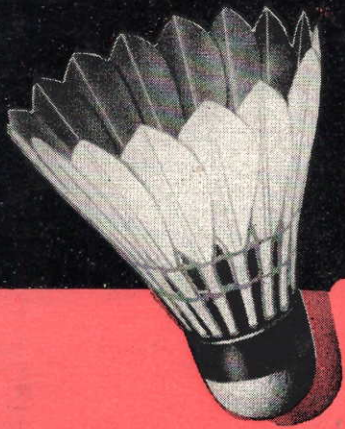


# Bird Chatter

OFFICIAL BADMINTON MAGAZINE

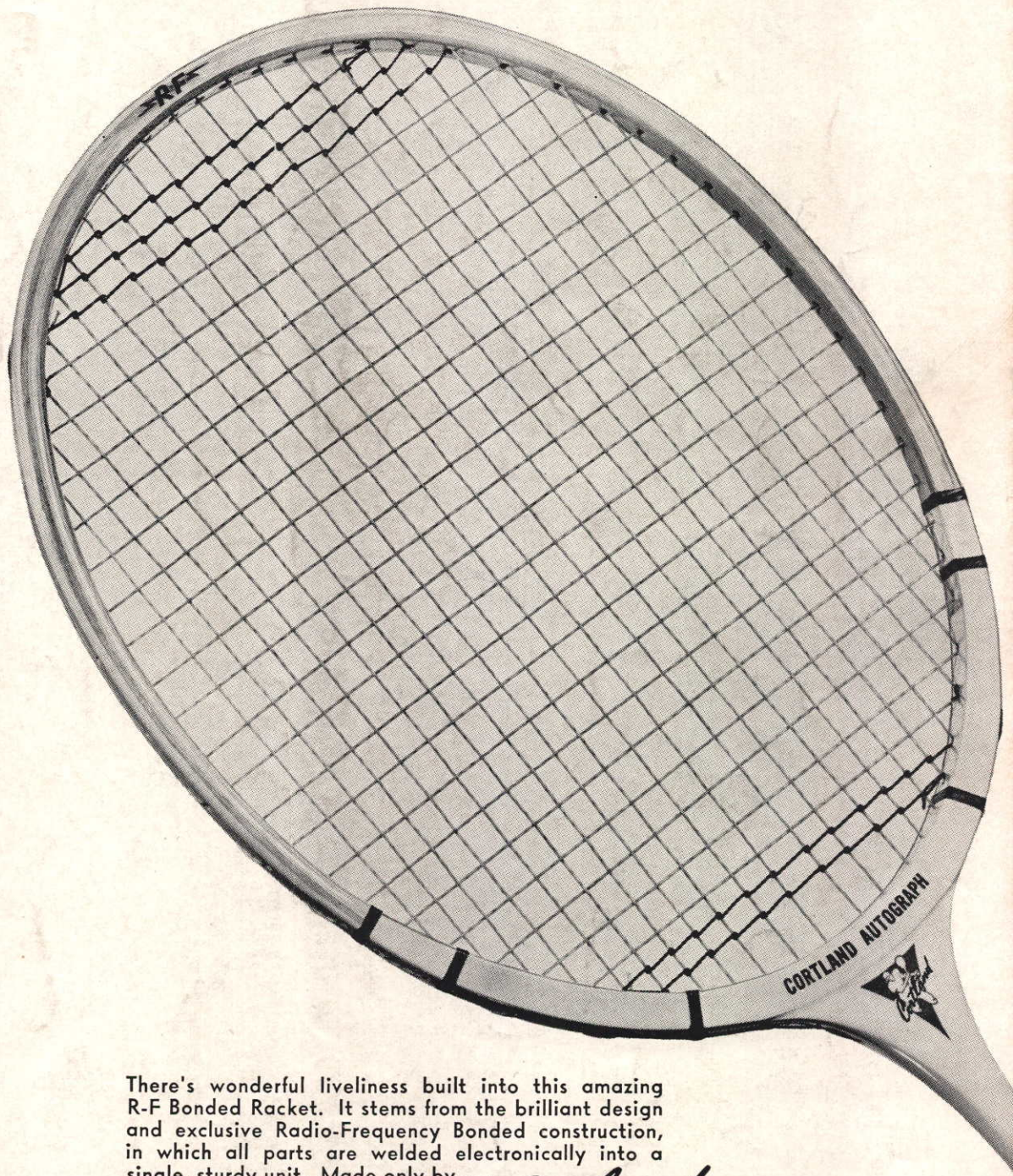


JAN. - FEB., 1951  
VOL. 10  
No. 2

In This Issue—  
**DALLAS Site of  
Senior Nationals**



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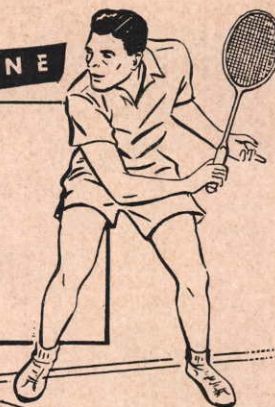


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# Bird Chatter



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## THE NATIONALS

Circumstances and events thousands of miles away will undoubtedly make both the Dallas senior and the Minneapolis junior nationals the largest such events ever held in the history of the game.

In spite of this year's unusual circumstances, the national championships were expected to be great successes because of the nationally known ability of both Dallas and Minneapolis to promote civic projects.

But, with war clouds gathering, badminton players everywhere are finding excuses and reasons to be near either one city or the other on March 29 to attend what they think might be the last nationals for many years.

The lure of a final fling at the sport and social fun present only at a national tournament is irresistible.

ROBERT KILDALL, Editor.



## LET'S KEEP THE ABA STRONG

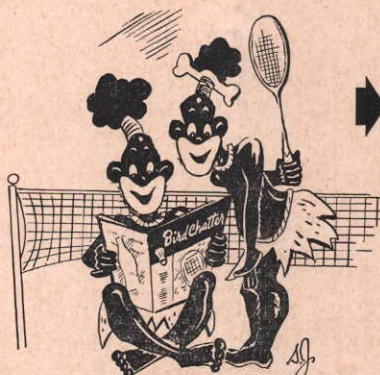
If the national "austerity" program should limit national and international badminton competition and reduce tournament play to regional and state tournaments, we should all take a sober look at the facts and determine how we can keep our sport strong.

During the last war, the American Badminton Association and its publication, Bird Chatter, were the only things that prevented the elimination of national badminton as we know it. That the ABA and Bird Chatter were active throughout the war were the two factors that enabled the early resumption of play following the conflict.

Today they are the strongest weapons we have and everyone's support is necessary to keep them strong. Membership in the ABA should be expanded and subscriptions to the magazine should continually grow from the all-time high it has now reached.

America's leading manufacturers of badminton equipment, through their continued support of our association have shown that they realize that their opportunities and responsibilities go far beyond their basic function of manufacturing and selling goods. At this time it is particularly important that we all remember those who are supporting us and give them our highest consideration.

ROBERT KILDALL, Editor.



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# ★ DALLAS

# TEXAS

SITE OF 1951 NATIONALS • MARCH 29, 30, 31



(Upper) Air view of downtown Dallas, scene of the 11th U. S. Senior Badminton Championships.  
(Lower) Municipal Recreation building located on the State Fair Grounds in Dallas where matches will take place.

WITH WAR flaming high in the Orient, the Eleventh National United States senior badminton championships scheduled for Dallas, March 29, 30, 31, may be the last of the between-war era of badminton championships.

But this year's meeting may also be the best ever held because of the extensive preparations by the tournament committee headed by Nick Roberts and the desire of players everywhere to attend the all important national tour-

nament before restrictions and war preparations pull shut the curtain.

#### State Fair Grounds is Location

The tournament will be held at the Municipal Recreation building located on the State Fair Grounds in Dallas, Texas. The fair grounds comprise 195 acres just two miles from the central business district. Improvements on the grounds represent an investment of more than \$35,000,000. As well as the recreation building the Texas Hall of State, the Dallas Historical Society, the

Aquarium, the Natural History Museum, the Fine Arts Museum and the Health Museum are located on the grounds.

### Official Headquarters

Official headquarters will be in the Baker hotel and the tournament committee expects to be able to accommodate everyone at that one hotel located in downtown Dallas. The tournament is being held by the Dallas badminton club with the Texas badminton association as joint sponsor. All entries and other correspondence relative to the 11th U. S. Senior badminton championships should be addressed to Mr. Nicholas F. Roberts, tournament chairman, c/o Republic National Bank of Dallas, Dallas 2, Texas. While no official entry fees had been announced when this story went to press, the tournament chairman expects that the fees will be the same as in the past, that is \$4.00 per person for the first event entered and \$2.00 for each additional event. The closing date for entries and hotel reservations will be March 10, 1951.

Approximately 250 contestants from every badminton section of the country are expected to take part. They will decide the holders of six national championships. Present holders who will defend their titles are: Ethel Marshall, Buffalo, ladies' singles; Marten Mendez, San Diego, men's singles; Janet Wright, San Francisco-Thelma Scovil, Long Beach, California, ladies' doubles; Wynn Rogers, Arcadia, California-Barney McCay, Alhambra, California, men's doubles; Loma Smith, Arcadia-Wynn Rogers, mixed doubles; and Wayne Schell, Cambridge, Mass.-Bob Wright, New York, veterans' doubles.

The most hotly contested title is ex-



**NICHOLAS ROBERTS**  
Tournament Chairman

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pected to be men's singles with defending Marten Mendez trying for his third straight win and Joe Alston, San Diego, leading the challengers for his crown.

Badminton players everywhere will be watching the men's singles and men's doubles events for another reason too. With the first matches of the Thomas Cup scheduled for late 1951, players who hope to be chosen to represent the U. S. will have to perform at their best in Dallas as their ranking there will largely determine whether or not they will be on the team. A team membership could mean a trip to Malaya if the U. S. should win in the American zone playoffs and also against the winners of the European and Pacific zones.

### ABOUT DALLAS

Dallas is one of the youngest and most cosmopolitan of America's big cities.

Within a few more than 100 years, Dallas has grown from a one-room log cabin on the Texas frontier to a city famed internationally for its aggressive citizenship, its clean, sparkling skyline, its cultural facilities, its beautiful, fashionable women, and an expanding, diversified economy—agriculture, oil, manufacturing, banking and insurance.

Its founder, John Neely Bryan, a Tennessean, named the site for his friend "Dallas" but it has never been known who this friend was. By strange coincidence Dallas county was named after George Mifflin Dallas, vice president under Polk, but as the town of Dallas was founded before the Philadelphia statesman ran for office, it is hardly likely that Bryan knew him.

Dallas has a dry, temperate, healthful climate which will please entrants in the national tournament. The average growing season (period between frosts) is 243 days. The annual average maximum temperature is 75.3 degrees.

### Entertainment Center

For generations, the Southwest has come to Dallas for entertainment rang-

ing from Metropolitan opera productions to rodeos, road shows of all types and night clubs. The city has long been recognized as one of the most sports-minded communities in the nation. It is the scene of the annual Cotton Bowl game, the annual Oklahoma-Texas football battle. In football it backs the famous Southern Methodist Mustangs.

Of particular interest to the ladies will be the opportunity to visit the Neiman-Marcus store of which most women throughout the nation are familiar. While the men are taking in the more conventional entertainment spots, the women will probably make a bee-line for this famous store on their arrival in Dallas.

### Transportation

American, Braniff, Central, Delta, Pioneer, Slick and Trans-Texas air lines have a daily combined total of 111 scheduled arrivals and 111 scheduled departures. Their schedules provide direct service from Dallas to the fol-



**DOROTHY LANDER**  
Lone Star Challenger

lowing terminal points: Los Angeles, Denver, Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland, New York, Boston, Savannah, Atlanta, New Orleans, Houston, Brownsville, Laredo, Miami, San Francisco, Washington, D. C., and Mexico City.

The railroads serving Dallas are: Burlington Lines, Cotton Belt Route, Frisco Lines, Santa Fe Lines, Kansas City Southern Lines, Missouri-Kansas-Texas Lines, Rock Island Lines, Southern Pacific Lines, and Texas and Pacific Railway Company.

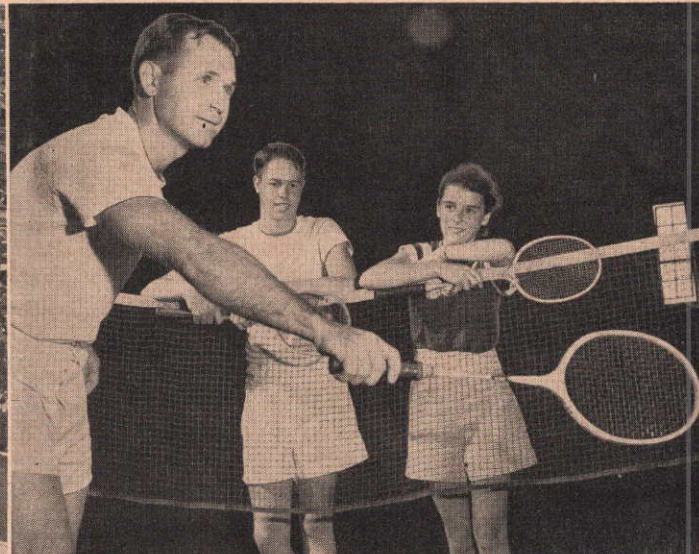
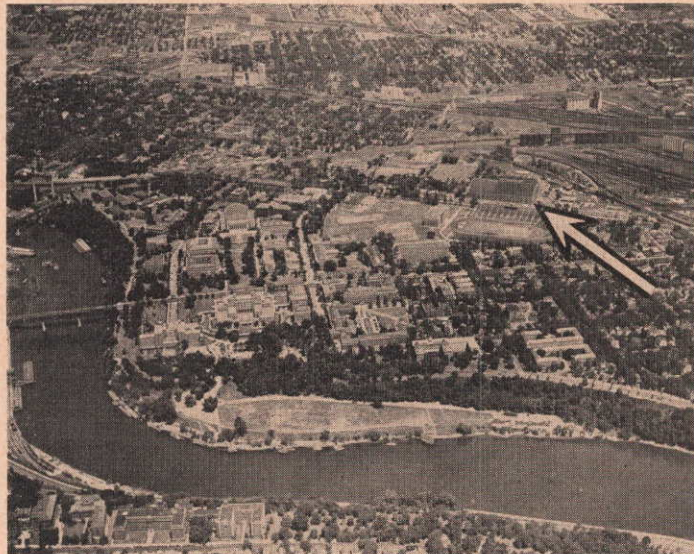
### Fuel

Natural gas is the universal fuel in Dallas. The absence of soot and smoke makes Dallas one of the cleanest and most healthful cities in America.

# Fifth Annual

# U. S. JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, MARCH 29, 30, 31



MINNESOTA JUNIORS are preparing a warm welcome both socially and on the court for the entrants in the Fifth National Junior badminton championships scheduled in Minneapolis March 29, 30, 31.

The Minnesota badminton association probably has one of the most active junior badminton promotion programs of any area in the United States and in the past years has developed many fine junior players.

But with the sites of the first four United States Junior National meets on the Eastern Seaboard these juniors have not been able to test their mettle against the national leaders.

California and Maryland teams have dominated the first four years but Minnesota and Midwest players generally are out to change all that.

### Tournament Location

The national juniors will be held at Williams memorial arena at the University of Minnesota which is just a ten-minute drive from downtown Minneapolis. There are four courts in the Williams arena. Additional courts are in close by Cooke hall and Norris gym. Spectator space and locker facilities are of the finest.

### Tournament Schedule

The tournament will get under way

(Upper left): University of Minnesota campus. Arrow points to Williams Memorial arena. (Upper right): Tex Harrell sharpening up Minneapolis juniors Glen Harold and Joanne Klise. (Lower): W. R. Smith, father of badminton in Minnesota, and President of the National Junior Tournament for 1951.



on Friday, March 29, at 9:30 a.m. and the finals will be held on Sunday at 2:30 p.m. The five championships to be contested are: boys' singles, girls' singles, boys' doubles, girls' doubles and mixed doubles. Any boy or girl

who had not reached his or her eighteenth birthday by October 1, 1950, is considered a junior for this meet. The entry fee is \$2.50 for the first event plus \$1.50 for each additional event entered.

The social committee has planned a full program of events and tours for the juniors and the lodging committee has accommodations ready for a record entry.

### President of the Meet

W. R. Smith, intramural director at the university, is president of the tournament. Mr. Smith is called the father of badminton in Minnesota and has served as an officer of the MBA ever since its organization. He teaches both daily and extension classes in badminton at the university and at one time was also the golf coach there. The University of Minnesota has a large intramural badminton program going during the fall and winter quarters.

### Some Minneapolis Competition

Shirley Mans, an attacking and smashing type of a player, leads the Minnesota contingent in the big meet. Shirley is an "A" student and has other interests in art and singing. She is the president of the "Twin-Cities Slam Club" which is the junior badminton group. Unassuming and shy, she is extremely well liked by her fellow players.

Roberta Gunner, 14, has terrific power and is developing into a top player very rapidly. Possessing a splendid smash and the will to win, Roberta only lacks enough practice to round out her play. She is expected to be in top form for the nationals.

Penny Covell, Minneapolis junior mixed doubles champ; 13-year-old Ra-

#### TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

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mona Gunner; red-headed Janet Harter, who has very deceptive shots; and Irene Urashi, an aggressive lefthander, are only a few of the remaining leaders of Minnesota junior badminton.

#### Beautiful Minneapolis

Beautiful Minneapolis, scene of the fifth national junior championships, is a city of 517,000. Right in the heart of North America, it is known as the summer convention center of the Upper Midwest. It is a city of parks and lakes with Lake Minnetonka, made famous by Thurlow Lieurance's "By the Waters of Minnetonka," only a twenty minute drive from the city. In the city are 147 parks with 5,820 acres. It has a very mild Spring which will insure perfect weather for badminton.

Minneapolis and St. Paul, just across the river, are both cooperating in the national event. Civic groups, colleges, schools, athletic clubs and the YMCAs and YWCAs are aiding in its promotion.

For additional information on the fifth national junior badminton tournament and for entry blanks write: Mr. W. R. Smith, tournament president, 5th U. S. National Junior badminton championships, c/o Intramural Department, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis 14, Minn.

# A Badminton Queen

**B**LONDE, left-handed Mrs. Thelma Scovil probably has the most varied and interesting badminton history of any woman player in the world. Her experience comes from play in England as well as the United States, professional as well as amateur competition.

At various times she has held the singles crown of Scotland, Ireland, Wales, England and the United States. Except for her American titles, most of Thelma's records are listed under her maiden name, Thelma Kingsbury.

Thelma has the experience and badminton know-how to baffle most other women players.

Her career began in Portsmouth, England, when she was but 16 years old. Her's was a birdie-batting family which included several excellent players. In 1933 she won her first All-England championship, ladies' doubles. The following two years she retained that title, and in both seasons lost the singles crown in the final round. In the 1935 event she lost the singles finals to her sister!

The next year, 1936, she took the English singles title for the first time and went on for a grand slam in Great Britain—holding the English, Welsh, Irish and Scottish tiaras the same year. From 1933 to 1937 she also played on the English team in international events.

This might have gone on and on, but in 1937 she came to the U. S., turned professional and toured with other badminton experts throughout the country. After completing the tour, she settled in San Francisco and set about to regain her amateur standing.

The 1940-41 season brought her back to tournament play. After winning the California singles crown she entered the Cleveland nationals and won the ladies' singles and doubles events. Through a typographical error in the 1941 championship's entry blank, Thelma was able to compete that year. The conditions required on the form were that the entrant had to be either a United States citizen or an alien resident for three years, instead of six years.

The Cleveland tournament was the first time she partnered Janet Wright in ladies' doubles. And what a combination they turned out to be. After nine years as partners, they have never been beaten in national play!

The following year the tournament form was corrected and Thelma was



judged ineligible for the meet. On the very day when she might have been competing for another national title, she was married to Ned Scovil. The same year she became an American citizen.

No national championships were held from 1943 to 1947 so Thelma was not able to regain her national championship rating.

In October 1946, the Scovil family, (consisting of Thelma, Ned and two-year-old Rosemary) moved to Long Beach where Mrs. Scovil became a member of the Manhattan Beach badminton club.

Los Angeles became the site of the first post-war national badminton championship in 1947, and the slightly built southpaw had her first chance since the Cleveland nationals in 1941 to annex more U. S. crowns. She bowed in the semis of ladies' singles to Ethel Marshall of Buffalo who went on to win that year's title. In 1948, at Waco, Texas, Thelma again lost to the left-handed Buffalo girl, this time in the finals.

She lost in the semi-finals in the 1949 Chicago event but reached the finals again in Baltimore this year. She lost to Ethel Marshall, who with her fourth straight U. S. singles title set a new record for singles wins. In every tournament since the war, Thelma has won the ladies' doubles crown with Janet Wright.

And when badminton players from all parts of the country gather at the national in Dallas in March, they will undoubtedly find the name Thelma Scovil again prominent in the finals of the ladies' events.

# How to play Badminton

## MORE ON MEN'S DOUBLES

By KEN DAVIDSON

THE article on men's doubles by Frank Devlin contained much excellent advice for our male players but it did not go deep enough to explain certain factors which led to the defeats inflicted upon the American teams by the Malaysians in Glasgow.

First of all, may I correct one false impression the article presented—the Malaysian teams did not win by the superiority of their hard hitting from the back court; the American pairs had greater severity. Quoting from the Badminton Gazette's official write-ups on the International matches: "The attacking strokes of the Americans generally were somewhat nullified by their reliance on pace, or expectation of winning by force. Both Malaysian pairs relied entirely upon defensive tactics, and in this respect they demonstrated play of a remarkably high character." And quoting from the Malaysian vs. Denmark match: "As against the Americans in Glasgow they returned everything in chess-board style, and they were wonderfully quick to find the spots to place the shuttle which were most to the dislike of the Europeans."

Both the Americans and the Danes found that speed is a double-edged sword. Undoubtedly, all-out hitting is an important part of any good doubles team but the quest for sheer speed implies a certain amount of risk and speed should not be obtained to the detriment of accuracy and steadiness. Our boys hit at the same speed all the time. This allowed the Malaysians to more or less anchor themselves in a set defensive position and return the shuttle to the most awkward spot on the court. Actually, our top couples have never had to think too deeply as to how to beat other pairs—usually their individual abilities and hard hitting has been sufficient to pull them through. Looking around the country, it is most difficult to select half-a-dozen teams in any type of doubles—men's, women's and mixed. Until badminton becomes much more prevalent, competition will be slim and doubles will not attain any high degree in teamwork. For example, there wasn't much



Ken Davidson, world famous professional, makes a forehand smash.

chance for our two U. S. A. pairs to become good combinations when they lived hundreds of miles apart and only met each other on three or four occasions at tournaments. Even then, they won their respective matches without too much exertion since other players were more often than not playing with one another for the first time. After a period of over twenty years, Frank Devlin still refers to the late G. S. B. Mack as his partner simply because they played together week in and week out in tournaments over a period of years. This is the general practice in countries where badminton has been established many years and where traveling is no particular problem. Players get together each week and discuss

plans of attack and defense—they become a team. They know what to do under any circumstances; they have confidence in each other, and since they are meeting other teams in competitive play, they learn team strategy and raise the standard of their play.

With the United States being so large, and badminton still a comparatively new sport, it isn't easy to develop teams. To prove that success can be obtained, the team of Freeman and Rogers, U.S.A., beat the Malaysian's top team in London in a great match in which all four players were at the top of their form, approximately two weeks after meeting them for the first time in Glasgow. This was only done by some thought being given to their previous defects and some study as to how to break down the Malaysians' superb defense. Certain other minor, but highly important, team factors were practised and—for the first time—our boys began to understand that a variety of speed has more value than hitting at full speed all the time. The addition of the steep, angled smash moved the defender's base a little nearer the net and consequently he became more vulnerable to faster all-out smashes. This change in the pace and speed of attack makes the severity of such a game more potent than one directed at the same tempo—no matter how fast it may be. The defender soon adjusts himself to the pace.

Americans normally are aggressive and desire to attack but little thought has been given to team play. History shows that all countries taking up badminton develop singles before doubles—this is a natural reaction since it is more difficult to get two minds to work as one. The Malaysian defeat made our boys realize that there is more to doubles than two individuals getting out on court and blasting away. Their rock-like defense caused errors through over-hitting and rallies ended by smashes going into the net or out of court or being returned to some awkward spot which forced an American to loft the shuttle up to one of the Malaysians, who were amazingly quick to take advantage of the Americans being caught out of position. Our boys had the necessary severity to win but did not always have the patience to wait for the right moment to go all out with their power. The main problem is to teach our teams how to keep up a fast pace without missing; how to move the defensive player off a set defensive position by learning to vary the speed of smashes (with an occasional drop-shot thrown in to make the defender move in) and, in general, to think more and not rely on the same speed of attack. If players living in the same



# Effective Shots

area would give more thought to team work and actually work out various problems in tactics, then a decided improvement would soon be forthcoming in the general standard of play throughout all the country and naturally players chosen to represent the United States would also benefit from the tougher competition. Unfortunately, few players today discuss ways and means to secure the attack and break down the opposition's defense. For example, few teams ever bother to practice how and when to use various serves to blunt the effectiveness of the receiver's return.

Incidentally, this point brings to the attention another point raised in Frank Devlin's article which caused much controversy here on the West Coast, at least in California, since over a dozen different parties came to me to ask my opinion on the subject during the Manhattan Beach tournament a recent week-end. (It's good to learn that Bird Chatter is doing such an excellent job of distribution.) This is an old controversy—"Should the server in doubles follow in on a LOW serve and cover all net returns, or, should each partner cover his respective half of the court, including net returns?" In the Bird Chatter article, Frank Devlin advocates that the server should NOT follow in after a low serve, that is, to cover the whole of the net. Personally, I have always recommended that the server should follow in a low serve and I think I should remind Frank that he wrote some years ago, quote: "I advise following in after the serve as the best means of covering the court for the average players." Naturally, there are weaknesses in both methods and good teams will be able to switch to either system if one isn't working well. To study the problem a little, let us accept the fact that the server has served a good low serve—we must compare equals and a poor serve is a poor serve no matter what system is used—and see what basic replies are offered the receiver, and what problems confront the serving team.

First, suppose the serving team players cover their respective half of the court. The players will be approximately level with each other in mid-court (slightly nearer the net). What can be the expected replies? 1. A short

(Continued on Page 18)

## OVERHEAD SHOTS

In these "speed-photo" shots, Hugh Forgie shows how the badminton player should play his clear, smash and drop with the same basic motions. Note that the peak of acceleration occurs between motions (4) and (5).



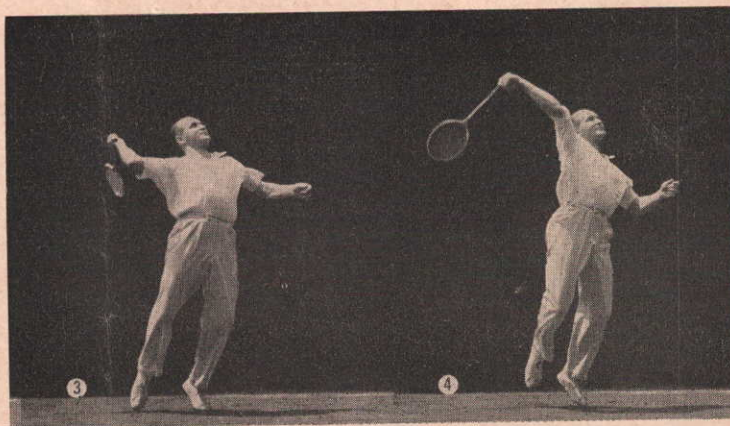
By HUGH FORGIE  
Noted Badminton Authority

**M**AY I compliment Frank Devlin on his excellent article on men's doubles in *Bird Chatter* (Nov.-Dec. issue). I too have noted the lack of power and fast hitting and am constantly teaching the importance of these factors in playing winning badminton.

It is the acceleration prior to contact—and reaching its peak at contact—that delivers the blow. In ninety-nine percent of the play that I see, the arc of the swing prior to contact is cut off or shortened. And the greatest hitting power is wasted, unknown to the hitter, after the shuttle is already on its way.

Many players, especially the club player, over-emphasize play at the net too soon in his experience in the game. It is my contention that the player must learn that the court is 44' long and there are few players who hit the shuttle with any consistency from back line to back line. It is only when you can put your opponent on the back line that you have an opportunity to play a good drop. Remember that Bob Feller's slow ball is valuable only as a result of having firstly a fast ball.

So the object of these few words is to suggest that you concentrate a little more on your ability to hit the shuttlecock forehand, around-the-head and backhand for the full length of the court and then, and only then, start using your drop shot. At this point, emulate Bob Feller. He doesn't have a different preparation for his fast ball. His slow ball has the same preliminaries and same follow through; it's the pace which has changed. (Readers may like to know that Ralph Kiner is a keen badminton enthusiast during his off season and that during our meetings and discussions, both Ralph Kiner and Bob Feller have been impressed with the similarity between badminton and baseball.)





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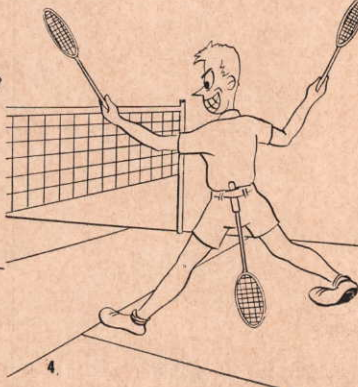
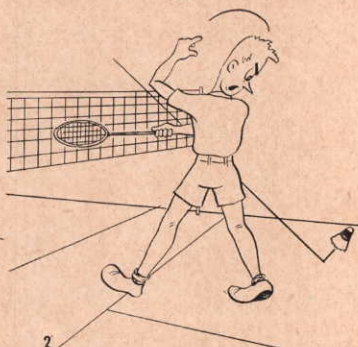
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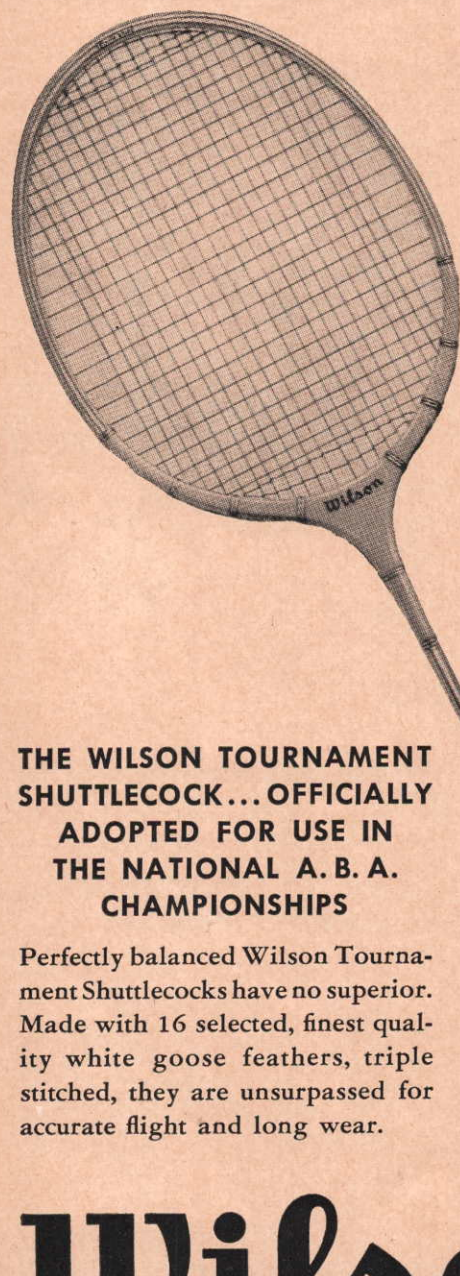
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# Tourneys and Topics

## WESTPORT MEN'S DOUBLES

After being canceled once because of bad weather, the Westport men's doubles badminton tournament was finally held December 9 at the Westport Y.W.C.A.

Carl Loveday teamed with Frank "Pop" Hinds to repeat their last season's win, this time over Ken Kost and Harry Hackett in a thrilling hard fought finals 15-7, 17-14.

## MIDWEST CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Midwest badminton championships will be held this year in the huge IMA auditorium in Flint, Michigan, February 24-25. The junior tournament will probably start February 23.

Flint is unique in its recreation program as it has a commission representing each of the major activities. This commission is composed of people representing each of the organized badminton groups, the Flint recreation and park board, the board of education, and the Mott foundation. Its function is to coordinate all the overall activities of a sport and to help give it financial support if needed.

Charles A. Mobley, Correspondent

## LEGEND

(MS): Men's Singles; (LS): Ladies' Singles; (MD): Men's Doubles; (LD): Ladies' Doubles; (MxD): Mixed Doubles; (Vets): Veteran's Doubles; (BS): Boy's Singles; (GS): Girl's Singles; (BD): Boy's Doubles; (GD): Girl's Doubles.

## MASS. CLASS D TOURNAMENT

There were 100 entries in the 1951 Massachusetts Class "D" tournament held at the Dedham (Mass.) high school Dec. 9, 10.

Results:

(MS) Albert Dockray d Albert Laubinger 7-15, 15-8, 15-8. (LS) Jayne Thaxter d Frances Camp 12-10, 8-11, 11-8. (MD) Dockray-Albert Warner d Edward McGuire-Hobart Holly 10-15, 15-9, 17-14. (LD) Ann Delano-Camp d Mary Powers-Vivian Bachand 15-11, 5-15, 15-11. (MxD) Holly-Virginia Holly d Dockray-Marlene Murray 15-12, 11-15, 15-11.

Charles Godsell, Correspondent

## MANHATTAN BEACH OPEN

The Manhattan Beach open was held at the Manhattan Beach (Calif.) bad-

minton club, December 8, 9, 10. Herm Maury was chairman.

Results:

### "A" Flight

(MS) Marten Mendez d Joe Alston 15-13, 15-11. (LS) Thelma Scovil d Janet Wright 8-11, 11-3, 11-4. (MD) Alston-Wynn Rogers d Irl Madden-Dick Mitchell 15-4, 15-12. (LD) Scovil-Wright d Dottie Hann-Loma Smith 15-7, 15-9. (MxD) Alston-Lois Smedley d Scovil-Roy Lockwood 15-7, 15-3. (Vet's) Everett Oliver-Howard Holman d Lewis Rulison-Hulet Smith 18-17, 15-6.

### "B" Flight

(MS) Jack Cogan d Roy Short 15-6, 17-16. (LS) Pat Gallagher d Sylvia Soloman 11-8, 11-6. (MD) Cogan-Bob Worthington d Jack Searl-Elmer Bymaster 15-6, 15-10. (LD) May Carr-Irene Gardner d Mickey Tyler-Ellie Cane 15-11, 15-8. (MxD) Worthington-Penhale d Pat Peterson-Mike Hartgrove 17-16, 16-17, 15-8. (Vet's) Bob Stanley-Toy Erkila d Dick Lundy-Rand Myers 17-15, 15-10.

Bob Noble, Correspondent

## OHIO STATE CLOSED

Ken Quigley captured the men's singles crown of the Ohio State closed tournament with a win over Ed DiLeone in the meet held at the University of Toledo, Dec. 2, 3.

Results:

(MS) Ken Quigley d Ed DiLeone 15-9, 15-4. (LS) Marg Wright d Mary Jane Stille 11-4, 10-12, 11-2. (MD) Quigley-DiLeone d Stan Sangdahl-Norm Atchison 15-7, 17-16. (LD) Stille-Wright d Jeanette Mergan-Mary Spooner 15-9, 15-3. (MxD) Stille-Bob Stille d Wright-Atchinson 15-3, 13-15, 15-6.

Robert Mergan, Correspondent

## STORM CANCELS TOURNAMENT

The 14th annual Westport (Conn.) men's doubles tournament was canceled November 25 as a result of the fierce northeast storm of near-hurricane proportions which ravaged the Eastern seaboard all day.

In spite of torrential rains and howling winds, which smashed windows, toppled trees, blew down telephone and power lines, flooded roads and raised tides to inundate the shore communities, all of the entered players from Boston, Connecticut, New York and Philadelphia showed up on schedule. However, there were no lights (a condition that was common to most coastal areas) and the schedule had to be postponed. The power came on about 3:30 and play got un-



**BURBANK OPEN**—(1) Doris Martin, Mary McMurry; (2) Hulet Smith, Lewis Rulison, Howard Holman, Everett Oliver; (3) Buzz Martin, Manuel Armendariz, Joe Alston, Wynn Rogers; (4) Joe Alston, Ruth Estabrook, Dick Van Praag, Wynn Rogers (serving); (5) Lois O'Connell, Dick Fleming, Elmer Bymaster, Margie Oliver;

**MANHATTAN BEACH OPEN**—(6) Mary Lynn Miller, Ken Davidson's granddaughter; (7) Mike Hartgrove, Pat Peterson, Penhale, Bob Worthington; (8) Irene Gardner, Mickey Tyler, Ellie Cane (in back) May Carr; (9) Irl Madden, Joe Alston holding picture of partner Wynn Rogers in Bob Noble's famous badminton photographic record book, Dick Mitchell; (10) Jack Cogan, Bob Worthington, Jack Searl, Elmer Bymaster; (11) Janet Wright, Loma Smith, Dottie Hann (in back) Thelma Scovil.

der way at the Westport YMCA. Only six matches in the first round had been played (in fact, two were still in progress) when the lights failed again—this time for good!

By supper time, with the storm still raging outside in unabated fury and no prospect of restored power, the show was called off and the players reluctantly disbanded—after eating the unheated portions of the traditionally fabulous buffet dinner which is an anticipated feature of this tournament.

Ted Jarrett, Correspondent

### 5th ANNUAL BURBANK OPEN

The 5th annual Burbank open tournament held at the Burbank, Calif., High School, November 10, 11, 12 saw one upset in the finals. That was when Joe Alston topped National Champion Marten Mendez for the singles title in two straight games.

Results:

#### "A" Flight

(MS) Joe Alston d Marten Mendez 15-11, 15-7, (LS) Thelma Scovil d Janet Wright 11-8, 11-5. (MD) Alston-Wynn Rogers d Manuel Armendariz-Buzz Martin 15-5, 15-8. (LD) Scovil-Wright d Dorothy Hann-Mrs. Hulet Smith 15-5, 15-8. (MxD) Rogers-

Smith d Alston-Lois Smedley 15-6, 15-12. (Vets) Lewis Rulison-Hulet Smith d Howard Holman-Everett Oliver. 17-14, 12-15, 18-17.

#### "B" Flight

(MS) Warren Peterson d Jack Cogan 15-4, 15-9. (LS) Doris Martin d Mary MacMurray 11-6, 11-8. (MD) George Keasey-Dick Fleming d Larry Calvert-Don Smith 12-15, 15-11, 17-14. (LD) Martin-MacMurray d Mae Carr-Irene Gardner 15-11, 12-15, 15-7. (MxD) Fleming-Lois O'Connell d Elmer Bymaster-Margy Oliver 15-3, 15-7. (Vets) Howard Taylor-Frank Auxier d Claude Welcome-Louis Wengert 15-16, 15-3.

Helen Tibbetts, Correspondent

### MIXED-UP MIXED DOUBLES

The annual mixed-up mixed doubles badminton party sponsored by the New Rochelle badminton club was held in the Huguenot Y.M.C.A. (N.Y.), November 4. Twenty-eight teams entered for a total of 56 players with entries coming from Connecticut, New Jersey, New York and Massachusetts.

The playoffs saw Ken Kost-Wanda Bergman defeat Fritz Jasensky-Helen Gibson for first and second places. Don Hersam-Ellie Raymond beat Vic Surrows-Paddy Shaw for

third and fourth. In the booby prize play-off Claus Hartleben-Gerda Gerard won from Bill Bredenberg-Jessica Sumner. Prizes were awarded all finalists and even a door prize of liquid gold was awarded to Frances Faeth.

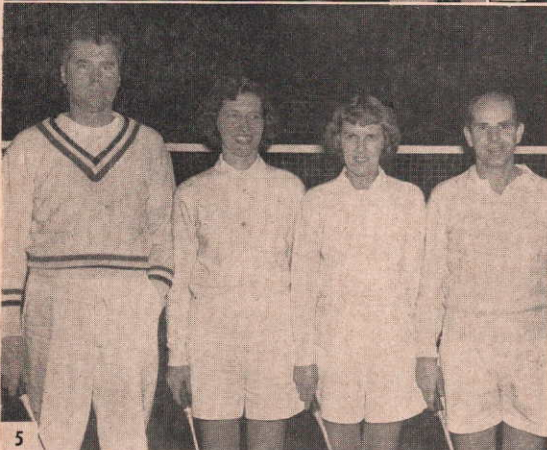
May Hellwig, Correspondent

### SHUTTLECOCK APPROVAL

Shuttlecocks which were approved for the 1949-50 season may now be approved for the season 1950-51 without prior testing, in accordance with the following procedure:

1.) The concern marketing the shuttle approved shall advise the national ABA secretary, 77 Whittier Road, Wellesley Hills 82, Mass., that it wishes to ask for a renewal of the approval. (The request for renewal implies that the shuttle in question is to be placed on the market with the same or better qualifications than last year.)

2.) The national secretary will officially grant the approval and will render an invoice for the regular charges.



NEW ROCHELLE MIXED-UP DOUBLES—(1) Ken Kost, Wanda Bergman, Helen Gibson, Fritz Jasensky; (2) Shown in picture are: Barbara Lee, Hal and Eda Daume, Ruth Wiener, Steve Edson, Stig Larson, Harry Quinn, Ed Quinn, Charles Zimmerman, Ed Shields, Mildred Chiamonte, Theresa and Ken Littlefield, Dot and Stan Pickering, Joseph Wilke, Eileen McCarroll, May Hellwig, Janet and Hugh Forgie, Fran Boyd, Bob Lougheed, Wanda Bergman, Marge Will-

shier, Louise Ober, Ken Kost, John Cornell, Leona Scully, Bill, Bea and Brenda Bredenberg.

(3) CHAMPIONSHIPS OF PARIS (France)—Group of French badminton stars—(first row) Dr. Yves Baudoin, Melle Yvonne Girard, Melle Madeleine Girard, Charles Chassain. (Second row) Jacques Gibon, Michel Marret, Emile Maillot, (Third row) Michel Le Renard, Paul Ailloud, Maurice Mathieu.

(4) MAAA (Canada) INVITATION—(left to right) At hard-times party following tournament: Phil Michlin, Mr. and Mrs. Shane, Jane Moriarity, June Traquair, Al Dockery, not named, Bob Traquair, Bob and Pat Williams, Norma Keech, Grant Henry, not named. OHIO STATE CLOSED—(5) Bob Stille, Mary Jane Stille, Marg Wright, Norm Atchison; (6) Ed DiLeone, Ken Quigley; (7) Mary Jane Stille, Marg Wright.

## SAN DIEGO OPEN

New champions were crowned in all the open doubles events of the San Diego Open held at the Balboa park gymnasium, Oct. 13, 14, 15.

### Results:

(MS) Marten Mendez d Joe Alston 15-6, 15-3. (LS) Thelma Scovil d Connie Taylor 11-3, 11-2. (MD) Alston-Mitchell d Buzz Martin-Manuel Armendariz 15-4, 15-6. (LD) Mrs. Hulet Smith-Dottie Hann d Taylor-Connie Davidson 15-2, 15-13. (MxD) Alston-Lois Smedley d Roy Lockwood-Thelma Scovil 15-7, 15-2. (Vets) Hulet Smith-Lewis Rulison d Howard Taylor-Claude Henninger 15-3, 15-4.

Helen Tibbetts, Correspondent

## INDIA TOURNAMENTS

Two top ranking India tournaments were concluded in November: the Cricket Club of India open and the Western India open.

In the CCI Davinder Mohan, India defeated fourth ranked Malayan, Abdulla Piruz in the finals in two straight games. Piruz teamed with Tan Jin Eong to cop the men's doubles event easily. Mohan and the Malayan men's team also won their events easily in the Western India open.

P. M. Jhaveri, Correspondent

## NORWEGIAN INTERNATIONAL

Poul Holm, Denmark, defeated Jorn Skaarup, Denmark, 15-11, 7-15, 15-12 to win the men's singles tiara of the

Norwegian international badminton tournament held in Oslo, November 11, 12.

The Danes completed their sweep when Skaarup-Holm defeated Conny Jepson-Olle Wahlberg, Sweden, 15-9, 17-15.

In team matches between Sweden and Denmark, in Copenhagen, November 18, the Danes took a close victory 3-2.

Knud Lunoe, Correspondent

## NEW JERSEY OFFICERS

The New Jersey badminton association, the newest class A association of the ABA, has announced the following officers: C. B. Gwyn, Jr., president; R. W. Stever, vice-president; A. D. Power, treasurer; A. J. Atkinson, J. J. McCutcheon, Jr., R. Radfield, executive committee.

All correspondence to the new association should be sent to Mr. Gwyn, Box 415, Mountain Lakes, N. J.

## CBA's DOLLAR PLAN

To provide funds at all levels which are essential to the growth of the game, the Canadian badminton association has adopted a new dues basis of "One Dollar a Year" from each registered player in Canada.

The CBA expects to use the additional income to promote the following programs: To promote cheaper play,

to inaugurate the national junior championships, to print and distribute information on rules and etiquette, to develop nationwide instruction and clinics, to stimulate Thomas cup and international play as well as to promote tournaments everywhere, and to establish a permanent central office.

The CBA will receive 50c from each dollar. The remaining half dollar will be divided between the provincial and district organizations.

## IBF ANNOUNCEMENTS

Acting on committee recommendations, the International Badminton Federation has adopted an entirely new set of qualifications for international players that come into force at once.

In their birth or two years' residence provide the main qualification, the latter being reduced from the five years hitherto in force. It is now easier for a player to become qualified for a second country and concessions have also been granted to ladies upon marriage.

The next competition for the Thomas cup will take place over 1951-52. Entries in the Pacific zone closed January 1, 1951. Entries for the European and American zones remain open until June 15.

The 12th annual meeting of the IBF was held in London, July 5.

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## Over the net

**CHESS CHAMP**—As well as being considered possibly the greatest badminton player who ever lived, Sir George Thomas, Bart, president of the International Badminton Federation, is also one of the world's greatest masters of chess.

**BORN** — Derry Holmes Forgie, a daughter, to Hugh and Janet Forgie, May 30. Hugh is a leading U. S. badminton professional whose act "Badminton on Ice" has been the hit of recent Ice Capades shows. The Forgies also have two sons: Geoffrey, 10; Reginald 6.

**MARRIAGE**—Miss Queenie M. Allen to Francis G. Webber, September 29 at Worthing, England. Miss Allen partnered Wynn Rogers, Arcadia, Calif., in the finals of the mixed doubles event of the 1949 All-England tournament. They lost to Mr. and Mrs. Clint Stephens of Baltimore, Md.

**INTO THE SERVICE** — Alan Mahaffey, well-known Southern California player, has been called into the service.

**MOVING** — Kenneth and Connie Davidson from Southern California to New York City in January.



**ALL-AROUND SPORTSWOMAN**—Jane Russell, star of Howard Hughes' "The Outlaw," distributed by RKO Radio, names badminton as one of her favorite sports. She stars with Robert Mitchum in "Macao."

**LITTLE KNOWN FACTS** — Columnist E. V. Durling states that Douglas Fairbanks, during his active career as a star, played badminton daily to aid in keeping himself in shape. Doug was inclined to put on weight easily.

**BORN** — Tommy Rhine, November 2, to Bert and Tody (Rahmn) Rhine, well known Southern California badminton couple.

**OPERATION X**—Wayne Schell has recovered from a recent operation in a Boston Hospital. With Bob Wright, who recently moved from Boston to Long Island, Wayne is co-holder of the national veteran's title.

**BADMINTON GIRDLES**—In the April 3 issue of LIFE magazine, page 7, the International Latex Corporation ad shows in four flash shots that badminton can be played while wearing their girdles. Bird Chatter believes that important information like this should be brought to the attention of its readers.

**VISITOR DEPARTS**—Brij Gammers, who has been a visitor in Minneapolis and St. Paul from Bombay, India, left recently for his home via Europe. He was a regular member of the University group. He says that badminton tournaments are major sporting events in Bombay and draw capacity crowds.



Beginning with this issue of *Bird Chatter* "The Badminton Court" will be a regular feature. Its purpose will be to discuss those badminton questions that are discussed whenever badminton players meet and talk about their game. Readers of *Bird Chatter* are asked to mail in their replies to the question scheduled for next issue before February 25. Also readers are asked to mail questions for future discussion.

**QUESTION NO. 1 — DO YOU THINK THAT THE SHUTTLES IN GENERAL USE BY THE PLAYERS IN YOUR AREA ARE OF TOO SLOW A PACE?**

(The Laws of Badminton state that a shuttle is deemed to be the correct pace 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 one foot, and not more than 2'6" short of the other back-boundary line.)

W. Harry Vaughan, Atlanta, Ga.: "Yes. Repeatedly we find faster (heavier?) shuttles are selected in our regional championships than are used for social play and local tournaments under the same weather conditions.

"In my opinion, the game loses finesse of touch and skill and we beat up thousands of shuttles annually because shuttles played with are too slow.

"Rule 4 is a gross approximation, and what makes matters worse is the fact that the average player does not know that shuttles travel further at higher altitudes and temperatures; shorter at lower altitudes and temperatures. Round feathered shuttles must weigh 2 to 3 grains more to fly the

same distance as pointed feathered shuttles.

"The fact is that there are very few players capable of reliably hitting shuttles to test under Rule 4. For instance, mark six shuttles out of the same carton and see how much length variation you get in a series of four hits on each shuttle.

"Moreover, most players do not know that, in a group of twelve shuttles from one container, the flights of individual shuttles will differ by 27 to 60 inches.

"Finally, many a faulty (wood) shot has resulted from shuttles of differing flights taken from the same carton and also the 'fronds' of the feathers being suddenly ruffled during a rally, thus slowing the shuttle."

Rex Rial, Buffalo, N. Y.: "We generally use 74 grain 'Official' shuttles in both club and tournament play and find them well suited when playing temperatures averaging 40°-70° F. At lower temperatures we would prefer a heavier shuttle, possibly 76 grain, or even 78 grain if extremely cold. We feel that a slower paced shuttle permits greater finesse and deception in shot making and that a fast shuttle places a premium on power alone."

Nick Roberts, Dallas, Texas: "I have not heard of any complaints from players in this area that shuttlecocks are too slow and, in fact, up until a few years ago, we were using a heavier and faster bird than is now in general use. We were actually using at that time a faster bird than was used in other areas.

"We generally use a 75 or 76 grain shuttle which seems suitable for this climate. The only times when they appear a little slow is on very cold days and since we do not have much cold weather, it does not present any problem."

George W. Davis, Birmingham, Mich.: "Yes—but is it bad? Our club tests show variations of as much as two or three feet in birds from the same

tube. The slower birds are best for dubs, oldsters and average players. Rallies are longer and more exciting. Apparently tournament finalists prefer them a little slow—nine out of ten of them will test birds by placing a foot on the baseline so that the bird is struck twelve to eighteen inches in front of the line. The birds they reject are those that would prove up perfectly if tested according to the official rule.

"The advent of uniformly perfect birds will be a sad day—for bird committees will miss the beefs, squawks and laments of the grouchers. After all, the bird is fair to both sides. The main thing is to avoid birds that are unreasonably slow or fast, and the latitude provided by the official rule (a foot and a half) can be stretched a few inches more or less without spoiling the play."

Joe Alston, San Diego, Cal.: "I do believe that the shuttles used in this country are too slow. In several recent tournaments, I have asked people what they thought about the speed of shuttles used in this country, and have received some very good ideas.

"First of all, I do not believe that the slowness of the shuttles is due to any fault of the companies producing them, but actually the fault of our own players. Second, I feel that it is much easier to play with a slow shuttle and it doesn't require as much control. As Ken Davidson has pointed out to me many times, badminton is actually a game of control and a player's real ability to control the shuttle and to play good badminton will come to the surface when he is using a fast shuttle. Third, I think if we start using faster shuttles, it will improve our control and also our chances of bringing the Thomas Cup to this country."

Question 2 to be discussed in the Mar.-Apr. issue of *Bird Chatter* will be: **WHAT IS THE POPULAR FEELING TOWARD THE WOOD SHOT RULE IN YOUR AREA?**



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## TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

- Jan. 26-28—Pacific Southwest Tournament, Hollywood, Cal.  
 Jan. 26-28—Buffalo A. C. Invitational, Buffalo, N. Y.  
 Jan. 27—Gutn' Feathers Tournament, Marblehead, Mass.  
 Jan. 27-28—Michigan Open Tournament, Dearborn, Mich.  
 Jan. 31-Feb. 4—British Columbia Championships, Vancouver, B. C., Canada  
 Feb. 2-4—Massachusetts State "B" Championships, Boston, Mass.  
 Feb. 2-4—Washington, D. C., Invitational, Kensington, Maryland.  
 Feb. 3—North Shore Class B, Evanston, Ill.  
 Feb. 9-11—Kodak Invitational Tournament, Rochester, N. Y.  
 Feb. 9-11—Baltimore City Invitational, Baltimore, Maryland  
 Feb. 16-18—New England Championships, Boston, Mass.  
 Feb. 17-18—Ohio State Open Tournament, Shaker Heights, Ohio  
 Feb. 17-20—Danish National Championships, Odense, Denmark  
 Feb. 23-25—Niagara Falls Country Club Invitational, Lewiston Hts., N. Y.  
 Feb. 24-25—Washington State Open, Spokane, Wash.  
 Feb. 24-25—Midwest Badminton Championships, Flint, Michigan  
 Feb. 24-25—Metropolitan "B" Championships, New York, N. Y.  
 Mar. 1-3—Hood Rubber Company A-D Tournament, Watertown, Mass.  
 Mar. 7-10—All-England Championships, London, England  
 Mar. 9-11—New Jersey State Championships (no location given)  
 Mar. 10-11—Maryland State Junior Tournament, Baltimore, Md.  
 Mar. 16-18—Genesee Valley Club Invitation, Rochester, N. Y.  
 Mar. 16-18—Massachusetts State Championships, Boston, Mass.  
 Mar. 16-18—Southern Badminton Association Championships, Memphis, Tenn.  
 Mar. 24—Seabright Invitational Mixed Doubles, Seabright, N. J.  
 Mar. 29-31—FIFTH U. S. JUNIOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS, Minneapolis, Minn.  
 Mar. 29-31—ELEVENTH U. S. SENIOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS, Dallas, Texas  
 Apr. 12-17—International Championships of Denmark, Copenhagen

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## MORE ON MEN'S DOUBLES

(Continued from Page 9)

net return. 2. A flick attacking clear over the head of the server or his partner if either moves in too quickly to cover the suspected short net return. 3. A short "push" shot specifically directed into the body with the idea of cramping the movements of the server or his partner and drawing forth a weak reply. These are the three basic replies which can be made without any variation in the preliminary actions of the receiver. The short net return is almost bound to make one of the serving side hit upwards and the receiving side has immediately achieved its aim—the chance to attack. This low short net return is the principle return (we are discarding the killing of poor low serves for both methods) against a team which does not have the server follow in the low serve. On the other hand, when the system of following in the low serve is used, the original positions of the respective partners of the serving team are changed. These are similar to the positions taken up by the normal "front and back" mixed doubles team, with the server positioned

close to the center service line and the partner standing almost behind him in the back court. What then are the weaknesses of this system? Basically, the answer from the receiver is a half-court "push" shot which beats the server who is advancing but which is not hit deeply enough for the back player to do other than reach the shuttle near the floor. This seems to be the best reply to a good low service but it must be well played, otherwise if it is short, the net player will intercept it and, if it is played out too far, the back player can meet the shuttle and drive it past the receiver. Comparing this system against the other; the server, following in, should deal effectively with any short net returns and the back player should deal with any high flick returns to the back of the court and if the "push" shot into the chest is tried by the receiver, the server should allow it to pass for the back player to handle.

It seems to me that the system with the server following in puts more pressure on the receiver and thus has more attacking value than the other system

which must be considered strictly as a defensive approach since it leaves a comparatively safe return at the net for the receivers to gain the attack. This mental approach is important for all good doubles teams must be attack minded. The whole problem has been based on theory and neither system will prove successful if not executed well or if some study is not given to the serve. It would pay many men to watch how expertly the top female mixed doubles players serve to narrow the angle of return; how quickly they move in ready to kill off any short return at the net, and, if this is not possible, how they keep the shuttle low on their return without giving the attack away. A man is capable of covering more territory than a woman and should therefore make it tougher for the receiver to play a half-court past him than it would be in a mixed game.

On the assumption that serves are of equal standard for both systems, I believe that less openings are offered to the receiver on his return of serve if the server follows in his LOW serve, thus there is a better chance for the server, or his partner, to gain the attack, which is the primary object ever present with first class doubles teams.



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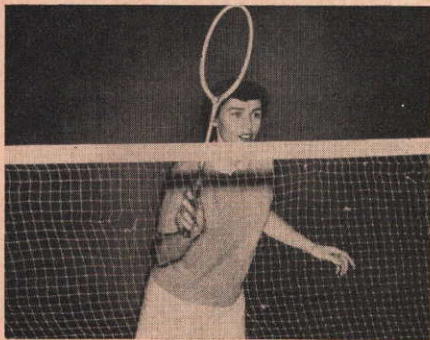
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# BADMINTON QUIZ



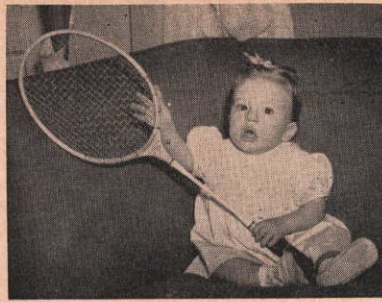
1. First U. S. Singles champion was:  
 (a) Dave Freeman (c) Don Eversoll  
 (b) Walter Kramer (d) Frank Stojack



2. At the center, the badminton net is:  
 (a) 6' high (c) 4' 6" high  
 (b) 5' 1" high (d) 5' high



3. The Thomas Cup is now held by:  
 (a) Malaya (c) Denmark  
 (b) India (d) Ireland



4. A strung badminton racket weighs approximately:  
 (a) 2 ounces (c) 10 ounces  
 (b) 5 ounces (d) 8 ounces



5. A badminton shuttlecock has:  
 (a) 14 to 16 feathers (c) 13 to 15 feathers  
 (b) 10 to 12 feathers (d) 18 to 20 feathers

Answers: 1—(a); 2—(d); 3—(a); 4—(b); 5—(a).

## NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAMPIONSHIPS

The beautiful Santa Cruz civic auditorium was the scene of the Northern California badminton tournament held October 28, 29.

### Results:

(MS) Wynn Rogers d Bill Berry 15-7, 15-8. (LS) Thelma Scovil d Janet Wright 11-4, 11-4. (MD) Irl Madden-Rogers d Buzz Martin-Manuel Armendariz 15-11, 15-10. (LD) Scovil-Wright d Dorothy Hann-Mrs. Loma Smith 15-13, 15-6. (MxD) Rogers-Smith d Alan Mahaffey-Jean Gibbs 15-6, 15-7. (Vets) Lewis Rulison-Hulet Smith d Jim Barron-Howard Holman 15-7, 12-15, 15-6.

Irl Madden, Correspondent

## CHAMPIONNATS INTERNATIONAUX de PARIS

The championnats internationaux de Paris de badminton was held 11 & 12 Novembre at R.C.F. Rue Eble, in Paris.

### Results:

(MS) R. W. Horden d L. Coffin 15-10, 15-9. (LS) Mle. Ailloud d Mme. Chassain 11-3, 11-2. (MD) Coffin-Horden d Kirkby-Morris 15-11, 15-4. (LD) Mlles. M & Y Girard d Mle. Ailloud-Mle. Giani 15-9, 15-1. (MxD) Mle. Y. Girard-Horden d Mle. M. Girard-Kirkby 15-13, 11-15, 15-1.

René Mathieu, Correspondent

"How to Take Care of Your Tennis Racket," is a booklet distributed free by Ethicon Suture Laboratories, 5001 W. 67th St., Chicago, Illinois. Facts contained in the booklet are recommended to badminton players for the protection of their rackets.



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# ON STRINGING A RACKET

By JACOB LIPMAN

Assistant Editor BIRD CHATTER

THE balancing point of a strung racket should be eleven and one-half inches from the butt. When this distance is greater than eleven and three-quarters inches, the head is definitely on the heavy side. A good racket, properly strung, should weigh not less than four and three-quarters ounces and not more than five and one-eighth ounces. A skillfully strung badminton racket must be so strung that the natural resilience of the strings and the whip of the frame are brought into balanced perfection. If each string is evenly and properly tensioned, the racket will provide the player with that sensitivity of touch which is absolutely necessary for perfect control, assuring the player the utmost in performance.

To prevent string breakage, which is usually caused by hitting or scraping the court on low shots, place one or two layers of scotch tape around the bow and upper shoulders of the frame. The tape will prevent the strings from being nicked with subsequent breakage, especially in the grooves and on the sides. Do not use adhesive tape for this purpose, as the chemical ingredients in regulation adhesive tape will eventually

break down the wood fibres in the frame.

For gut strung rackets, you may use a preservative on the gut that has been specially compounded for the purpose and which can be purchased at your dealer. These preservatives act as a binder and prevent premature fraying and if constantly used, the strings will definitely last much longer. Always swish the racket several times after applying any of these preparations in order to throw off any excess fluid. Any caking of these fluids on the strings will slow them down.

When taken out into the cold or damp weather, gut strung rackets must be properly protected from the elements so as to avoid any string breakages. The sudden change of thin gauge badminton gut, from warm to cold or from damp to dry, will cause the gut to expand or contract too suddenly, resulting in broken strings. Never leave your racket on a damp surface or permit it to become wet, otherwise it will warp and then be ruined.

The most serviceable string to use for the average badminton racket is 19 gauge. The 20 gauge string is used by the more proficient player, usually for fast play. When constantly used, the 19 gauge string will last much longer than the 20 gauge string, although the 20 gauge makes a much faster game when strung to a high

tension. The 21 gauge string is usually preferred by the expert player for tournament play, since it has a more tense resiliency and a smaller diameter which permits a maximum tension on the strings without placing too much strain on the racket frame. It will, on the other hand, wear more quickly.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS HIT HIGH PEAK

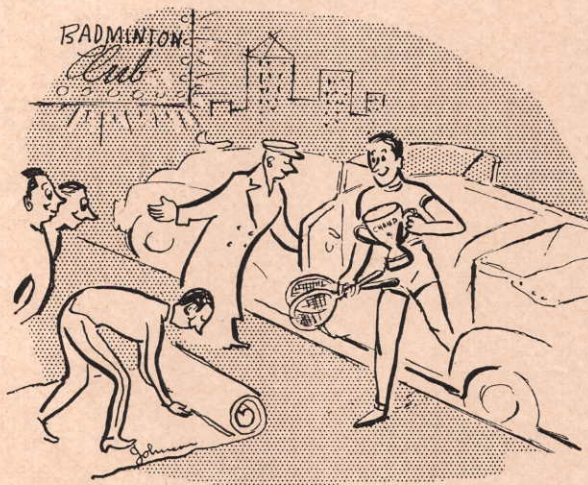
There are more paid-up subscribers to Bird Chatter this issue than with any issue in the history of the magazine.

Region 4, Midwest has taken over the subscription lead from Region 6, Pacific. Region 2 is in third place, Region 1 fourth, Region 3 fifth and Region 5 sixth. Region 5 which lost fifth place to Region 3 is the only region which has not topped its previous high total.

Our records show that the following clubs are 100% Bird Chatter subscribers and receive at least one copy for every family in the club: Syracuse, Detroit Badminton Club, Skokie (Chicago) B. C., Webster Groves (Mo.) B. C., Stamford (Conn.) B. C., Conoco (Okla.) B. C., Green Bay (Wis.) B. C., and the Merrimac Club (Mo.). We would like to hear about other clubs that should be included in this list so that recognition can be given to them.

## CORRESPONDENTS

The copy deadline for the March-April issue of BIRD CHATTER, official badminton magazine, is February 20.



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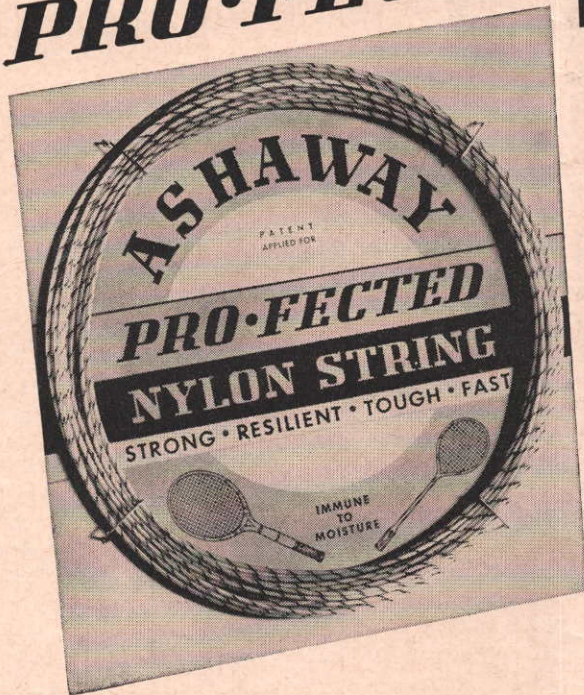


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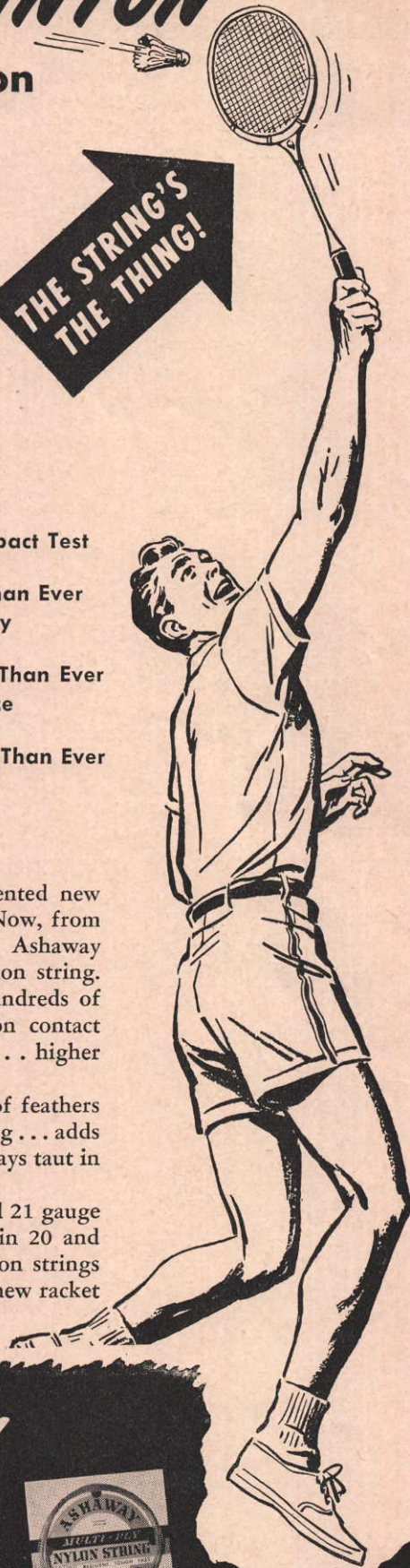
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Identified by its ebony spiral, PRO-FECTED nylon is available in 20 and 21 gauge for badminton; 15 and 16 gauge for tennis. MULTI-PLY nylon comes in 20 and 15 gauge. Ask for your choice of these new patent-pending Ashaway nylon strings next time your racket needs restringing. Look for one or the other in any new racket you buy.

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## Letters to Editors

Dear Sirs:

Do you think that (*Bird Chatter*) would do better if you took over the squash racquet field as well (as Badminton)?

Jerrold H. Meyer,  
Sea Bright, N.J.

Dear Sirs:

In these days of rising costs, and improvement in the style and content of the magazine, it would not seem to me to be out of the question to make the single year subscription price \$1.25; two year's \$2.25. There is not now an inducement to go for the longer subscription which gives you the desirable backlog to carry over into the following season. \$1.00 is too much of a bargain in this day and age.

Al Brown,  
Portland, Oregon.

Yes, at \$1.00 per year it costs us money to print *Bird Chatter*. But the magazine's primary purpose is to promote badminton rather than make money. And besides a great many readers realize they are helping by sending in the two and three year's subscriptions which save us considerable money by cutting down renewal costs.—Ed.

Dear Sirs:

During the war when so many U. S. servicemen were in and passing through this country we were not playing badminton at all but I would be glad if any U. S. players visiting Australia nowadays would communicate with me so that we may extend to them the courtesies we can.

H. R. Brady, Secretary  
Australia Badminton Asso.  
28 William Street  
Preston, N. 18 Victoria  
Australia.

Dear Sir:

The Department of State has received a request from one of the United States Missions in Malaya for information on the magazine *Bird Chatter*. In view of the enthusiasm and keen interest shown by the Malaysians in this sport the Department would like to know the subscription price of this periodical.

Helen E. Wessells,  
Department of State  
Washington 25, D.C.

● The ABA will mail the four issues of *Bird Chatter* each year anywhere in the world for \$1.00. Malaysians will be able to keep posted on U. S. players that we hope will do the challenging when the next Thomas Cup playoffs come off in their country.—Ed.

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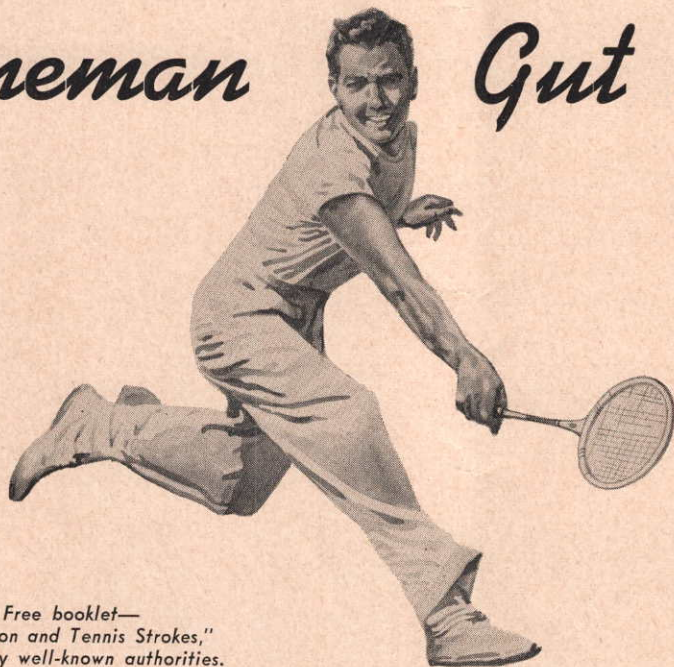
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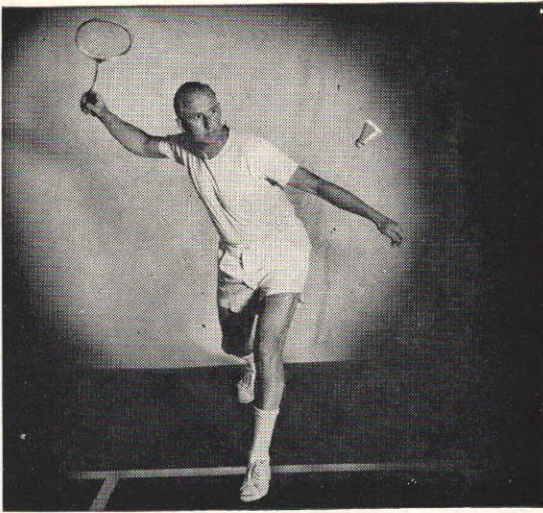
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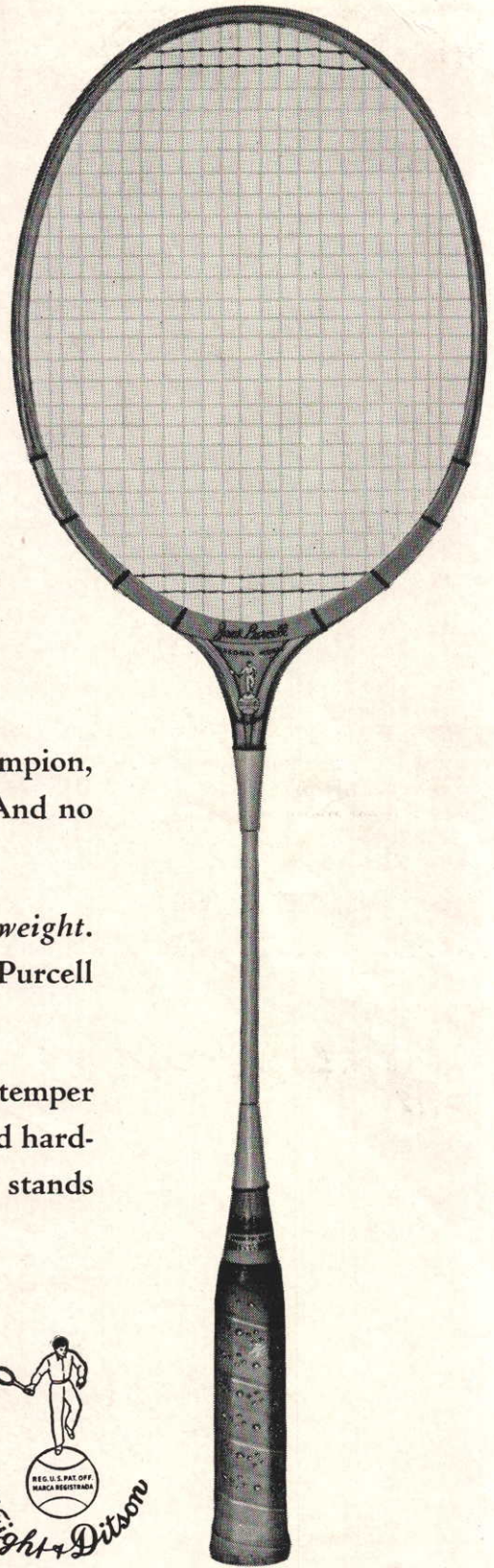


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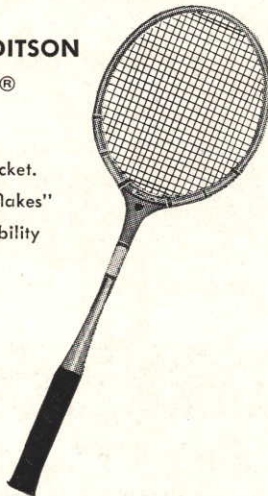
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