston physician on such an occasion with hostile soldiers of the same army that was responsible for the massacre as a large part of your audience. A little over three months later, Warren met his death at Bunker Hill.

You will not see the same scene that confronted Washington on St. Patrick's day, 1776, when he entered the meeting house after Lord Howe had sailed from Boston with his army. "Gentleman Johnny" Burgoyne had torn out the pews and pulpit, covered the floor with gravel, set up a pole for horse jumping and turned the church into a riding academy. A bar had been set up in the gallery. The building has been restored to its original condition.

It was here that the assembled populace sat waiting the results of demands made to Governor Hutchinson that the tea on the ship "Dartmouth" be moved from Boston harbor. After Hutchinson's refusal, Samuel Adams said, "This meeting can do nothing more to save the country." Shortly after warwhooping citizens disguised as Indians threw the tax burdened tea into the water at Griffin's wharf.

West of the church at 17 Milk street, Benjamin Franklin was born.



Judy Devlin, Defending Champion

Old State House

Proceeding East along curving Washington street you will come to the Old State House on State street. It was in this building that James Otis spoke out against the infamous writs of assistance which allowed officers of the Crown to search without specific warrant. At the East end of the building on the corner of State and Congress streets a circle of stones marks the scene of the Boston Massacre, 1770.

Faneuil Hall

One block down Congress street is Faneuil hall, "The Cradle of Liberty", where so many meetings were held in support of the revolution. When Peter

HISTORY ★ REWRITTEN ★



"I did it with my little hatchet"

Faneuil gave the building to the town he required that the first floor be used as a public market. You are welcome to enter and see the historical relics displayed inside.

Five or six blocks along North street is Paul Revere's home, the oldest frame dwelling in Boston, furnished as it was in his time. Some of the original window panes, turning blue with age, are still in the building. Large as the dwelling is you will wonder how it contained his 15 children.

You will step from the same doorway as Revere stepped when he rowed across the Charles to make his famous ride.

Two blocks away is the Old North church where the lantern's were hung.

Going past the North Railway station you walk over the bridge crossing the Charles river. On your right, "Old Ironsides" is at anchor at the Navy Yard. On your left is the bridge Longfellow had in mind when he wrote, that he "stood on the bridge at midnight, when the clock was striking the hour."

On the opposite side of the bridge, you will approach the Bunker Hill monument. As you have walked only

JUNIOR NATIONALS MARCH 24, 25, 26

With Ronnie Ryan, Oakland, and Judy Devlin, Baltimore, back to defend the girls' and boys' singles title and together the mixed event, the fourth National Junior Championships in Boston, March 24, 25, 26 will not lack for high class play.

In fact the event, to be held at the University Club of Boston, will undoubtedly be the largest junior meet yet held.

Donald Richardson, present first vice-president of the ABA, is general chairman for the meet. Events will be boys' singles and doubles, girls' singles and doubles, mixed doubles and combinations in singles only.

Costs for housing and meals will be noted in the entry blanks which are being distributed to member clubs of the ABA and to others who so request. In general, any amateur, who has not reached his or her birthday on March 24, 1950 and is a citizen of the United States is eligible.

More detailed information can be received from Mr. Richardson by writing 20 Wamesit Road, Waban 68, Mass.

three miles you can still climb its 297 steps to the lookout window nearly 221 feet high.

The British made their three assaults against the redoubt where you are standing. Each soldier carried a 100 pound pack on the first two charges, General Gage watched them from the top of the Old North church and the roofs of North Boston were black with people watching the fray.

On this trip you have seen only a part of the historic spots in Boston. You may go to others including the site of the Boston Tea Party, the new Statehouse, Constitution wharf, Franklin Printing Office and Revere's silver shop.

All of these spots will be shown visitors to the 4th Junior Nationals by the large and energetic committee which includes Mr. and Mrs. Don Richardson, Phil Richardson, Charles Newhall, John Garrod, Bob Perry, Winslow Cobb, June Tinglof, Mrs. Mary Richards, Wayne V. Schell, Betsy Shaw, Raynor Hutchinson, Bob Sughrue, Albert Warner, Marion Brown, Joseph Costello, Brian Routledge, Bob Wright, Frederick Putnam, Norma Keetch and many others.

Visiting Boston, to the junior attending the three day badminton meet, will be like an actual trip through the pages of American history.



Equipo Mexicano de Badminton

"Primer Torneo Internacional de Badminton, Estados Unidos vs Mexico, para los dia 14, 16 y 17 de Septiembre de 1949 . . . Mexico 10, Estados Unidos 3."

In these words last fall, Mexicans heard of the arrival of their nation as a major badminton power.

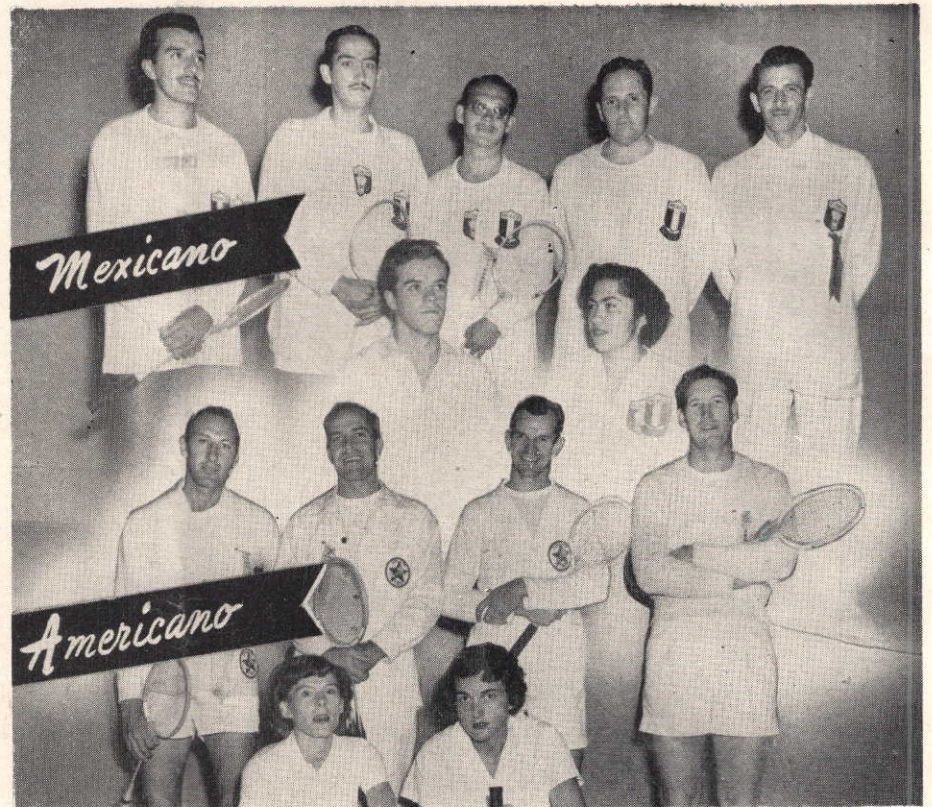
To inaugurate their beautiful gymnasium, El Centro Deportivo Chapultepec in Mexico City the Mexican players invited seven Southwestern stars to take part in the first international matches ever held in the Mexican capitol.

And surprised U. S. players after being treated as invading conquerors were unceremoniously taken apart on the courts. Nick Roberts, from Dallas and one of the participants from America, stated that after George Harman, number 9 U. S. singles player in 1948, lost to Ruben Mejia in single cabaleros 13-18, 15-13, 15-12 that the final outcome was no longer in doubt.

Tall, six foot three inch Harmon depended primarily on his power and height putting his 210 pounds behind deadly smash after smash. But Mejia was retrieving beautifully and accurately. Mejia ability to return almost everything Harman threw at him plus amazingly well placed clears and drop shots proved to be the margin that gave the south of the border player a hard earned victory. Mejia also topped American Hap Horn 15-11, 15-7 but lost to Nick Roberts 18-16, 15-4.

Nearly all of the Mexican players depend on their own accuracy to force errors or weak returns by their opponents.

Ernesto M. Villarreal, Mexican champion since 1940 is the best player by far in that country. He won every match in which he participated. Not only extremely steady with his shots he has marvelous anticipation and never seems to be caught out of position. With regular competition against top notch stars, the Southwesterners feel



MEXICANO, standing (L to R)—Ruben Mejia, Genaro Martinez, Carlos Mendez, Ernesto Villarreal, Rodolfo Mina. Kneeling (L to R)—Fernando Molinar, Eugenia Azuara. AMERICANO, standing (L to R)—Hap Horn, Nick Roberts, Jim Booth, George Harman. Kneeling (L to R)—Jeanette Summers, Margaret Varner.

that he would rank high among the world's best players. He defeated Harman 15-5, 5-15, 15-9 and Hap Horn 15-4, 15-4. Teamed with Mejia he won over Harman-Jim Booth 15-7, 15-5 and Horn-Roberts 15-8, 15-11.

Roberts says that he understands that Villarreal played Marten Mendez two practice games before the Waco nationals and that each won a game. Whether or not Villarreal could defeat Mendez, Nick does not care to guess, but he does believe the match would be close especially if the Mexican has some preliminary practice with our shuttlecocks, which no doubt cause him some difficulty when he comes to the U. S. to play.

Harman's victory over Lic. Genaro Martinez 15-5, 15-6 and his doubles caballeros win with Booth for Jose Rivera-Carlos Mendez 11-15, 15-4, 15-7 accounted for two of the three U. S. points. Roberts-Horn turned back Rivera-Mendez 15-3, 15-3 for the third point.

Martinez' wins over Roberts 15-8,

12-15, 15-6 and Horn 14-18, 17-15, 15-6 completed the men's matches.

None of the ladies' matches counted in the final outcome but Thelmas Harrison, Jeanette Summers and Margaret Varner took 2 out of 3 singles damas matches from Srita. Ma. Eugenia Azura and Enriqueta Mayora. Margaret defeated Eugenia 11-5, 11-5. Earlier Eugenia had measured Thelma 11-6, 11-1. Jeanette Summers took the third match from Enriqueta 11-10, 11-7.

Over 2,000 spectators saw the Mexico City matches. The large gymnasium built by the Club Deportivo Chapultepec has three gymnasiums on different floors, one of which is devoted entirely to badminton. There are four badminton courts with high ceilings, dark walls and covered lights.

The high altitude of the Mexican capitol, some 7,500 feet above sea level, offered some handicaps that might have made the matches somewhat closer although the U. S. players felt that the best team won.

(Continued on Page 23)

How to play Badminton

SERVICE POSITIONS

from "BADMINTON"
The International Textbook of the Game
By DOUG GRANT

In Singles

SINCE it is very difficult to lift the serve out of a defensive role, regardless from which part of the court it is launched, the server will determine his place of delivery according to the position which will allow him to meet the receiver's returns with the minimum of strain.

The center of the court is the main base of operation to which he must inevitably return after every serve in singles, and it is, therefore, advantageous to serve from near the center line which cuts through this base as in A1 and A2.

The server will determine his distance from the front service line according to the position which will enable him to reach alternative drop, clear, and smash returns with maximum facility.

The majority of leading players serve from approximately a yard behind the front service line as in A1 and A2 because this particular distance allows them to both minimize the length of their high serve to the baseline, and to regain the center base with the minimum of steps.

In Doubles

As the server has a partner to share the court and back him up in doubles, he does not have to worry as much about returns to the sidelines as in singles, and he can, therefore, serve from which ever part of the court he finds most advantageous for his favorite type of service. There is such a wide choice in this regard that some doubles champions habitually serve from the center while other consistently launch their delivery from the side lines.

Drive serves, which are useful as a variant in doubles, are most effective when delivered from the extreme sides of the server's court.

It is easier, however, to be accurate with a short serve when standing near the center and the best doubles exponents have proved that either or both positions can be exploited to advantage. The server will also find that there is less advantage in serving from the sideline of his left court than his right because the open angle, for which he is aiming, is covered by the receiver's forehand—inviting a return too fast for comfort.

The illustrations B1 and B2 show the server in the normal center positions for serving in his right and left courts respectively, while X denotes possible alternative positions.

In Mixed Doubles

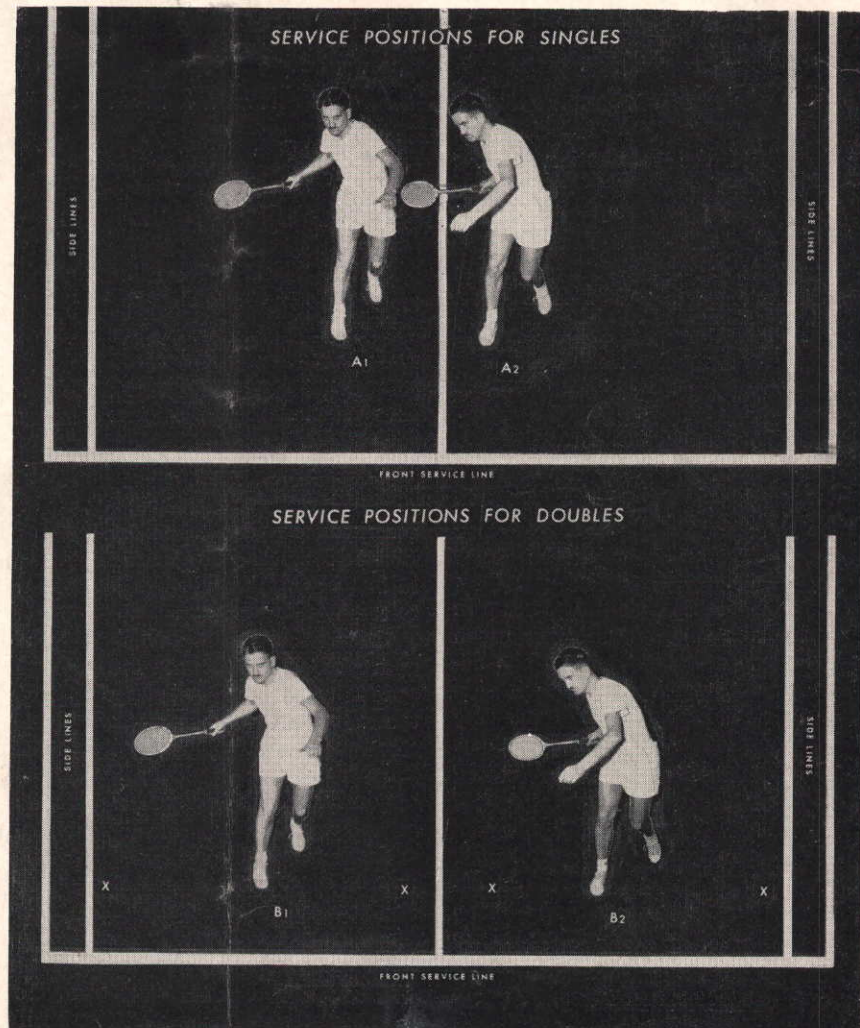
When playing mixed doubles the man can serve from a position further back in the court. With his lady partner covering all or most of the net, he is thus most strategically placed for dealing with smash, drive, or clear returns. Since his major task is to cover the court laterally, he retains his best court position by serving from near the center court.

Likewise the girl must cover both sides of the court at the net and her most effective serving position is near the cen-

ter line. Since the girl must reach all the net shots with lightning speed, she is in the best position to do so when serving well up in the court near the front service line. She, however, must also deliver a serve which crosses the net along a flat line of flight if she is to prevent the receiver from rushing it. As there is a tendency to "hit up" when serving from too close to the net, the girl player will be wise to determine the distance of her serving position from the net on the results of thorough experimentation. This distance will naturally vary according to the style, accuracy, and speed of the individual player concerned.

Variation of Service Position

It is a debatable point whether a player should serve from the same position exclusively. While I believe that in singles the server should serve from the center position only, I feel there is far more scope for using both center and side positions in doubles. Some of the top doubles stars serve from the same spot consistently while others vary their service position from time to time with changing circumstances. While the latter school may not be quite as accurate as the former, I believe they enjoy an advantage for in badminton "variety is the spice of life."





AUSTRALIAN TEAM AND MANAGER—From left to right—Cliff Cutt, Dick Russell, Ethel Peacock, Jean Pullen, Bert Tonkin (manager) Eva Roberts, Nancy Benn, Arthur McCabe, Alan McCabe.



NEW ZEALAND TEAM: Left to right—Ron Lewis, Jeff Robson, Mavis Kerr, Thelma Greaves, Betty Purser, Nancy Fleming, Bryce Baxter, Phil Hawksworth.

“DOWN-UNDER”

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND SERVING NOTICE

WITH the resumption of the Whyte trophy matches this August at Wellington, N. Z., the “Down-Under” nations of Australia and New Zealand are serving notice that they will have to be reckoned with when the 1952 Sir George Thomas cup championships roll around.

Australian champion Alan McCabe's nine man invading team measured the New Zealanders 10 matches to 5 to win the trophy for the third straight time.

These matches were begun in 1938 and held also in 1939 and this year. The War interfered with play but it is expected to be an annual feature.

All five New Zealand's points came in singles matches, but by the same token they lost all the doubles events. The defenders found a weakness in their side by side style in doubles against the very effective “up and back” Australian duos.

Alan McCabe, present champion of Australia, was the outstanding player of the test match. Opposing Jeff Robson, N. Z. champ, he was the complete master, winning 15-10, 15-12. So varied and deceptive was McCabe's play that Robson was kept on the move and was never given an opportunity to get set for his shots. Executing many of his shots with a last minute wrist flick, McCabe splen-

didly concealed the direction and length of his returns. At the same time his smash is so severe that he is deadly on any ill hit shuttle.

Australians Dick Russell and Cliff Cutt employ less guile than McCabe but are very fast players with powerful smashes and accurate drop shots.

Arthur McCabe and Bert Tonkin, manager, made up the fourth and fifth men of the invading team.

Of the Australian women, tall, strong, Miss Eva Robert stood well ahead of her compatriots but found a handful in Miss Mavis Kerr, the New Zealand champion, in matches held in the South island prior to the Wellington test.

Miss Ethel Peacock, Miss Jean Pullen, and Mrs. Nancy Benn, the other Australian team members, were inferior to the defenders in singles but gave an outstanding exhibition in doubles play. Miss Peacock, who is particularly adept at net play, learned her badminton while living in Malaya.

Outstanding for the host New Zealand players was Miss Mavis Kerr, who is undoubtedly the greatest woman player that New Zealand has ever produced. During the tour of the Australian team before the Wellington engagement, she defeated Miss Robert three times, twice easily in

straight sets. Miss Kerr plays every shot in the book and her splendid court mobility and tactics would make her formidable in any company. It is a pity that Miss Kerr, now at the height of her form, has no chance to meet the best in America and Europe as the players of New Zealand and Australia believe that she would rate high in world rankings.

Her record in New Zealand championships is outstanding. She is five times singles champion, six times ladies' doubles champion and once mixed champion. She became a triple title holder for the first time this year.

Miss Nancy Fleming, Miss T. Greaves, and Mrs. B. Purser all played well in the Wellington matches and completed the women members of the N. Z. squad.

Three of the New Zealand men players stood out during the interprovincial matches, the Australian matches and the 1949 National championships. J. E. Robson, who is now both badminton and tennis champion of this country, is expected to grow in badminton stature as he is still in his early twenties and has only been at the game some three years. With more experience, Robson could well lead a Thomas Cup team from Down Under in the next matches. He is remarkably fit, has marvelous court coverage and retrieving ability and a great capacity to learn from his errors. In the National championships, Robson defeated Phil Hawksworth 15-5, 15-5.

Hawksworth was this nation's outstanding pre-War player and still up with the best. As a stroke player he is supreme in New Zealand but is finding it more difficult to foot it around the court against younger opponents.

Bryce Baxter completes the top trio and at the same age as Robson he will have years of badminton ahead. He has all the strokes and can hit with great power but lacks steadiness in a crisis and the ability to maintain pressure in a hard fought match. Like Robson, he needs more top-flight competition to polish his game.

A special word of mention must be made of R. H. Lewis, N. Z. champ in 1939 and 1947, who was out of the game in 1948 because of ill health. Lewis has not been able to get really fit after his year's absence but nevertheless he had the crowd on its feet with a very close and exciting win over Arthur McCabe, 15-10, 18-15 in the Australian matches.

With Robson and Baxter as a nucleus of the team, the prospects are brighter that New Zealand will be able to capture the Whyte trophy for the first time when they journey to Australia next season for the event. And both Southern Hemisphere nations are fast improving their play for future international competition.

ASHAWAY Introduces amazing new

MULTI-PLY

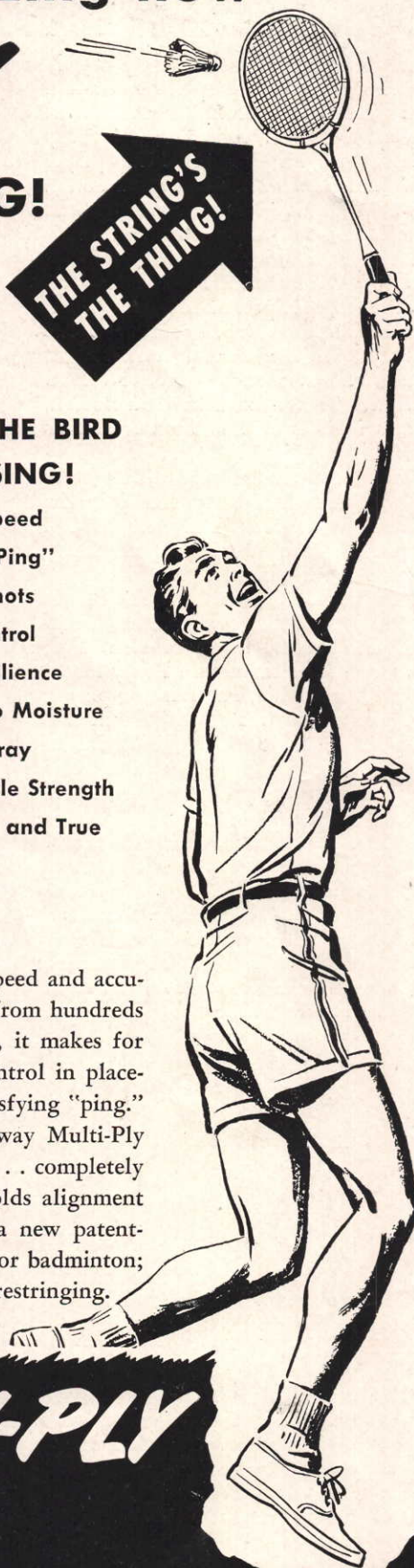
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Yes, here's an amazing new nylon badminton string that adds new speed and accuracy to your game . . . helps make birds *last longer*, too. Fabricated from hundreds of fine nylon strands twisted together to form a super-resilient core, it makes for *cleaner* shots with less chance of fouling feathers. You get better control in placements, too . . . more *smoke* in your smashes . . . sweeter and more satisfying "ping." And better still, a specially braided "armor" covering makes Ashaway Multi-Ply *retain* its resilience longer. It's tough, and durable . . . will not fray . . . completely immune to moisture and dampness. In addition, it stays taut and holds alignment better than other string. Developed and made by Ashaway under a new patent-pending process, Ashaway Multi-Ply is available in 20 and 21 gauge for badminton; 15 and 16 gauge for tennis. Demand it next time your racket needs restringing.



ASHAWAY MULTI-PLY

GREEN CROSS **NYLON** RACKET STRING

Tourneys and Topics

Westport Men's Doubles

The Annual Westport Invitation Men's Doubles badminton tournament November 26 was won by Carl Loveday and number eight in the United States, and Pop Hinds of New York, veteran doubles champ two years ago. Loveday and Hinds had to wade through a stiff field to win a leg on the Gustavson Cup and the trophies presented by the Westport Badminton Club, sponsors of the tourney. In the final, hard-fought match, the winners defeated Bob Wright and Wayne Schell of Boston, present holders of the national veterans doubles title, 15-13, 4-15, 15-6.

The semi-finals and finals were played before a capacity crowd in the auditorium at the Westport YMCA. Throughout the afternoon preliminary matches were run off, the semis and finals scheduled at 8:30 after a dinner served by the ladies of the Club. Semi-finalists were the teams of Ken Kost, tournament chairman, and Harry Hackett of Philadelphia, Pa., ranking player, who lost a close match to Wright and Schell, 15-8, 10-15, 15-10; Wes Snyder and Ed Napoti of New York who dropped another thriller to Hines and Loveday, 12-15, 15-5, 15-10.

Sixteen picked teams from the East engaged in the meet, the 13th annual affair staged by the W. B. C. Lea Gustavson presented the Gustavson Cup, emblematic of this tourney, to Loveday and Hinds at the close of the matches. Last year the winners were Dick Yeager and Eddie Shields.

1949 BURBANK OPEN

This year's Burbank Open Tourney was a carnival of upsets. Held on the 14th, 15th and 16th of November, at Burbank High School, it saw only one first seeded team win an event. That was the men's doubles team of Joe Alton and John Murphy, colorful San Diegans, who defeated Wynn Rogers and Dick Mitchell, a new combination.

Both men's singles and mixed doubles events found national title holders defeated. Marten Mendez lost his singles to Dick Mitchell in the semis. However, Marten came back to win the mixed with Helen Tibbetts in the finals from Wynn Rogers and Mrs. Hulet Smith.

The new veterans' doubles team of Skeeter Erikson and Reaf Haney look mighty good.

RESULTS:

MEN'S SINGLES: Wynn Rogers d Richard Mitchell 15-11, 15-6. LADIES' SINGLES, Thelma Scovil d Marianna Gott 11-6, 11-1. MEN'S DOUBLES: Joe Alton-John

Murphy d Rogers-Dick Mitchell 15-11, 15-11. LADIES' DOUBLES: Mrs. Hulet Smith-Helen Tibbetts d Gott-Marignan 15-10, 15-4. MIXED DOUBLES: Mendez-Tibbetts d Smith-Rogers 9-15, 15-8, 15-12. VETERANS' DOUBLES: Reaford Haney-Skeeter Erikson d Lewis Rulison-Hulet Smith 15-7, 15-9.

"B" FLIGHT RESULTS:

MEN'S SINGLES: Manuel Armendariz d Jack Cogan 15-2, 15-12. LADIES' SINGLES: Carol Jennings d Beulah Bymaster 10-11, 11-5, 11-7. MEN'S DOUBLES: Armendariz-Alan Mahaffey d Jack Chrisman-Snowy Coates 15-11, 7-15, 15-12. LADIES' DOUBLES, Joan-Jean Gibbs d Lois Smedley-Jennings 15-4, 15-9. MIXED DOUBLES: Armendariz-Marilyn Banks d Bert Estabrook-Margaret Oliver 15-6, 11-15, 15-4. VETERANS' DOUBLES: Al Blatz-Don Smith d Howard Taylor-Claude Welcome 17-14, 15-9.

Western N.Y. Rankings

Rankings of the following players were changed at the Western New York Badminton Association meeting held in Buffalo.

From Class "B" to "A": Frank McNeill, Frank Kowski, Alan Hickok, Randy Rice, Carl Foss, Fraizer Jones, Carl Wilson, Esther Szulist, Ann Mack, Josephine Ferraraccio, Delores Zintek.

From Class "C" to "B": R. Connell, Tris Stevens, John Kloss, Frank Kiff, Jr., James Hamilton, Ed Bredbenner, Don Hand, William Palermo, Bill Booth, Keith Duckworth, Bob Breton, Jim McCall, Bob Bausch, Virginia Deul, Ann Harvey, Dorothy Millard, Doris Minges, Bernice Terhaar, Arlene Jasinski, Janet Mack, Marge Dunn, Alma Dickson, Jeanne Hardenburg, Adelle Allen, Marian Gardner.

R. I. Elects

Mrs. Barbara Davis has been elected president of the Rhode Island Badminton Association. Other officers are:

Mr. James Donaldson, vice-president, and Miss Syma A. Greenberg, secretary-treasurer. The address of the RIBA is 12 Creighton St., Providence 6, R. I.

Western N.Y. Class "A"

Eleven of the outstanding teams from Buffalo, Rochester, Niagara Falls and surrounding territory participated in the Western New York Class "A" Men's Doubles Round Robin badminton tournament held at the Buffalo Athletic Club recently.

Schauer-Green won the Group I event and copped the playoff between Group II to win the event. The next five high ranking teams were: Fehrenbach-Miller, Michlin-Comstock, A. Young-D. Altenburg, J. Bowling-Ireland, and Buddemeyer-Kittinger.

Jack Bowling, Correspondent.

Minnesota News

Mel K. Pass has been elected president of the Minnesota District Badminton Association, according to the second issue of "Flying Feathers," that section's official magazine.

Other officers are: Fallon Kelly, first vice-president; W. Ray Smith, second vice-president; Lyle Barton, treasurer, and Carl Berg, secretary.

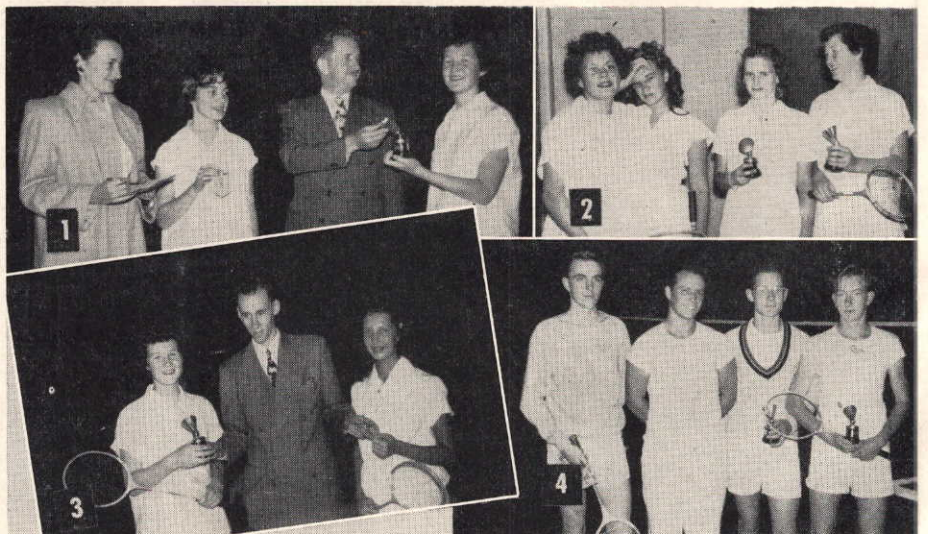
Minnesota badminton players are using a rummage sale as a means for promoting badminton. "Women of the men who play badminton" are named as the instigators of the project which they hope will bring in much needed monies for the association's promotions.

Carl A. Berg, Correspondent

Mixed-Up Doubles

Fifty-six players entered the annual mixed-up mixed doubles badminton party held at the Huguenot Y. M. C. A., December 3, under the auspices of the New Rochelle Badminton club.

Entrants were divided into sections



ATHENS JUNIOR TOURNAMENT. 1—Marie Coats, Noralee Williams, M. James, Pat Gowen. 2—Marie Rosenblum, Doris Martin, Jo Wood, Pat Gowen. 3—Pat Gowen, Jerry Eichelberger, Marlene Mills. 4—Barrett Eastman, Ronnie Ryan, Lloyd Gowen, Chuck Bishop.

of Blue and Red teams with the original entries playing together just once and then splitting up to play with and against other players. Scoring was on a twenty-one point, sudden death basis with the individual points counting, not games won.

The playoffs saw Bob Laugheed-Ellie Raymond defeat Stan Pickering-Ruth Wiener; third place went to John Cornell-Marge Willshier who defeated Jim Lockwood-Eda Daume. In the booby prize playoff Al Gerard-Lee Scully won over Ray Young-Ann De-Flora.

Following the matches, at two-thirty Sunday morning the group adjourned to a party at the home of May Hellwig.

May Hellwig, Correspondent.



Oregon Tournaments

Two early Oregon Badminton tournaments, the Oregon State Fall Handicaps, November 14, 15 and the Married Couples Handicap, December 1, 2, 4 have been held in Portland, Oregon.

FALL HANDICAP

RESULTS:

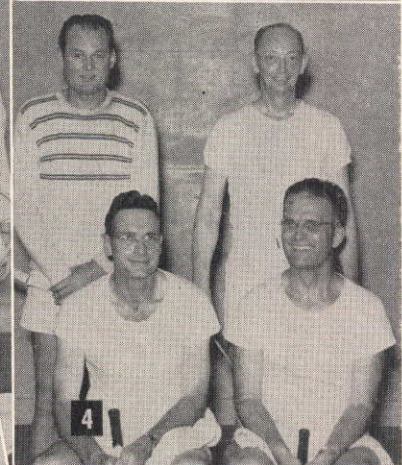
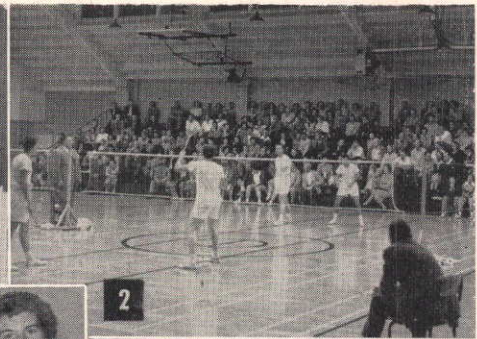
MEN'S SINGLES: Russ Hill d Hank Kirschner 15-12, 15-11. **LADIES' SINGLES:** Jean Torango d Mary Ann Hansen 11-5, 11-0. **MEN'S DOUBLES:** Hill-Johnny Rankin d Harold Muntz-Vern Noraine 15-10, 15-9. **LADIES' DOUBLES:** Mary Ann Hansen-Claire Hill d Betty Rankin-Grace Noraine 15-7, 15-12. **MIXED DOUBLES:** Kirschner-Hansen d Stan and Louise Cicrich 15-11, 15-10.

MARRIED COUPLES HANDICAP

RESULTS:

Betty and Johnny Rankin d Vern and Grace Noraine. Consolation: Irma and Al Willis d Sue and Dudley Sercombe.

Jean Torango, Correspondent



1949 BURBANK OPEN. 1—Carol Jennings, Beulah Bymaster. 2—Picture taken by house lights only during finals of men's doubles, F 4 1/10 sec. 3—Joan and Jean Gibbs, Carol Jennings, Lois Smedley. 4—(sitting) Al Blatz, Claude Welcome (standing) Don Smith, Howard Taylor. 5—(sitting) Helen Tibbetts, Loma Smith (standing) B. Marignan, Marianna Gott. 6—(sitting) Hulet Smith, Lewis Rulison (standing) Skeeter Erickson, Reaford Haney. 7—Manuel Armendariz, Marilyn Banks, Bert Estabrook, Marge Oliver.

Chicago's northern suburbs, and entries were received from Evanston, Winnetka, Wilmette, Glencoe and Glenview clubs.

Junior interest in the game has increased considerably along the North Shore, and more juniors competed in this tournament than at any time in the past several years.

RESULTS:

MEN'S SINGLES: Bob Cleveland d Vance Smith 15-3, 15-10. **LADIES' SINGLES:** Judy Drake d Sue Corey 11-4, 11-1. **MEN'S DOUBLES:** B. Cleveland-B. Friend d R. Sayre-F. Gabriel 15-13, 15-8. **LADIES' DOUBLES:** Pat Cunningham-Virginia Zimmerman d Jane Boston-Lynn Kelly 15-12, 15-11. **MIXED DOUBLES:** Sue Corey-B. Cleveland d Judy and Dim Drake 15-6, 15-9.

Hugh Clayton, Correspondent

BALTIMORE INVITATION DATES SET

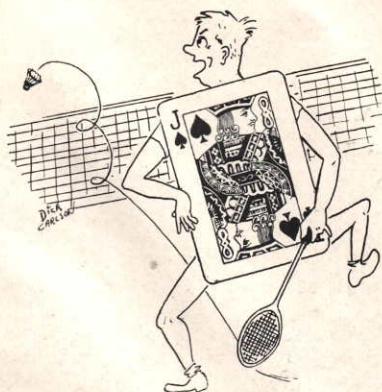
The Baltimore Invitation tournament will be held February 10, 11, 12 at St. Paul's gymnasium and sponsored by the St. Paul's Badminton club.

Held for the benefit of the St. Paul's School for Boys' Scholarships, it is an annual affair. John D. McGee is chairman.



Second Missouri Open

Plans are to hold the Second Annual Missouri Open tournament in St. Louis March 31, April 1, 2. For additional information write Mrs. Peg Goessling, 413 Marion Ave., Webster Groves 19, Mo.

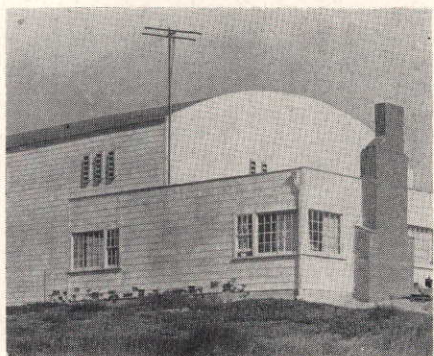


He's a card on the court.

North Shore Novice Tournament At Chicago

The annual North Shore Badminton Association's Novice Tournament was held at Wilmette, Illinois on December 10, in cooperation with the Wilmette Recreation Department. This tournament is open to all clubs in

LIFE *at a tournament*



APPROACHING CLUBHOUSE, Bob noticed the new television antenna. The lowest part of the building is the lounge. Potential plans include a barbecue patio and a swimming pool.

BIRD CHATTER dauguerreotypist, Bob Noble believes that a badminton tournament is more fun than a firemen's picnic. And when the tournament is the Manhattan Beach Open he's got pictures to prove it.

On the southernmost curve of Santa Monica Bay, 17 miles southwest of Los Angeles, the Manhattan Beach badminton club is the scene of many of California's outstanding shuttle events.

The MBBC clubhouse boasts a three-court gymnasium, adjoining showers, lounge and kitchen facilities. Owned and operated by the 140 club members since June 1940, this badminton organization was the only group in Los Angeles county that did not lose its playing facilities to the Army during the War.

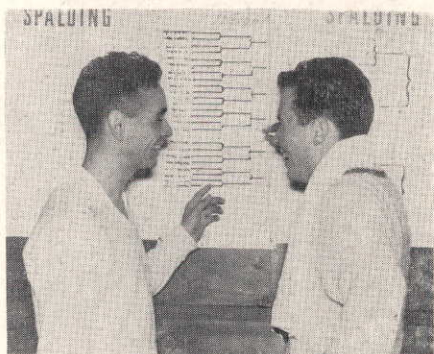
And for nine straight years since the opening, players from all over California congregate to take part in the club's big Open event. This year's meet was held December 2, 3, 4.



ONE OF THE THIRTEEN committees, the draw committee meets before the tournament to arrange the matches. The television set on the mantle was not used during the tournament.



UNSUCCESSFULLY Dottie and Dr. Bill Busby tried to sign non-playing Noble as an entry in men's singles.



EARLY ARRIVING Marten Mendez, U. S. singles champion, and Joe Alston, No. 3 U. S. player, check the draw sheets. Marten defeated Joe in a close three game final.



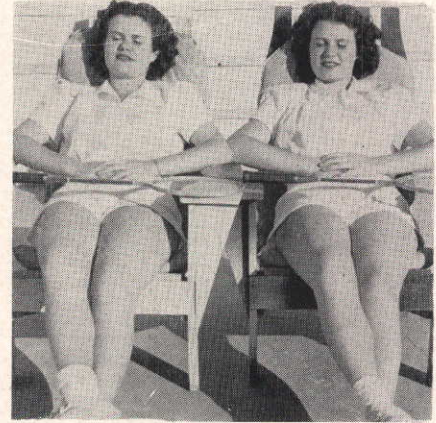
LADIES' SINGLES opened the Ninth Annual Tournament. Thelma Scovil, former U. S. and All England champion, shown serving in the right hand back court won the ladies' singles event. Bob Noble was impressed with the high ceiling, the dark background and the well lighted courts.



HAPPY TOURNAMENT MANAGER Howard Laughlin calls the scores of the matches over the club's loudspeaker system, as the matches go into the semi final round. Clip boards on table were used by umpires to score the matches.



THE CHAMP, Marten Mendez takes a nap before the finals. The slender, short (5' 8½") San Diego star travels further in a singles game than a football player does in an entire afternoon.



OUTSIDE THE CLUBHOUSE, other players like Jean and Joan Gibbs found the warm California sun and the MBBC lounging chairs more to their liking. Photographer Noble found best subjects out-of-doors.



"Wilber, I see you were referee again."



SUNDAY BREAKFAST at the club was served to sixty players. Suitcase behind piano bench is standard equipment with tournament hopping Western badminton players. It's added length makes it suitable for carrying badminton rackets.



TOURNEY'S END found the smiles and "silverware." "A" Flight Mixed doubles winners were Mrs. Hulet Smith and Wynn Rogers, National champions. The winners are wearing their ABA jackets. Marten Mendez and Mrs. Helen Noble Tibbetts, visiting photographer Noble's daughter, were runnerups. Consolation events were run December 10 and 11.

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

Jan. 20-22—Kodak Invitational, Rochester, N. Y.
 Jan. 21.—Gut'n Feathers Invitational, Marblehead, Mass.
 Jan. 20-22—Washington State Closed, Spokane, Wash.
 Jan. 28-29—Michigan State Open, Dearborn, Michigan.
 Feb. 1-4—British Columbia Championships, Victoria, B. C.
 Feb. 3-5—National Capitol Open, Washington, D. C.
 Feb. 3-5—Buffalo A. C. Invitation, Buffalo, N. Y.
 Feb. 3-5—Southern California Tournament, San Diego, Cal.
 Feb. 3-5—Massachusetts Class "B," Boston, Mass.
 Feb. 3-5—Connecticut Class "B," Bridgeport, Conn.
 Feb. 9-11—Philadelphia Class "B," Philadelphia, Penn.
 Feb. 9-12—Atlanta A. C. Championships, Atlanta, Ga.
 Feb. 10-11—Southwestern A. A. U. Open, Dallas, Texas.
 Feb. 10-12—Baltimore City Invitation, Baltimore, Md.
 Feb. 11-12—University Club Invitation, Boston, Mass.
 Feb. 11-13—Washington State Open, Bellingham, Wash.
 Feb. 24-26—Niagara Falls Club Invitation, Niagara Falls, N. Y.
 Feb. 25-26—Flint Invitation, Flint, Michigan.
 Mar. 3-5—Eighth Pacific Southwest Open, Hollywood, Cal.
 Mar. 3-5—Philadelphia Invitation, Philadelphia, Penn.
 Mar. 3-5—Western N. Y. "B & C" Championships, Rochester, N. Y.
 Mar. 7-11—Granite Club Invitation, Kitchener, Ontario.
 Mar. 9-11—Connecticut State Championships, Westport, Conn.
 Mar. 9-11—Massachusetts State Championships, Boston, Mass.
 Mar. 17-18—South Shore Class "D" Invitation Doubles, Quincy, Mass.
 Mar. 17-19—Western N. Y. "A" Championships, Buffalo, N. Y.
 Mar. 17-19—Philadelphia Class "A" Championships, Philadelphia, Penn.
 Mar. 24-26—Fourth National Junior Championships, Boston, Mass.
 Mar. 31, Apr. 1-2—Genesee Valley Invitation, Rochester, N. Y.
 Mar. 31, Apr. 1-2—Second Missouri Open, St. Louis, Missouri.
 Apr. 6-8—Tenth National Senior Championships, Baltimore, Maryland.

San Francisco Mixed Doubles

The San Francisco Badminton Club in cooperation with the San Francisco Recreation Department staged a very successful one-day Mixed Doubles Tournament on December 11, 1949. The tournament was held in beautiful Glen Park Community Center in San Francisco. The tournament ran from 9:30 a. m. to 4:00 p. m.

There were three events. The Championship flight; the Sub-Octet flight (losers of quarter-final matches) and the Consolation flight.

There were a total of 32 teams entered which meant that 47 matches were played off in 6½ hours time on four courts.

RESULTS:

Championship Flight—

Mildred Jude and Irl Madden defeated Janet Wright and Norm Blanchet 15-6, 18-17.

Sub-Octet—

Don McCaughan and Ngairé Kern defeated Ronnie Ryan and Joelyn Woods 15-6, 10-15, 15-12.

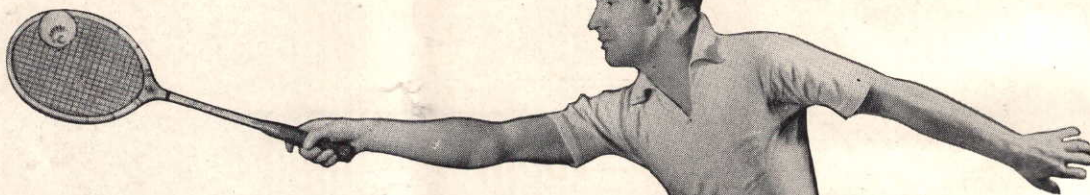
Consolation—

Jim Murdock and Evelyn Moose defeated Jerry Eichelberger and Helen Martin 15-7, 15-7.

Irl Madden, Correspondent

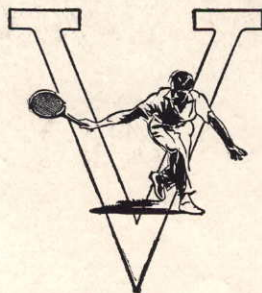
Atlanta A. C. Invitation

The Atlanta Athletic Club invitational badminton meet which was to be held November 27 was cancelled.



Ken Davidson SAYS ..

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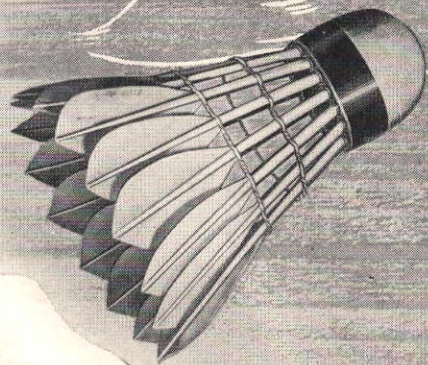
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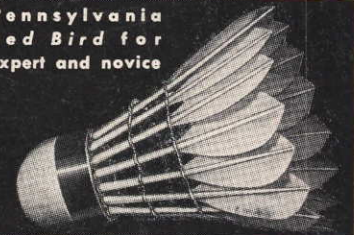
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UNUSUAL—"The Birdie Busters" of Alton, Illinois, and the "Feather Busters" of Green Bay, Wisconsin, take top honors in a poll of the most unique names for a badminton club.

MARRIED—Chris Carwithen made it Mrs. Kennedy in a Fall wedding in Honolulu. Dick and Zoe Yeager, Seattle, friends of the bride who was a former Seattle badminton player, made a special trip to Hawaii for the event.

JUBILEE—Fifty years ago last Fall, in October 1899, Sir George Thomas, president of the International Badminton Federation, played his first game of badminton. He took part in the second All-England championships held the following Spring. The tournament at that time was known as "The Badminton Association Tournament." Sir George is the most prominent figure in the sport of badminton. Through his work in the international championships, called the Thomas Cup matches in his honor, he has greatly helped the tremendous growth of the game throughout the world.

★
MOVED—Grace and Verne Noraine formerly of the Seattle Shuttle Club have moved to Portland where they have experienced some success in early season Oregon handicap events.



CONTEST WINNER—Carl Anderson, 33 year old Seattle badminton player, was one of the two winners in the Seattle Times football "Guest Guessers" contest and won a trip to Pasadena to see the California-Ohio State classic. Carl won out over 150,000 other entries by guessing the most number of correct games and predicting 34-20 as the final score of the Washington-Washington State game. (The score was 34-21).

In the picture appearing with this story, Carl is shown with his wife Virginia and their 5 month old child, Ronald. The Anderson's appeared in both the Los Angeles and Chicago Nationals.

★
CORRESPONDENTS

The copy deadline for the March-April issue of Bird Chatter, Official Badminton magazine, is February 15.



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Montreal AAA Invitation

With a fine show of "across-the-border" interest 19 U. S. players from seven cities traveled to Montreal to take part in the M. A. A. A. Invitation tournament, November 25, 26, 27.

The invaders captured three events: ladies' singles, men's doubles, and mixed doubles but failed to reach the finals in the other two events.

Blonde Patsy Stephens, Baltimore, celebrated her twenty-first birthday with a decisive 12-10, 11-4 victory over the Canadian singles champion, Marjorie Mapp, of Toronto's Carleton Club.

United States players who made the trip included: Clint and Patsy Stephens, Baltimore; Ed Johnson, Harry Keating, Buffalo; Stan Sangdahl, Cleveland; Evelyn Albion, Al Dockeray, Rollo Gardiner, Eddie Perry, Al Priddy, Peggy Ryan, June Tinglof, Al Warner, Shirley Wiber, Boston; Ted Jarrett, New York; Bobby Williams, Niagara Falls; Wanda Bergman, Helen Gibson, Bob Loughhead, Westport.

RESULTS:

MEN'S SINGLES: Gordon Simpson, Montreal, d Don Smythe, Toronto, 15-7, 15-2. **LADIES' SINGLES:** Patsey Stephens, Baltimore d Marjorie Mapp, Toronto, 12-10, 11-4. **MEN'S DOUBLES:** Clint Stephens, Baltimore-Bobbie Williams, Niagara Falls d Dick Birch, Toronto-Simpson 7-15, 15-9, 18-13. **LADIES' DOUBLES:** Mapp-Marjorie Shedd, Toronto d Joan Hennessy-Evelyn Roberts, Toronto, 17-14, 7-15, 18-15. **MIXED**

DOUBLES: Stephens-Stephens d Roberts-Birch 15-8, 5-15, 15-9.

Ted Jarrett, Correspondent

San Diego Invitational

San Diego's active County Badminton Association held a fall invitational tournament at the Balboa Park gym on November 20, 21 and 22. Local players, led by Marten Mendez and the doubles team of Joe Alston and John Murphy, held their own as usual against the best that Southern California could send down, but in women's and mixed events out-of-towners dominated final rounds.

RESULTS:

A Flight Results—

MEN'S SINGLES: Marten Mendez d Joe Alston 15-3, 1-15, 15-10. **LADIES' SINGLES:** Thelma Scovil d Connie Taylor 11-5, 11-1. **MEN'S DOUBLES:** Alston-J. Murphy d D. Mitchell-W. Rogers 5-15, 15-13, 15-11. **LADIES' DOUBLES:** E. Anselm-D. Hann d L. Smith-H. Tibbetts 15-7, 15-12. **MIXED DOUBLES:** W. Rogers-L. Smith d M. Mendez-H. Tibbetts 15-7, 15-11. **VETERANS' DOUBLES:** E. Oliver-M Mullins d H. Smith-H. Taylor 15-9, 15-11.

B Flight Results—

MEN'S SINGLES: W. Kinnear d T. White 15-2, 15-9. **WOMEN'S SINGLES:** L. Smedley d C. Jennings 11-9, 11-3. **MEN'S DOUBLES:** Scott-Zigenfuss d Hinchcliffe-White 15-7, 10-15, 15-13. **WOMEN'S DOUBLES:** Spain-Bolles d Smedley-Jennings 15-11, 9-15, 15-6. **MIXED DOUBLES:** Fuller-Oliver d Kinnear-Miller 18-15, 15-14. **VETERANS' DOUBLES:** Cody-Smith d Van Praag-Manning 15-3, 11-15, 15-7.

Ralph Trembley, Correspondent

Hulet Smith Replaces Erikson As Director

Hulet P. Smith, 110 West Sycamore Avenue, Arcadia, California has been approved by the board as director to succeed Leroy C. Erikson, Glendale, who has resigned due to the pressure of his own business.

Mr. Erikson was a director from Region 6 and his term was to have expired in 1950.

NORTHERN CALIF. ELECTION

Dave Copenhagen was elected president of the Northern California Badminton Association at the Annual Director's meeting held June 23.

Other officers are: Don McCorkle, vice-president; Janet Wright, treasurer; Lloyd Gowen, secretary.

NEW TRAINING BOOK

Douglas Grant has announced the publication of his new training book, "Badminton."



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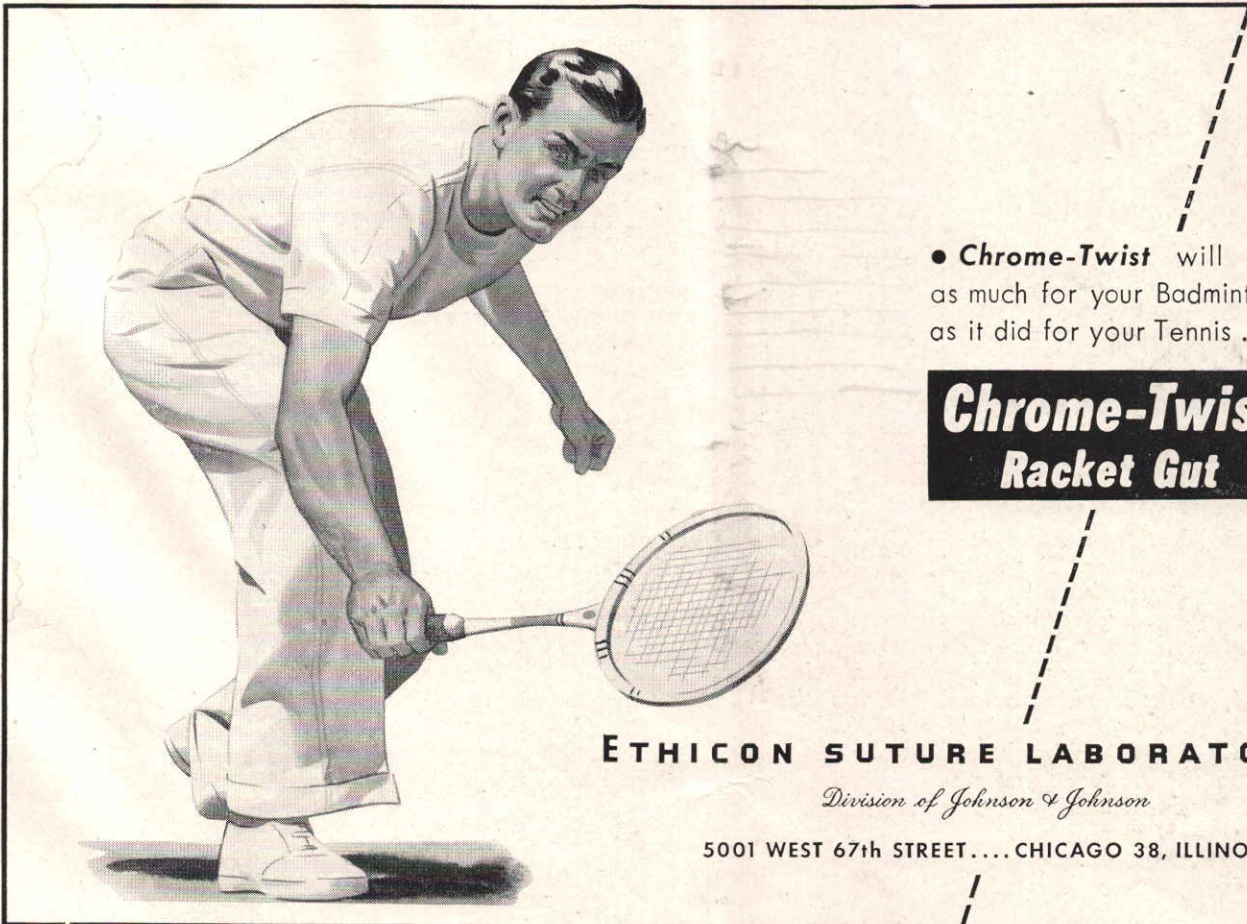
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SENIOR NATIONALS AT BALTIMORE APRIL 6, 7, 8

ABA SECTION

For the first time since 1939, the Middle Atlantic Region of the ABA is the site of the greatest of all American badminton events—the national championships.

And Baltimore, the stamping grounds of such famous badminton names as Ray Scarlett, J. Frank Devlin, Frank Roberts and Patsey and Clint Stephens and many others, will be the host city.

Over 250 contestants from every major badminton center of the U. S. are expected to take part in the tenth renewal of the championships. Sixteen courts at the Fifth Regiment Armory will be used during the meet, April 6, 7, 8.

The last U. S. National championship event held in region 2 was the third meeting which was held on the courts of the Old 69th Badminton Club, the 165th Regiment Armory, in New York in 1939.

A comparison of the seedings of the 1939 event with those of last Spring's Chicago event shows how complete the "stars of badminton" have changed. None of the sixteen players seeded in ladies' and men's singles in 1939 was seeded in the 1949 meet.

In the 1939 singles event Walt Kra-

mer, Detroit, was upset for the first time, 15-9, 15-4 by an 18 year old Pomona College freshman, Dave Freeman. The previous year, Dave had gained national sports fame by winning the National Junior Tennis singles championship. The 1939 badminton program spoke of Freeman as "lacking the finesse of players like Kramer and (Don) Eversoll . . . (but) an indefatigable retriever and bird-hawk."

By the time the next national was held, this time in Seattle, Freeman was ranked fourth in men's doubles with Ted Schroeder, the junior table tennis champion of California, and the possessor of over a hundred cups. The

1940 program did not mention any lack of finesse by Freeman but stayed on solid ground by saying that he was "the most versatile racketman in the United States."

Like Joe Lewis and Dwight Eisenhower, Freeman is still "mum" on his 1950 plans. But the Baltimore National's officials expect Dave to be on hand because Freeman has expressed privately the belief that a champion should lose his crown on the court.

Marten Mendez, the present U. S. champion, is hoping that Freeman will be on the scene in April so that he can show that his win of the vacated crown last year was no fluke.

But, as in 1939, the surprise player of the meet might well be a young California College student. This time instead of "King David" Freeman it might well be Joe Alston, 22 year old San Diego State College student. Joe dropped second seeded Carl Loveday 15-1, 15-10 and third seeded Wynn Rogers 13-15, 15-6, 15-5 in the big Chicago Nationals last spring before losing in the finals to 33 year old Mendez 15-7, 12-15, 15-5.

As usual, mixed doubles will be wide open. Champions Rogers' and Loma Smith's crown is as unsteady as

a plate glass in a high wind. For Baltimore is the home of the Southern California team's closest rivals, Patsey and Clint Stephens. These two teams have met in the finals of the last three national meets with the match winning game in each case going to extra points. In Los Angeles in 1947, it was the West Coast duo, 15-11, 18-16. In Waco in 1948, the Stephens turned the tables 17-14, 18-13 and went on from there to a year of tournament wins including the 1949 All-England meet. Back to California went the Hunter Challenge cup for mixed doubles after the Chicago meet when Loma and Wynn won 4-15, 15-8, 18-14.

Frank G. Roberts, general tournament chairman, and his son-in-law Clint Stephens, director of operations, have planned a full schedule for visiting players to the April Baltimore affair. Pre-tourney practice, official tours of the city and Annapolis and other interesting Maryland sights have been arranged.

The Lord Baltimore Hotel, official headquarters for the tournament, will be the site of the ABA luncheon and annual meeting on April 8. The ABA directors will convene the morning of April 7 and the afternoon of the following day at the hotel. The Lord Baltimore will also be the scene of a dance and party for the players after the final matches.

The Baltimore Junior Association of Commerce and the Maryland Badminton Association are co-sponsoring the championships.

More information on the Baltimore event can be obtained by writing the Tenth U. S. Badminton championships, 221 North Charles St., Baltimore, Maryland.

★ DICK YEAGER NEW ABA SECRETARY

Richard Yeager, Seattle, has replaced Hamilton B. Law as secretary-treasurer of the American Badminton Association for the remainder of the 1949-50 season.

Ham Law, who has served over a year and a half with President T. M. Royce, has been forced to resign because of a business transfer. Ham is moving to Sacramento, California where he has been sent by the Prudential Life Insurance Company.

Dick Yeager, former national mixed and men's doubles champion, is well known to followers of American badminton. He has attended every National championship except the 1937 Chicago and 1942 Durham meetings. With Ham Law he won men's doubles in 1938 and 1939 and was runner up in 1940. With Zoe Smith he captured mixed doubles in 1939.

In a badminton romance, he married Zoe following the last War in which he had set a brilliant service record.

Only recently, Zoe and Dick returned to Seattle from New Rochelle, N. Y. where they had lived following their marriage.

Dick's close acquaintance with Eastern as well as Western badminton centers will serve him well in his new post.

All correspondence to the ABA should now be directed to Mr. Yeager, 1806 Smith Tower, Seattle 4, Washington.



FIFTH REGIMENT ARMORY, SITE OF 1950 NATIONALS

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(Completes List in Nov.-Dec. Issue)

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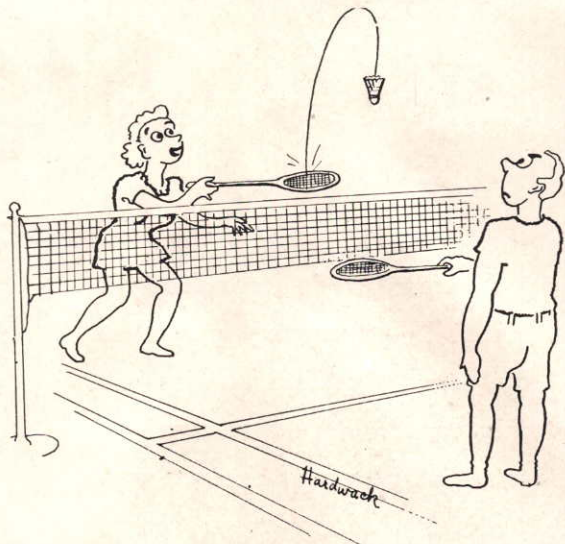
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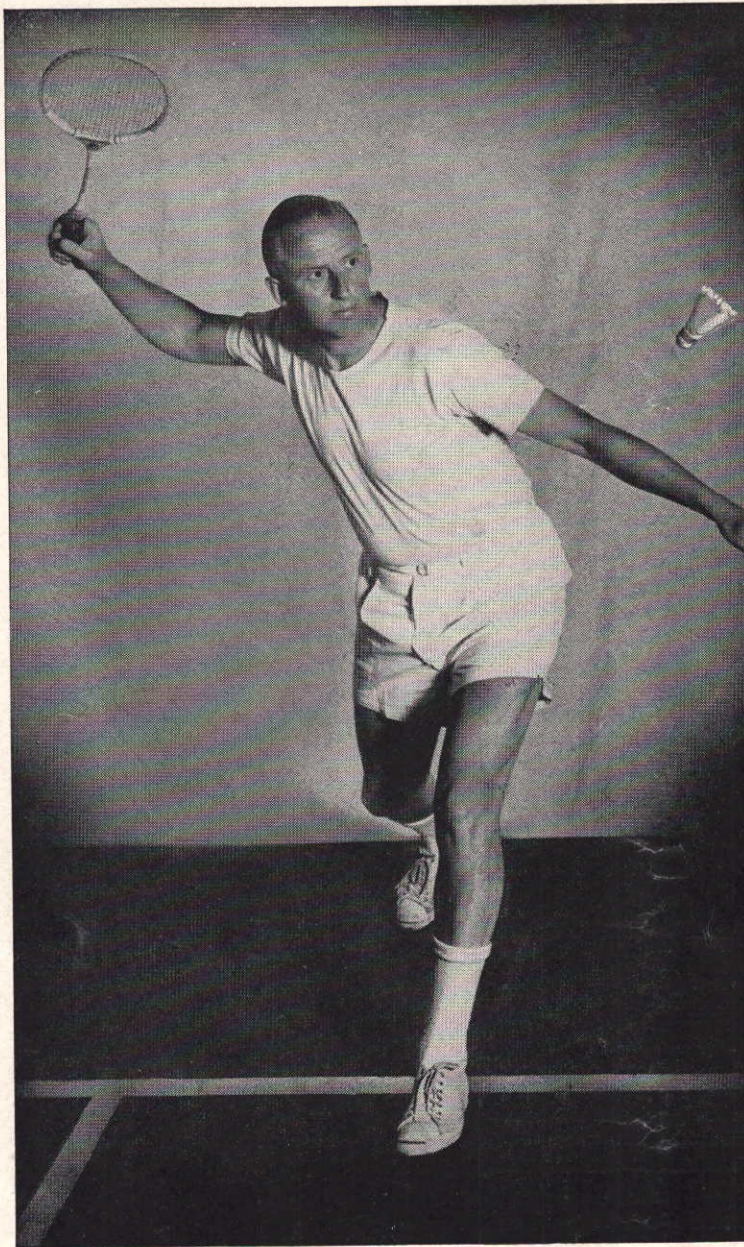


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EQUIPO MEXICANO . . .

(Continued from Page 8)

The Mexicans use a 67 grain shuttle with wide spread feathers to slow it down in their thin atmosphere. In the beginning of the matches the Americans hit a great many wood shots because of their inability to properly time the speed of the shuttle. And because the birds seemed much slower, the smashes of the Texans were not too effective.

While some of the Mexican players speak very good English, many speak very little or none at all. Fortunately one of their better players, Fernando Molinar, who is a former student at Southern Methodist university, speaks good English and was able to referee the matches. He called them in both Spanish and English.

Mexican and American flags were displayed at the matches and bouquets were given to the lady players. During the stay, the visitors were taken to all points of interest in and around Mexico City.

The Texans have already scheduled their next Southwestern tournament to be held in Dallas February 10, 11 and most of the Mexican players have already indicated that they will participate.

In hopes of preventing another debacle, Nick Roberts says, "We would

like very much to see some of the outstanding players of the United States come down and help us give the invaders some competition. I believe Villarreal can give any of them a real match."

Athens Junior Tournament

The First Annual Athens Athletic Club Junior Badminton Tournament was held in Oakland on October 22 and 23, 1949. Some sixty juniors from all over Northern California participated in the 9 events offered.

Patricia Gowen was the only three event winner, collecting hardware in the Under 16 and 18 Girls Singles as well as the Girls Doubles. It was interesting to note that Pat had more trouble defeating her Under 16 final opponent than in the Under 18 group. Ronnie Ryan, National titleholder, entered only the Mixed Doubles, and had no difficulty in adding that Northern California title to his already long list of Junior championships.

Trophies were presented to winners and felt emblems to runners-up. A consolation flight was offered with felt emblems to finalists.

RESULTS:

BOYS' SINGLES, under 14: Charles Edmonston Jr. d Jerry Martin 15-6, 15-14; under 16: Spencer Aust d Ronald Hull 15-2, 15-4; under 18: Charles Bishop d Lloyd Gowen Jr. 15-6, 15-5. GIRLS' SINGLES, under 14: Lynn Wall d Joell Yuna, 12-11,

11-1; under 16: Patricia Gowen d Marlene Mills 12-10, 12-9; under 18: Gowen d Noralee Williams 11-4, 11-6. BOYS' DOUBLES: Gowen Jr.-Bishop d Robert Pomeroy-Barrett Eastman 15-6, 15-5. GIRLS' DOUBLES: P. Gowen-Joelyn Wood d Doris Martin-Marie Rosenblum 9-15, 15-4, 15-9. MIXED DOUBLES: Wood-Ronnie Ryan d Martin-Bishop 15-4, 15-6.

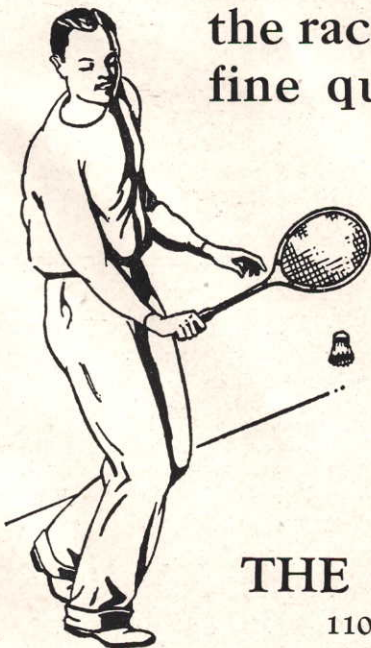
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Wood Shots and Shuttles

Editor's Note: The following story appeared in the Badminton Gazette, edited by H. A. E. Scheele, and is being reprinted here in part because its contents should be of interest to all badminton players.

AFTER the proposal to alter Law 14 (h) had been rejected by the International Badminton Federation a year ago, the motion received greater support at this year's meeting of the world governing body, and the change desired has now become law. Henceforth it will be a foul stroke whenever the base of the shuttle comes into physical contact with any part of the frame, shaft or handle of the racket. Clean wood strokes can exist no more. It would not be out of place to mention, however, that the alteration to the law does not affect in any way other types of "double hit" such as when the shuttle may be hit twice by the gut of the racket, or when the shuttle may be slung. These imperfect strokes are, of course, still foul.

The amended law lays stress on the fact that it is a foul if "the base of the shuttle be hit by the frame," etc. The wording has been deliberately made. It is thus not a foul if the feathers only of a shuttle should be hit by the frame of the racket in what is otherwise a perfectly clean stroke, where the base is properly hit by the gut. By way of explanation, it may be mentioned that in practically every case where a vertically dropping shuttle is smashed, quite cleanly, the feathers are also contacted by some part of the racket at the same moment. Photographic examination has proved this beyond doubt, and it frequently happens that it is the frame which thus contacts the feathers.

The first reaction of umpires to the change will be one of considerable relief. To differentiate between a fair stroke and a foul has sometimes been most difficult. It is possible, however, that the relief will not be so great as may be expected. Further complications are brought up by the change, and it is going to be no easy task on many occasions to decide whether the base of the shuttle did or did not slightly touch the inner framework of the racket, for a large number of strokes, in order to make which the striker has to stretch some distance, are made off what might be described as the "last string." A perfectly clean stroke may result, and yet the covering of the base of the shuttle will touch the frame.

Ever since the game has developed to first class standards the double hit has

been the chief thorn. Years ago the nearest approach to "all-in" was adopted; we have now gone to the other extremity, and it remains to be seen which is the more satisfactory.

On the subject of shuttles the committee of the Badminton Association of



"I now pronounce you mixed doubles."

England has again shown its concern at their present pace, and a note to that effect has likewise been circulated. There can be no doubt that over the past twenty years there has been a tendency to use shuttles of a speed considerably slower than the laws permit. This has resulted in it being impossible to clear a shuttle out at the back of the court when it is struck from the opposite back line. This has given a fillip to a defensive type of game being adopted to the detriment of attacking strokes. To an impartial observer this is not as it should be, for skill in clearing within inches of the opposite back line should be rewarded to the same extent as the ability to make perfect drop shots. The remedy in complying to the strict laws of the game lies first of all with tournament and match officials who are, of course, responsible for the issue of shuttles at their functions.

Means for deciding upon the correct pace of shuttles for particular hall and particular climatic conditions have been laid down in the laws for very many years, and until some perfect machine can be invented and made available for general use, the human element must be brought in. Thus, the test has been defined as follows:

"A shuttle shall be deemed to be of correct pace if, when a player of average strength strikes it with a full underhand stroke from a spot immediately above one back boundary line in a line parallel to the side lines and

at an upward angle, it falls not less than 1 foot, and not more than 2 feet 6 inches short of the other back boundary line."

If we watch players testing shuttles, we shall find more often than not that at the moment of impact the shuttle and racket are two feet, and sometimes more, inside the back boundary line of the court. This is sometimes intentional on the part of the player, and sometimes due to a false idea of the necessary placing of the feet when making the test. In the latter case, it is frequent that the player straddles the back line with the idea in mind that by doing so he will strike the shuttle midway between his two feet. Close examination has proved this to be wrong, for, owing to the natural follow-through of the body in the making of the stroke, the shuttle will be hit within inches of the lateral position of the front foot. Thus, the test should be made with the front foot on the back line. In such cases where there may be insufficient space at the back of the court to allow for a full free swing, it may be necessary for the front foot to be inside the court, but then allowance for the difference must be made in the fall of the shuttle at the other end.

★

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Junior Jottings

By Mrs. J. Frank Devlin

Those juniors who were at the second and third junior nationals will remember Carolyn Hauf of Hamden, Connecticut. She writes, "Last summer I contracted infantile paralysis. When I was in the hospital, I had my badminton racket at the foot of my bed and every time I looked at it it made me want to get well all the more quickly. I can walk again now and next year hope to start playing badminton again."

Good luck to you, Carolyn, and we shall be looking for you at the 1951 nationals.

Most juniors look for the best in 1950. More junior activities, bigger and better junior tournaments, and a "King size" Junior Nationals in Boston, March 24, 25, 26 point to a most successful year.

Young, 15-year old Pat Gowen, daughter of Lloyd Gowen, well known Bay Area player from Albany, California, caused considerable comment by taking both the under 16 girls' singles and under 18 girls' singles events in the Annual Athens Athletic Club junior badminton meet last Oc-

tober. She defeated 16 year old Marlene Mills, 12-10, 12-9 in the under sixteens and 15 year old Noralee Williams, 11-4, 11-6 in the under eighteens. All three girls look like tough competition nationally if they attend the Boston affair.

Portland, Oregon youngsters are lucky in having Ernest Amburn to supervise their play in the Oregonian newspaper building gymnasium where he has made two courts and allows play three evenings a week. Mrs. Ted Schaer has a group in a Portland grammar school while Mrs. Althla Le Roy, Rouge River, conducts a class of high school students three evenings a week.

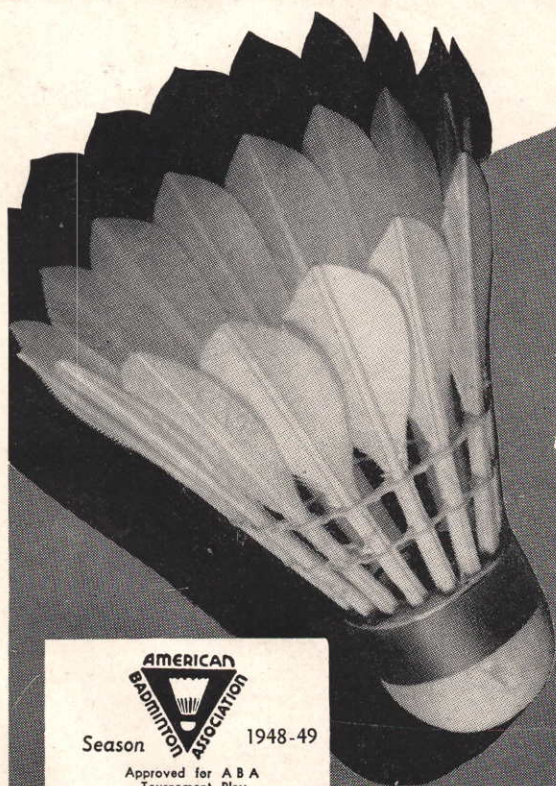
Washburn high school, Minneapolis, had 338 students participating in Minnesota badminton tournaments last

year. A total of 1,910 Minneapolis students in all took part in badminton events. There was great interest shown in the mixed doubles events. The winners in that bracket were: Jordan junior high school, Joanne Luce-Ronald Johnson; North high, Marna Jorgenson-Lewis Lobejka; Ramsey junior high, Cindy Fairchild - Jerry Briggs. Boys' tournaments were held at Bryant and Jordan junior high schools.

Baltimore has held one junior tournament so far this year. It was the Girls' Interscholastic held the day after Thanksgiving. Bryn Mawr school and Notre Dame of Maryland tied for the challenge bowl with nine points each. Judy Devlin, Bryn Mawr, defeated Evie Talley in the singles finals. Under a new chairman, Bill Saunders, the Maryland Badminton Association is sponsoring a new tournament this year, the Junior City Open.

I hear that Michael (Bunky) Roche, number 9 nationally in boys' singles, started golf this summer and already shoots in the low 80's.

From Connecticut comes news that Deedy McCormick is a cheer leader at her school and is on the rifle and hockey teams, Pete Sherwood is on his school rifle and tennis teams. Steve Curry is playing tennis and is on the Norwalk high school squad.



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Letters to Editors

Dear Sir:

Lately, I have been grouching considerably about the new "woods are throws" ruling because it penalizes the average player so heavily. The rallies in our dub games always were short enough, but baby (!) are they ever abbreviated now.

Among the better players, I see that the old dispute as to whether a shot was thrown has now become a dispute as to whether a wood shot was a wood shot or not. The only difference is that the borderline has been shifted somewhat.

Someday, the game will benefit from one of the few good things about tennis, and will allow any shot as long as it is struck with part of the racket.

George W. Davis
Birmingham, Michigan

● Hardworking George Davis is crusading against the new rule which has already met with approval in most parts of the nation. It will be a long fight, George.—Ed.

Dear Sir:

From time to time I become involved in a friendly argument regarding the sport of badminton. I am constantly told that badminton is a very much slower game than tennis. (I disagree, of course.)

However, is there any data or any information which would enlighten me as to whether tennis is faster, slower, or of the same speed as badminton?

Gerda Krueger
New York City

● There is no doubt to a player of both badminton and tennis that the shuttle sport is speedier and tougher but as to official data that presents a different problem. Perhaps *Bird Chatter* readers have an answer to Gerda's problem.—Ed.

Dear Sirs:

Two of our club members are frothing at the mouth and chewing their nails. No *Bird Chatter*! How could this happen to us? To save me from being kicked out of the club send 'em their *Bird Chatter*.

Marguerite Miller,
Glendale, California.

★
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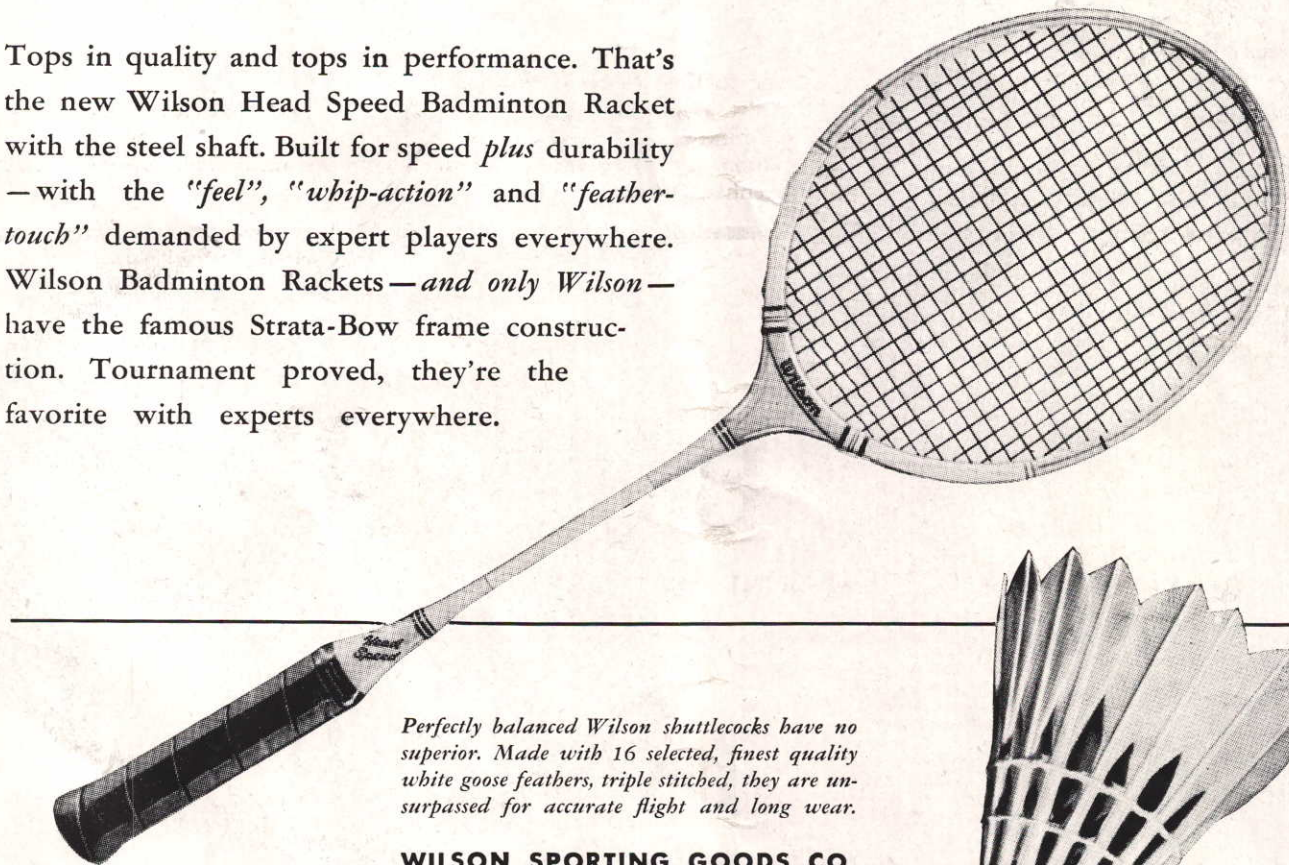


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