

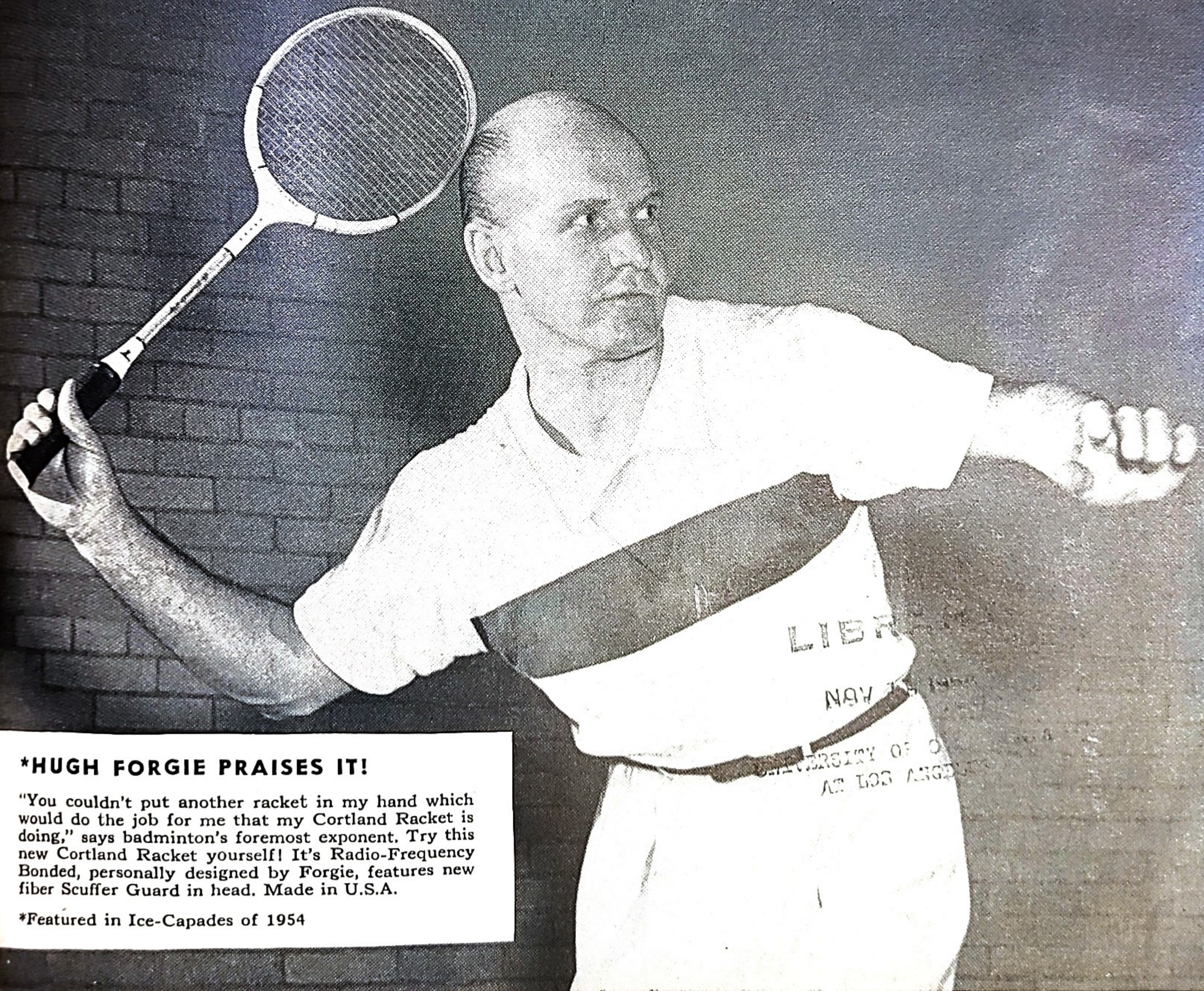
BIRD CHATTER



Vol. 13

January-February, 1954

No. 2



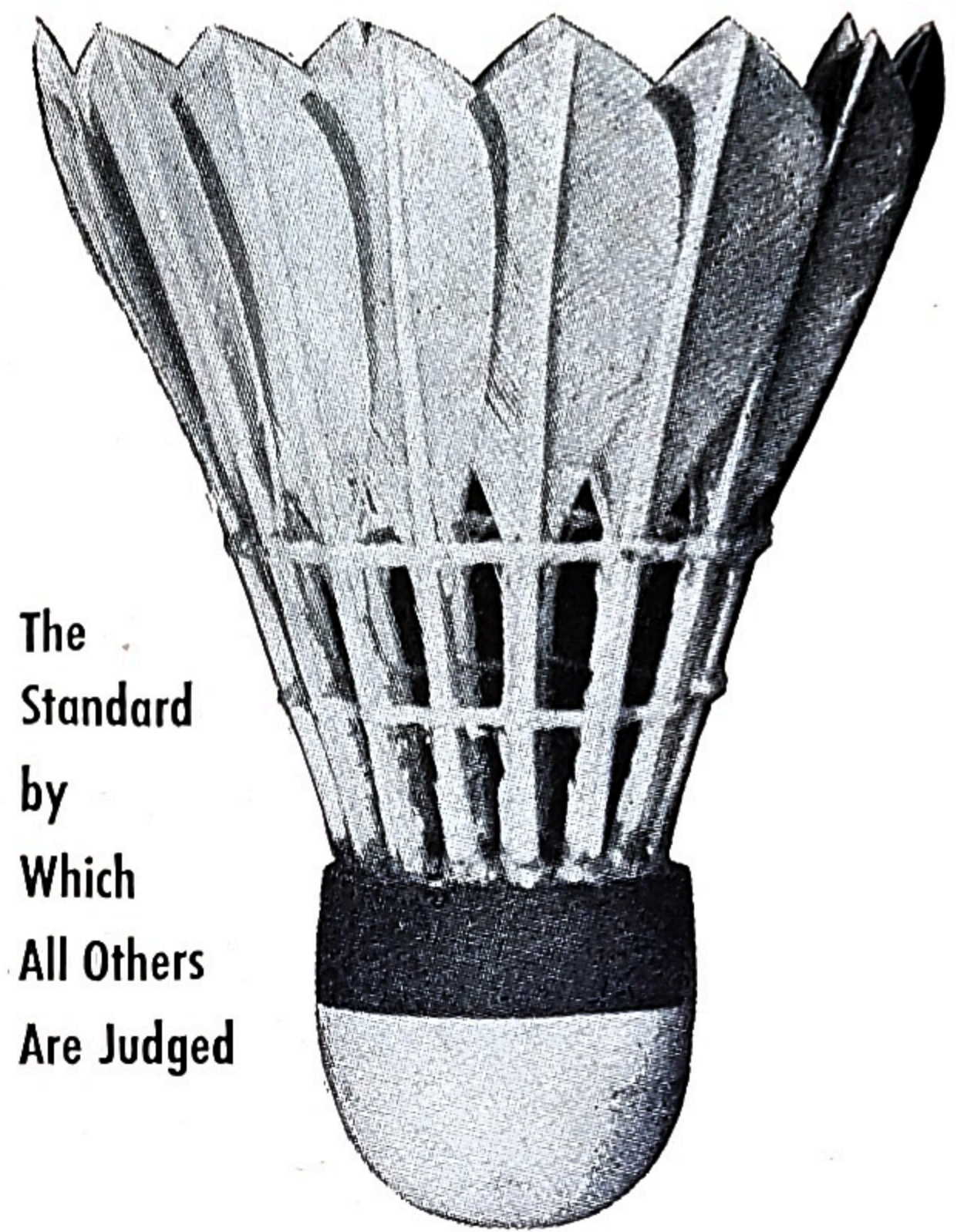
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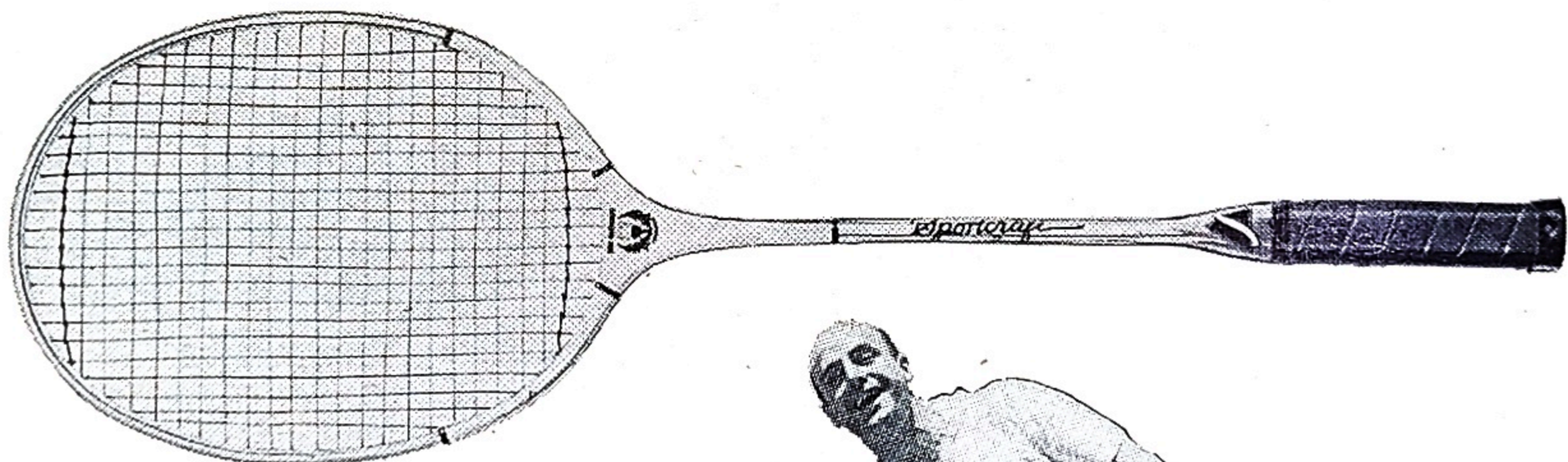
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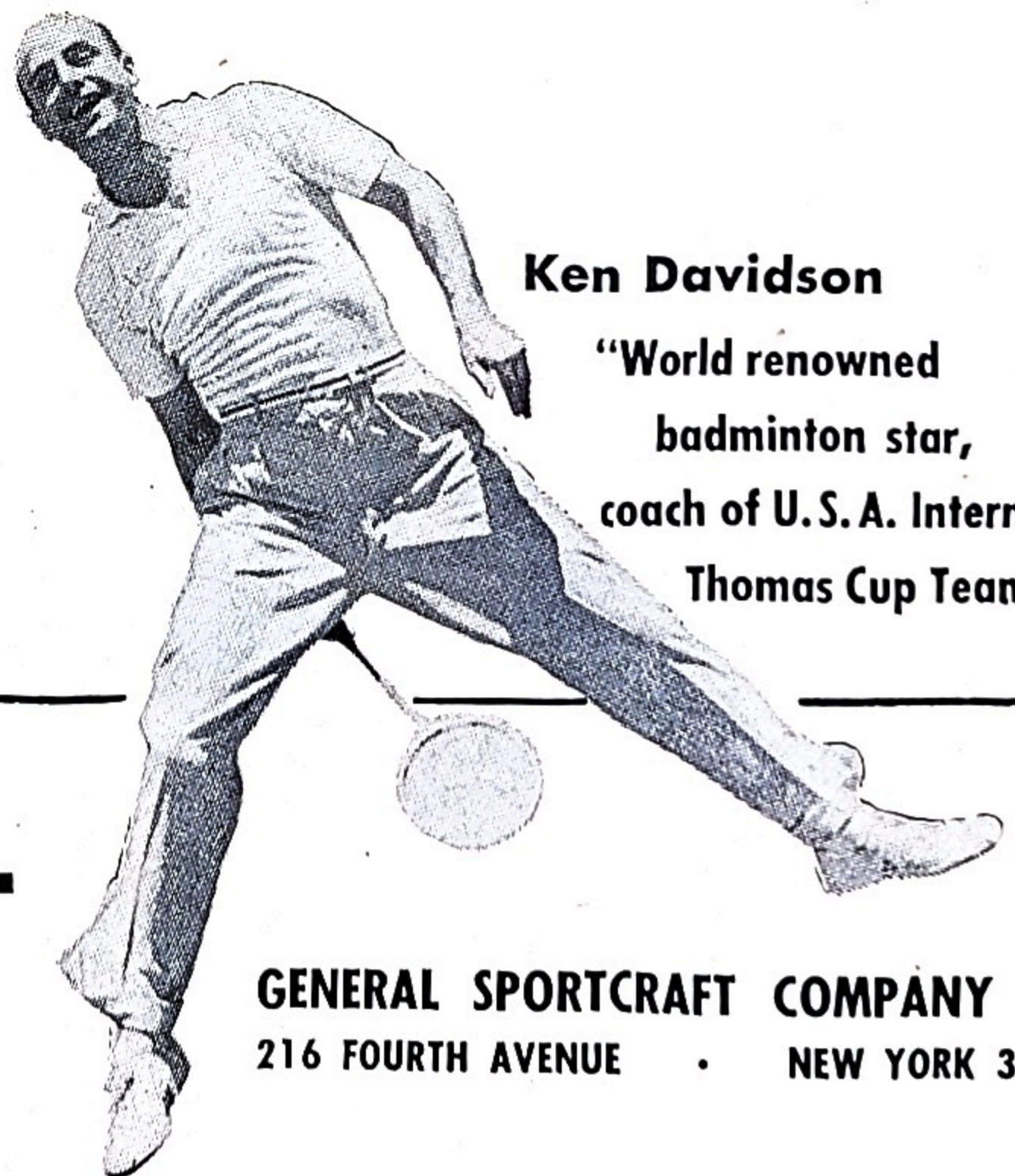
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SPECIAL *Announcements* OF THE A.B.A.

Junior National Tournament

The Executive Board of the ABA formally approved the awarding of the Junior National Tournament to the New Jersey Association. It is to be held under the auspices of the Upsala College at the Orange Armory on April 15, 16 and 17. Don Kerr, 169 Orange Road, Montclair, New Jersey, is the General Tournament Chairman.



JUNIOR RANKINGS

Girls' Singles

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------|
| 1. Judy Devin | Maryland |
| 2. Sally Thomas | New Jersey |
| 3. Linda Cobb | Massachusetts |
| 4. Rosine Capehart | New York |
| 5. Carlene Jo Hester | California |
| 6. Diane Myers | California |
| 7. Gwen Garnsey | California |
| 8. Ramona Gunner | Minnesota |
| 9. Irene Urashi | Minnesota |
| 10. Shirley Mans | Minnesota |

Honorable Mention

- | | |
|------------------|----------|
| Doris Gearman | New York |
| Linda Harvey | New York |
| Beeps Steele | Texas |
| McGregor Stewart | Maryland |

Boys' Singles

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------|
| 1. Don Davis | Washington |
| 2. John Kevorkian | Massachusetts |
| 3. Dean Maurry | California |
| 4. Robert Rice | New York |
| 5. Gary Ogilvie | New York |
| 6. Richard Ball, Jr. | Maryland |
| 7. Bill McLaughlin | Illinois |
| 8. Jim Jackson | Texas |
| 9. Gordon Wentworth | Maryland |
| 10. Bill Muldoon | Texas |

Honorable Mention

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------|
| Allan Horovitz | Minnesota |
| Stephen Schodde | Minnesota |
| Charles Wilson | Illinois |



Miss Helen Gibson, 6 Bridge St., East Norwalk, Connecticut, has replaced Nelson Howard as Regional Tournament Chairman of Region 1. Roger Baird would like for his committee to take note of this change.

Roy Jordan writes his new address is 8220 Forsyth Blvd., St. Louis 24, Missouri.

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

- Jan. 8-9-10—So. Cal. Mun. Athletic Fed. Open, San Diego, Calif.
 Jan. 16—Rhode Island Open, Providence, R.I.
 Jan. 22-23-24—Buffalo Athletic Club Invitation, Buffalo, N.Y.
 Jan. 30—Gut 'n Feathers Club Invitation, Marblehead, Mass.
 Feb. 5-6-7—Kodak Invitation, Rochester, N.Y.
 Feb. 12-13-14—W.N.Y. Junior Championships, Buffalo, N.Y.
 Feb. 12-13-14—Southern California, Long Beach, Calif.
 Feb. 19-20-21—No. Cal. Badminton Tournament, San Francisco, Calif.
 Feb. 19-20-21—Niagara Falls Invitation, Lewiston, N.Y.
 Mar. 6-7—Midwest Championships, Cleveland, Ohio.
 Mar. 12-13-14—W.N.Y. A, B & C Championships, Rochester, N.Y.
 March 19-20-21—California State, Burbank, Calif.
 April 3-4—Ohio Open, Shaker Heights, Ohio.
 April 7-8-9-10-11—U.S. Championships, Niagara Falls, N.Y.
 April 15-16-17—ABA National Junior Championships, Orange, N.J.

Bird Chatter

Published by the American Badminton Association for its members and those interested in the game.

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 Drayton Badminton Club, Spartanburg, S.C.
 Detroit Badminton Club, Detroit, Michigan.

Thomas Cup Team RECEIVES MEMENTOS



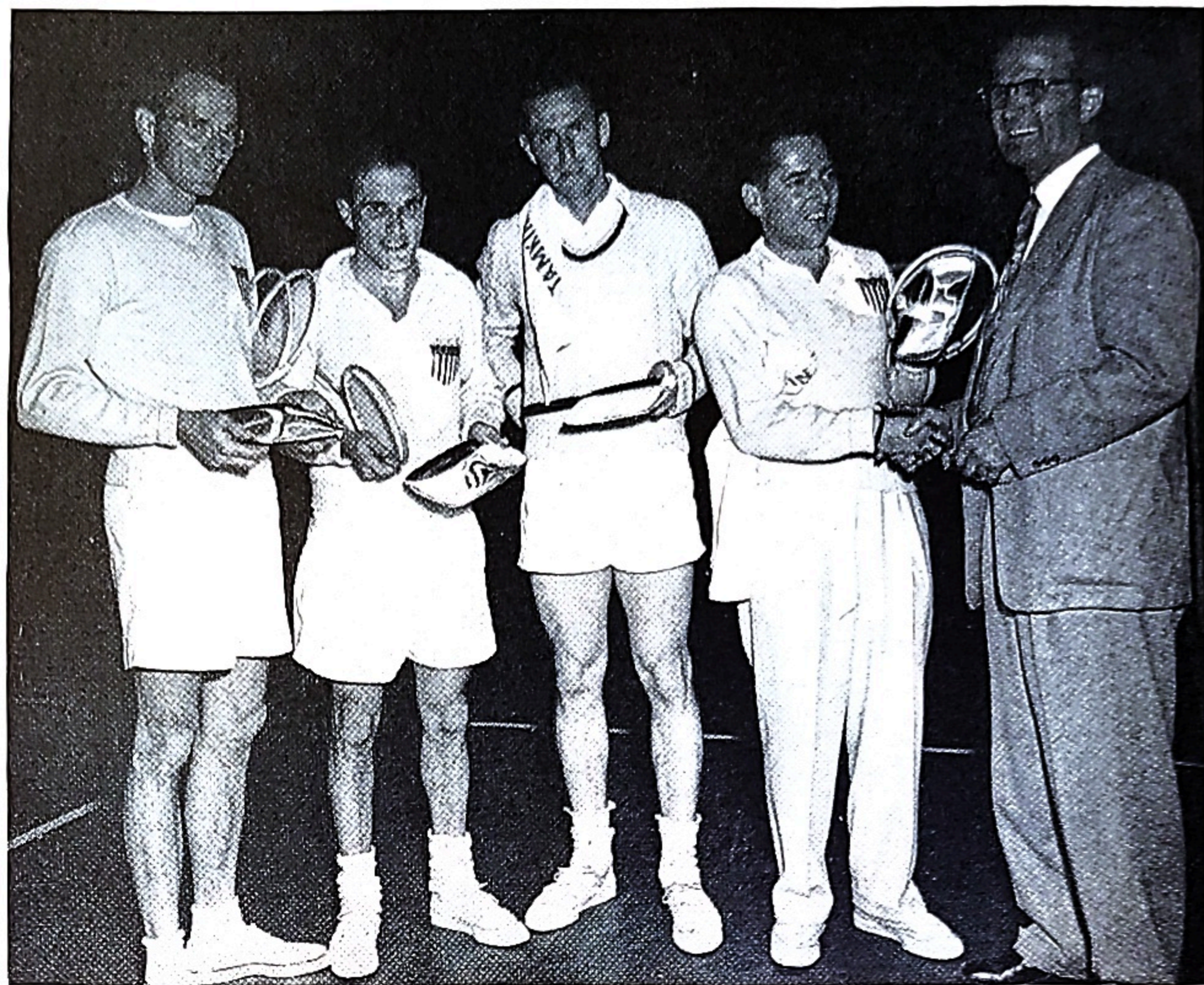
KEN DAVIDSON, Coach
BOB WILLIAMS

Thomas Cup Team Awards

In accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors of the American Badminton Association, adopted at one of their sessions in Boston during the 1953 Nationals, Donald W. Richardson, Chairman of the Thomas Cup Committee and former A.B.A. President, procured beautiful silver trays to be awarded to all members and the coach of the American Thomas Cup Team which represented this country in 1952.

On Friday, November 13, Donald Richardson flew to Buffalo, N.Y., to make the presentations to Coach Ken Davidson and Bobby Williams at the opening night of the season for the Niagara Falls Badminton Club (site of the 1954 Nationals). Under the guise of discussing some details of the coming nationals with the local authorities and going over future Thomas Cup plans with Ken, Don completely surprised Bob and Ken with their awards at a dance following the evening's badminton play. Ken's remarks as he received his tray: "So that's what you came up here for—well, you completely fooled me," and his most grateful letter to President Roy Jordan, as well as Bobby's smiles and appreciative comments, indicated the excellent reception of these awards.

On December 6, at the Manhattan Beach Badminton Club in California, the remaining awards were made to the California members of the team, the occasion being the finals of the 13th Annual Badminton Tournament of the club. Presentation was made by



Left to Right: Wynn Rogers, Joe Alston, Dick Mitchell, Captain Carl Loveday, Claude Welcome, ABA Director.



Carl W. Loveday Award

FOR 1952 Thomas Cup Ties

Claude Welcome, 2nd Vice-President of the A.B.A. It was fitting that the four players present were to fight it out for the championship of this tournament immediately afterward. Wynn Rogers and Joe Alston teamed up to defeat Thomas Cup Captain Carl Loveday and Dick Mitchell in two very hard fought games. The fifth California member, Marten Mendez, was unable to be present for the presentation because of business.

Coach Ken Davidson's tray was inscribed with a complete record of the matches played and with the signature of each of the team members; the awards received by the players were slightly smaller and, besides being appropriately addressed to each player, bore the scores of the Canadian, Indian and Malayan Ties and the names of the other members of the team and coach. The accompanying photographs reveal the details of the engraving but fail to do justice to the beauty of these well-deserved awards.



MARTEN MENDEZ

Excerpts from Nov. 15 letter to Roy Jordan, President of ABA.

Dear Roy:

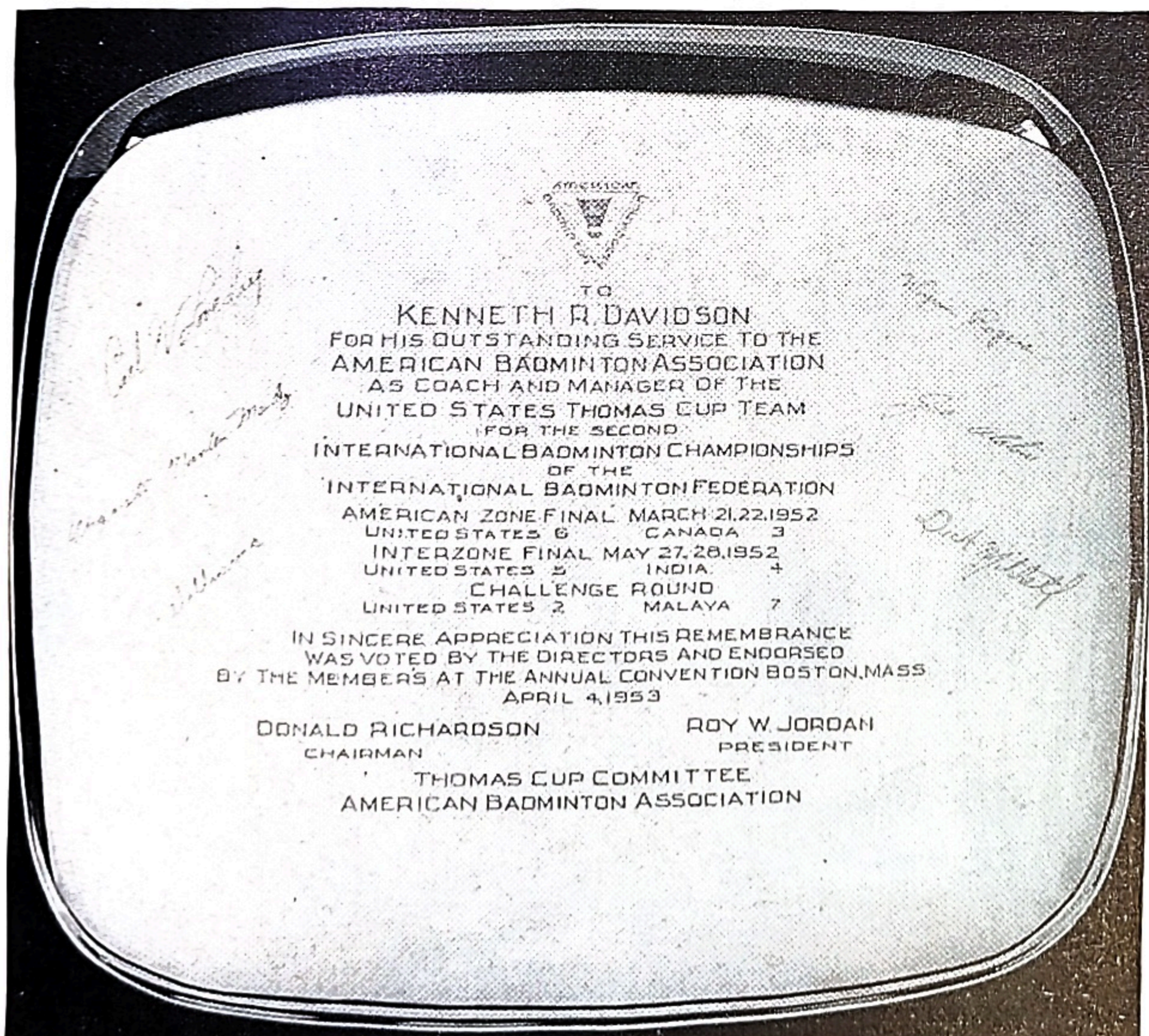
Last night, at the official Opening Night of the Niagara Falls Country Club's 1953 Badminton season, I received a most pleasant surprise when Don Richardson stepped forward to present to me the inscribed Silver Plate to commemorate the Thomas Cup matches played in 1952.

Will you please convey to the ABA and all the officials and members from Coast to Coast my deep and sincere appreciation for their generosity in presenting to me such a magnificent gift. I particularly appreciate the inscribed wording and I trust that I may long be able to help and assist the ABA in both administrative and playing matters.

Yours sincerely,

Kenneth R. Davidson

The fifteenth annual general meeting of the International Badminton Federation took place in London on July 1st with the President, Sir George Thomas, in the chair. Thirteen national organizations were personally represented. With regard to the Thomas Cup contest, which is officially known as the International Badminton Championship, the alterations adopted should be of far reaching consequence in so far as they affect the distribution of the proceeds receivable from the Thomas Cup ties played in the country of the champion nation. These are, of course, the challenge tie and the various inter-zone ties. Hitherto no nation concerned therein was able to participate financially in the proceeds from ties other than those in which its own team was directly concerned. From now on, however, after the payment of the general expenses and the levy required by the I.B.F., the first charge of all surpluses from these ties, taken jointly, will be the traveling expenses of all the teams concerned, whether they win or lose their ties. To this end, 75 per cent of the total surplus will be set aside to defray these necessary costs, and the remaining 25 per cent, to which will be added any surplus from the special traveling expense fund, will be divided in accordance with results to the nations concerned.



Kenneth Davidson Award

IRL MADDEN

born, Currie Minnesota, January 5, 1922.
died, San Francisco, California, November 17, 1953.

Irl Madden, an ardent fan, nationally prominent player, an ABA Director, and indefatigable worker on behalf of badminton, passed away with tragic finality at his home just as he was about to leave for an evening's play with his friends at the San Francisco Badminton Club. In apparent good health, and at the time so energetically active in promoting the welfare of badminton, this sudden blow fell with even more shocking impact on his family and his host of friends throughout the country.

Following a usual after-dinner phone chat with Janet Wright, his mixed doubles partner, in which he said he would be down at the club in a few minutes, Irl was carrying on a jocular room-to-room conversation with his mother as he gathered his badminton clothes together, and when she did not receive a reply to one of her remarks, she went into the other room to find Irl slumped on the floor, unconscious and having difficulty breathing. Help from next door by Irl's brother-in-law, Russ Mora, and a nearby neighbor with medical experience, proved of no avail and by the time the ambulance arrived a few minutes later, Irl had gone without recovering consciousness.

Irl is survived by his mother, Mrs. Cora Madden; his sister, Mrs. Emma Mora; his brother, Wilbur, now married and living with his family on the outskirts of San Francisco.

The grief stricken family received innumerable telegrams, letters, and flowers from saddened badminton individuals and groups from all parts of the country expressing deep sympathy in their sudden bereavement.

Funeral services were conducted at the local Methodist Church, with the young minister using as his theme a thought quoted from one of the prophets, "His sun has gone down while it is still day," explaining that although we think it disappears, it actually does not go down, but is rising on some other horizon. Irl was laid to rest with military services at the Golden Gate National Cemetery as the navy bugler played "Taps."

I have lost a close and loyal friend, as have many others, the ABA has suffered a tremendous loss of one of their hardest working Directors, and Northern California, in particular, will miss Irl for his leadership. Irl not only brought his own active services to bear on the game, he brought into force the services of his mother (his unofficial badminton secretary), his sister, Emma, her husband, Russ, and his brother, Wilbur. Each were allocated assignments by Irl at most of the Northern California Tournaments as he took over the arduous task of acting as Tournament Chairman. (In reverence to Irl, who was Tournament Chairman, the Bay Counties Tournament, set for Nov. 28 and 29, 1953, was postponed until the spring of 1954.) Their homes were havens of rest for out-of-town players, or used as a meeting place for badminton meetings. There was always, at any time of the day or night, a welcome mat to the Mad-



den home, or at the Mora home next door.

It just doesn't seem possible that this 31-year-old, clean living young fellow of high moral standing will be missing from our badminton world. No more will we hear his familiar, encouraging cry of "Let's go" to his partner in the midst of some close and exciting match.

Irl, a modest and unassuming young fellow devoted to the game of badminton, was easy to get along with, ready to give and take in practical jokes, and always willing to join into good, clean fun. He was a cheerful traveling companion and room mate. Always on time, and ready to do more than his fair share of all the chores which accompany a trip across country. Generous by nature, he was constantly giving practical help to his many friends and acquaintances.

Since 1947, Irl has been present at each of the USA National Championships and he was eagerly looking forward to attending the next meeting at Niagara Falls in April, 1954.

Starting his badminton playing career in 1941-42 with the San Francisco Badminton Club, Irl became a member of the Manhattan Beach B.C. when he attended U.C.L.A. college in Los Angeles as a member of the U.S. Navy, in which he enlisted in October, 1942. Following his service duty (honorably discharged in late 1946 as yeoman, 2nd class) Irl stayed in Southern California for six months in order to graduate from U.C.L.A., which he did in 1947, and also was commissioned a Lieutenant J.G. in the California Naval Reserve.

Following his graduation, Irl returned to his home in San Francisco and continued to play by joining both the San Francisco B.C. and the California B.C. He also resumed his connections with the Market Accounting Division at the Standard Oil Company, which he had first joined in 1941. In early 1952, Irl received a great jump up the ladder of success by being

appointed Secretary to Mr. H. D. Collier, former President and present Director of the Standard Oil Company of California, a confidential position he held at the time of his death.

Meantime, Irl also became more and more interested in the administrative and executive side of badminton and he held numerous positions in the Northern California B.A., and, at the annual A.B.A. meeting in Dallas (March, 1951) he was made a Director of the A.B.A. In 1952, he became Chairman of the A.B.A. Shuttlecock Committee; and in 1953 he became Chairman of a newly formed A.B.A. Committee, "Handbook for Conduct of National Tournaments," which has to do with seedings in the draw for the tournament entries. Irl, fighting for a cause which he felt to be right, more or less talked himself into this last position by persistently campaigning for a definite set of rules for a National draw rather than leave such an important matter to any haphazard seedings by a local committee. His pleas were heard and Roy Jordan, A.B.A. President, and his officers, formed the new Committee with Irl at its head. He instantly went to work and his Committee recently submitted its suggestions to the President for use at the draw for the next National Championships.

Irl unselfishly devoted so much of his time to executive duties at many of the California and National tournaments that his own play often suffered. Nevertheless, he won many Singles, Men's Doubles, and Mixed Doubles in California (present holder, with Wynn Rogers, of the California Men's Doubles title) and he held top ranking position nationally in all three events since 1948, being a semi-finalist in Mixed Doubles with Mildred Jude, and in 1950, with Norman Blanchett, barely lost in the final of the Men's Doubles to Wynn Rogers and Barney McCay in a well played three game match, reports of which show Irl was the outstanding and most effective player on the court. Irl never achieved his ambition of becoming a member of the Thomas Cup team but such matches as the above mentioned, and a still closer one in 1948 against the USA Thomas Cup pair of Bob Williams and Clint Stephens, made it almost come true and he was placed on the list of "Possibles."

Irl, in his graduating year of 1940 from Galileo High School, was selected on the San Francisco "All City" Basketball team. He received his letter in basketball, in 1953-54, at Occidental College (stationed there by the U.S. Navy) and also his letter, in 1946, on the nationally highly rated College team at U.C.L.A. He played on the Standard Oil basketball teams and during the past few years also coached these teams.

We, in badminton, mourn his passing but we have many happy memories to remind us that we have indeed been fortunate to have known, and had amongst us, such an energetic worker for the betterment of the game, such a first class sportsman, and such a fine gentleman.

KEN DAVIDSON

Cartoonist

Richard (Dick) J. Lundy, a charter member of the Glendale Badminton Club and a cartoonist of some standing in Southern California, designed the Bird Chatter portion of the front cover. Our readers will notice if they look closely the knots in the badminton net which was used as the background for the cleverly drawn bird flying towards the word chatter.

Dick was with the Walt Disney Studios for 14 years and directed the Barney Bear Cartoons for M.G.M. He is now working on government films and commercial television films at the Sketch Book Studio in San Fernando. Four years ago Dick married Mabel Shogren (also a charter member of Glendale Badminton Club) and they now have a promising badminton star by the name of Llewellyn Gaye (Lindy Lou).

The generosity of Dick in drawing our masthead as well as the cartoons in the magazine is greatly appreciated by the Bird Chatter staff.



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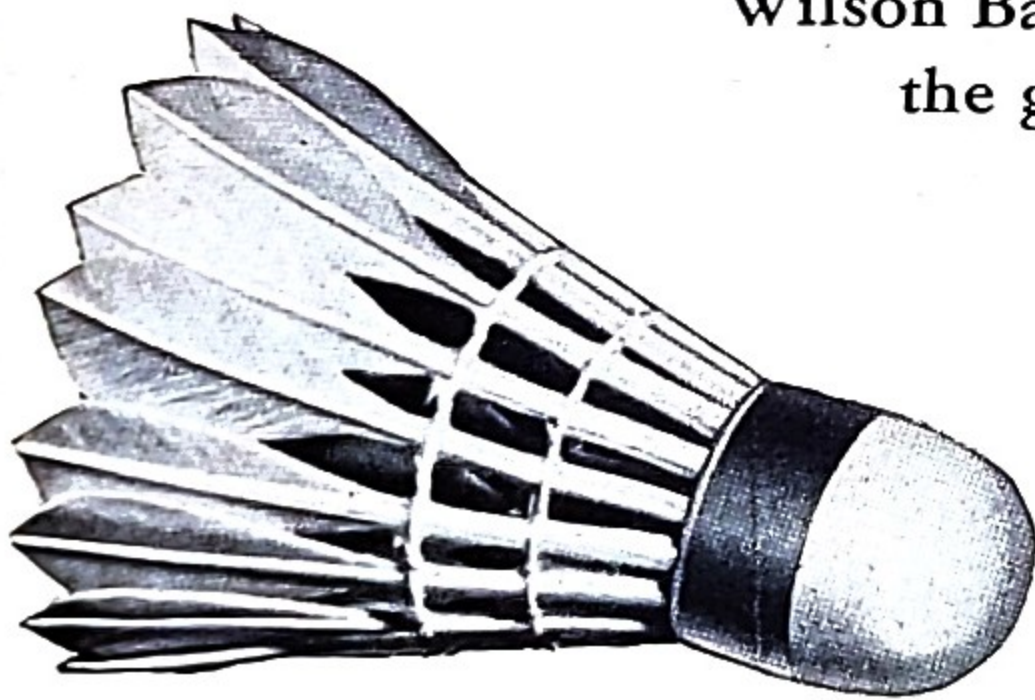
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Wisp Badminton Racket. All wood frame of laminated selected white and red ash. Slim wood shaft. Throat and shoulders reinforced with overlay. Attractive Sylcord bindings on each shoulder and shaft. Beautifully finished in paint and natural wood. Tan top-grade perforated leather grip.



Top-rank championship bird, A.B.A. approved for tournament play. 16 selected uniform feathers, rounded or pointed.

SPALDING
Sets the Pace in Sports

**Invitation Extended To
California Players**

The British Columbia Badminton Association has extended a special invitation to a four player California team to play in the January 21-22-23 British Columbia Championships at Victoria, B.C.

The team consists of Lois and Joe Alston, Thelma Scovil and Wynn Rogers, making as strong a combination as could be assembled in this country. All four are highly ranked in Singles, and Thelma Scovil is the Defending Ladies' Singles Champion of British Columbia, having won the event last February.

At that time Marten Mendez won the Men's Singles as well as Mixed Doubles with Janet Wright. Thelma and Janet were Runners Up in the Ladies' Doubles.

The 1954 Tournament will have additional "Foreign Flavor" with the entry of the Malayan brother team of Eddie and David Choong. They are presently All England Men's Doubles Champions. Eddie holds the Men's Singles title while David teamed with the young English star, Miss J. R. White, to win the Mixed Doubles title.



Ten Years Ago (1944)

20,000 (and Eleanor) See Badminton

A crowd of 20,000 people packed Madison Square Garden one night last November during a War Fund Drive. One of the highlights on the entertainment program was a badminton exhibition by Ken Davidson and John Scott.

The Meramec Badminton Club of St. Louis sponsored an invitational mixed doubles tournament in November. The winning team was Naryella Schumacher and H. H. Perkins, runners ups were Jo and Vernon Reger.

Five Years Ago (1949)

Thomas Cup Team of the United States

History was written into the American Badminton Association's records recently in Pasadena, California, when the United States six-man team successfully played in the first International match ever to be played by any United States badminton team. A great victory over Canada by eight matches to one in the American Zone final round of the Thomas Cup International Championships sets a high standard for following U.S.A. teams to uphold. Members of the team were David Freeman, Carl Loveday, Marten Mendez, Wynn Rogers, Clint Stephens and Bob Williams.

Your CONTRIBUTION TO BETTER BADMINTON RELATIONS

By Ann Observer

*"You may be a Champ or a Novice,
But your purpose is plenty of fun,
And you're Tops with the rest of your
fellows
If you stick to the rules—EVERY ONE."*

Have you—and You—and YOU, ever realized that your attitude towards badminton and your fellow players is far more important than the quality of your game?

Just take a look back at the last evening or so at the club. It's "dollars to donuts" you saw some players doing an oversized stretch of warming the bleachers—or were you too busy playing all the time to notice them? ... Oh! YOU were one of the wall flowers! Then you know how that is and probably won't be guilty of that manifestation of poor sportsmanship.

The GOLDEN RULE is the most important factor in our recreation and let us never forget that the purpose of our badminton is actually RE-creation and relaxation, not a human chess game with Kings and Queens riding high all the time. If you're one of the "tops" YOU didn't make it without help—PLENTY of it, and remember, "It's far greater to give than to receive." So give of yourself with a smile and a real interest in the other fellow's welfare. If you're not up in the coveted stratosphere you'll be happiest to find your own level of players most of the time and will actually improve faster than being "out of your depth" too much. Remember too, that those "on top" have NO opportunity to play with better than themselves, so don't be too prone to label them "snooty." There are players on every level whose heads wouldn't fit into a quonset hut!

And how about the last couple of tournaments you were around? May-

be you heard that steaming controversy over by the draw sheets about *who* was seeded *where* and *why*, and what so-and-so kind of a draw was this, with the case of A. DUFFER loudly objecting that *when* he's beaten B. PLAYER in the first round and C. SHUTTLE in the second round, he has the lousy luck to encounter THE CHAMP in the next round. Well! whoever was responsible for the "one for all—all for one" idea was certainly right fifty per cent.

Sometimes it seems that entry blanks serve no further purpose than to use up our much-needed funds. We have a ranking committee, a draw committee, a trophy committee and a set of rules, but just how effective can they all be without properly completed entry blanks, submitted *on time* and the cooperation of all players, especially the inevitable one-man authority who is always on hand to rearrange the draw, but always missing when he's due on court. Our volunteer committees are admirable, vital and willing, but do we all show active appreciation beyond the not-too-hearty round of applause at the end of a tournament?

It would be well if all literature on the technique and rules of badminton were prefaced with a summary of the basic principles of good sportsmanship, which in effect, is ethics and etiquette—and very necessary over and above the simple procedure of fair play. We know that this requirement is encouraged in most homes, cultivated in school and becomes the finished product in adulthood — *only with considerable effort.*

The *good sportsman* suffers many heartaches but will not readily admit to disappointment, "nerves" or minor indisposition. He knows no alibis, but

does know the difference between self-confidence and *over-confidence.*

He likes to win and dislikes to lose but accepts his losses with a smile as big as victory, and gives credit to his opponent in the amount he would have been glad to receive.

He dislikes being kept waiting when the time is set for a match, but is careful not to keep his opponent waiting, realizing that his is not the only match to be played. (Many a tournament schedule representing numerous hours of volunteer work has been utterly ruined by one thoughtless tardy competitor.)

He *is* human, and may at times request some reasonable dispensation of the committee, but he *does* complete an entry blank *fully and correctly* and submits it *on time with appropriate fees.*

He also pays his club dues promptly and his share on shuttles under all circumstances.

He at no time questions an umpire or linesman's decision, as through experience "in the chair" he understands their problems.

He respects a shuttlecock as a fine piece of workmanship, not a disobedient object worthy only of being shovelled along the floor—feathers first!

His racket is also a possession, not a weapon on which to vent his feelings and endanger the other players and spectators with the flying missile.

He knows, in doubles, not to feel badly about his partner's poor shots—his own will surely be worse if he does!

He dislikes any obvious display of emotion or displeasure and conceals his own at all cost.

He does not stall between rallies, nor does he change the shuttle unnecessarily to "change his luck."

He does *not* leave the court at game-all in a single's match without the permission of his opponent and umpire, nor at any other time during the match. This rule appears to be unknown to many players.

He may be a Champ or a Dub, but he knows that a winner never quits and a quitter never wins.

NOW, how about *your* attitude—you, and You, and YOU? Try climbing on the band wagon to comply with the skeleton rules printed on tournament entry blanks and so contribute to the pleasure of all concerned. Polish up your court manners and enjoy the spirit of perfect sportsmanship that WILL prevail.

★

1954 NATIONALS



COMMITTEE IN CHARGE OF TICKETS AND HOSPITALITY 1954 NATIONALS
Left to right: Mrs. Robert Rice, Mrs. Charles Phelps, Caroline Krakouski, Mrs. Dick Harvey, Al Gerard (Toronto), Liz Russell.

OPEN AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIPS OF THE AMERICAN BADMINTON ASSOCIATION

Plans for the first OPEN U.S. Championships are well under way at the Niagara Falls Country Club located at Lewiston, N.Y. Richard (Dick) R. Harvey, Sr., has named a seven-man committee to supervise arrangements. Dick says they are looking forward to having the top players from Canada, England, Denmark, India, Scotland, and Malay compete with our finest here in the United States. It is hoped that Ethel Marshall and Daye Freeman can be lured from their homes to help Judy Devlin, Thelma Scovil, Joe Alston, Carl Loveday and Marten Mendez and our many fine players keep the honors here in the United States.

The committeemen are Peter Brown, Rex Rial, Tom Hewitt, Bob Williams, Robert L. Rice, Jr., George Mack, and Charlie Phelps. The Advisory Board consists of Roy Jordan and Don Richardson, American Badminton Association; Jack Biddel of the Ontario Association; Jack O'Bannon, Western New York Association; and Ken Davidson, Thomas Cup Team Coach.

MEMORIAM

The sudden passing on October 31 of Jess Dalzell in Glendale, Calif., was a shock to all who knew him.

He was instrumental in organizing the Glendale Badminton Club in 1945 and served as its first president until 1947. He was keenly interested in tournament operations and was an official at the 1947 National Championships held at Pan-Pacific Auditorium in Los Angeles, Calif.

In 1948 he was elected to the Board of Directors of the Southern California Badminton Association and was appointed chairman of the Tournament Committee in which capacity he served until his retirement in 1952. During these four years he assisted in conducting all tournaments held in Southern California.

He is survived by his wife, Dorothy, son Gary and daughter Carol, to whom the deepest sympathy is extended.

Ice Capades of 1954

- Jan. 11-Jan. 20—Auditorium, Providence, R.I.
- Jan. 21-Feb. 3—Uline Arena, Washington, D.C.
- Feb. 4-Feb. 10—Arena, New Haven, Conn.
- Feb. 11-Feb. 24—Suorts Arena, Hershey, Pa.
- Feb. 26-Mar. 4—Coliseum, Indianapolis, Ind.
- Mar. 5-Mar. 13—Arena, St. Louis, Mo.



MICHIGAN OPEN

- Ladies' Singles—Miss Abbie Rutledge def. Mildred Sirwaitis, former title holder, 11-4, 12-11.
- Men's Singles—Viv VanDeVen, Detroit def. Vic Pritula, 14-17, 15-10, 15-1.
- Men's Doubles—Bill Anderson & Harry Drewry, Detroit def. Don McLean & Ted Barber, Windsor, 18-15, 17-16.
- Ladies' Doubles—Eleanor Combs, Chicago & Hazel Burdick def. Mrs. Sirwaitis & Mrs. Browné, 15-5, 15-5.
- Mixed Doubles—Bill Anderson & Hazel Browne def. Combs & Earl Boston, Chicago, 18-13, 12-15, 15-5.
- Veterans' Doubles—Ted Brook & Jim Coyne, Detroit def. Ev Gessaman & Jerry Burns, 15-8, 15-5.



Top — HUGH FORGIE
Bottom — STIG LARSON

BADMINTON

on Ice

By Hugh Forgie

Presenting Badminton - on - Ice in "The Greatest Show on Ice" — Ice Capades — is strenuous, exciting, educational and fun; but it entails many demands on both Stig and myself. It's life on the road.

During our forty-six week yearly run we play twenty-two major cities in the United States and Canada, playing to audiences that number more than 2½ million yearly. (More people than attend the New York Yankee baseball games.) As we've been with the Ice Capade organization for eight years that means that we've played to some 20,000,000 spectators. Aside from Ice Capades we've had three European tours during our vacation time—this past summer with Abe Saperstein's fabulous "Harlem Globetrotters." Added to these audiences was our guest appearance with Ed Sullivan's "Toast of the Town" with a rating of 100,000,000 viewers in the United States and Canada. Quite a few people have seen badminton.

However, getting back to my earlier statement regarding "demands," we are in constant training. We are on the ice in IceCapades for 5½ minutes. It's a strenuous effort and quite comparable to the front line work of a hockey player who plays both ways: going for goals and back, checking on every play. The nine shows which we do weekly keep us in good physical condition and in this I mean good condition for ice. One does not use the same muscles in skating that one does

in a gymnasium. Those of you who have played both football and basketball will vouch for this statement. So although Stig and I frequently play on the badminton court, we're not in top shape for the court game but we are in excellent condition for our nightly presentation on ice.

We watch our diet and weight. Actually our job is a night shift, so we try to be at our physical best between the hours of 8 and 10 p.m. Consequently, our living habits are adjusted to this schedule. We usually breakfast about 11 a.m., have our main meal about 4:30 p.m., then there is time for a short siesta prior to "checking in" at the show. Following the show we have a supper snack and usually turn in between 1 and 2 a.m.

In the actual presentation on ice, there are three prime requisites necessary for a successful appearance. Firstly, one must have the ability to play badminton consistently well and be able to sustain the shuttle in flight without error. Secondly, one must be able to skate well. Ice Capades is "The Greatest Skating Show in the World" and the audience expects to see the best in skating of the various types. Ours is of the hockey brand, requiring fast starting and stopping. Thirdly, showmanship plays a big part in all show business. In our act, our commentator, Herb Cowman of London, Ontario, takes over the heaviest chore in this department. What music is to the skater, Herb Cowman is to the badminton act. His rapid fire commentary, his clever dialogue and excellent timing aid tremendously in building and sustaining suspense during the number.

Stig's part is that of the "straight" man. His excellent badminton ability, sound stroking and controlled hitting enable me to pull off the spectacular shots and "set-up" gags which add comedy to the number.

We're naturally proud of our act and are constantly trying to improve. It's difficult to find new tricks and we're always alert for suggestions. John H. Harris, president and producer of Ice Capades, has helped us frequently along these lines, and this season is a particular instance. He has cast us in a naval setting, "Gobs and Gals," in which Stig plays the part of a commander and I the gob. This opens up many new avenues for humor.

During our "game" on ice we cover an area of 70 x 30 feet. We use a Courtland "Gold Cup" 76 P.F. shuttle everywhere except Denver, Colorado, where we use a "Gold Cup" 68 P.F. (Ed. note: We don't know why, but guess it's the altitude.)

Those of you who have seen the act know that Stig blasts the shuttle soundly at the net, chasing me back from 30 to 35 feet, for the more difficult the recovery the more spectacular and entertaining it is to the audience. Of course, the speed built up in chasing the shuttle can be used to advantage to make a fast hockey turn in another or opposite direction.

Some may still have a few questions, and to one and all of our readers we extend a cordial invitation to drop around back-stage while Ice-Capades is in your city.

★

The ETHEL MARSHALL Story

as told to KEN DAVIDSON

(Editor's Note: The Western New York Badminton Association's release saying it had received a letter from Ethel Marshall announcing her retirement from competitive tournament single's play caught everyone by surprise. "Bird Chatter" asked Ken Davidson, who was in the Buffalo area at the time, to interview Ethel to find out some facts and details on her decision.)

For seven years in succession, 1947-1953, inclusive, Ethel Marshall of Eggertsville, N.Y. (a suburb of Buffalo, N.Y.) has won the USA National Single's Championship, so when she says, at the early age of 29 years, she is not going to defend her National title at a site almost within walking distance of her home, the word "Why" crops up in everyone's mind.

First of all, Ethel is physically as fit as ever and her over-all circumstances remain more or less as before, except possibly she has a little more responsibility in her managerial position at the Bell Aircraft plant. No boy friend has inveigled her away from the game and she continues to live with her father and mother in as pleasant a suburban home as you could find anywhere.

Thus, there seemed no apparent reason for this champion to give up her title without a fight, particularly as her smooth, easy footwork and swiftness around the court were as brilliant as ever in carrying her thru to victory, without a loss of a game, in the last Nationals at Boston and to other tournament successes, notably at the Strathgowan Invitational Tournament in Toronto, where she beat out a strong field containing many of the best players from both Canada and the United States, with no player scoring as high as 50 per cent of possible points against her. Watching her play in practice games this season showed that there was no slowing down in her movements nor any deterioration in the soundness of her stroking, or in her stamina.

Some of those who watched her play six successive singles games against men "pooh-poohed" the idea that she wouldn't defend her Singles title at Niagara Falls next April.

Others stated that, if she didn't defend her National title in the first USA National Championships to be "opened" to qualified I.B.F. amateurs throughout the world, it was because she was afraid of being beaten by one of these outside entries, or possibly by the young up-and-coming Judy Devlin, finalist in the Senior Nationals last season, and winner of the Junior USA Singles title for the past five years, with one more possible year in the junior event. Many felt that Ethel could not "let down" the ABA, and the Western New York B.A. (of which Ethel is a Director) by refusing to resist the challenge of the "foreign" entries in singles.

Let Ethel answer these statements.

Ethel firmly believes that there are players within the United States who are strong enough to beat the challenge of any likely outside challenger, and points out that, in all probability, this challenge will come (in the ladies' events) only from our Canadian friends north of the border. As for her being afraid to meet any Canadian or Judy Devlin, Ethel aptly points out that there is no reason to be "afraid" of them since she has always more than held her own in the past.

As to the argument about her being able to play six successive games of singles against men of good club caliber, she pointed out that there was not the pressure in these practice sessions as in tournament play. Ethel said she felt it was too hard on her to "work up" to the required competitive heights demanded in a tournament.

Here now we were getting to the crux of the situation.

It was a mental strain rather than a physical? This Ethel admitted. She agreed that the *physical* effort of playing singles did not bother her. Further discussion brought to light that her business life also demanded much mental work. I asked Ethel if she was as "intense" an office worker as she was playing singles? I pointed out that, over the years, I had never seen her relax when playing singles even against a newcomer in a first round who obviously would be lucky to score an odd point. Ethel said that she always felt she should win as quickly as possible and didn't want to play "sloppy" badminton. I told her this was furthest from my thoughts but asked if she couldn't pace herself and relax between points, as, for example, did Dave Freeman, who has the strongest of "wills to win," and also has the capacity of evaluating his

game against that of his opponents and knowing exactly when to apply the pressure without ever becoming "sloppy" in his play and throwing away cheap points. Ethel agreed that these were wonderful attributes to have and that she had never been able to find the secret to proper relaxing in her singles play (or at work). It came to light that the reason for Ethel rarely being seen around at tournament social functions, including day time get-togethers, was that she felt she had to "work up" her concentration on winning the tournament. Her close friend, and Ladies' Doubles partner, Bea Massman, who was present at two of the three talks I had with Ethel, said that it was tough to get a word out of Ethel on semi-final and final days.

To Ethel, singles play has apparently been all work, and although it has satisfied her sense of achievement and brought her the top honors in the Nation (I believe she is still the best lady singles player in the world although she has never had the opportunity to play against the top ranking Danes who are considered the best by those who have not seen Ethel play) it evidently hasn't given her fun and relaxation, which is the primary reason for taking up any sport. In doubles, having a partner, Ethel feels that there is not so much pressure on her, thereby allowing her to relax more and get more fun out of the game.

Well, that seems to be the story of Ethel saying she has retired from competitive singles play. She admitted that our talks had brought forth some new ideas on relaxation, pacing one's game to suit the opponent of the moment, and how to retain winning ways without intense mental strain.

Will Ethel use the proverbial woman's prerogative of changing her mind?

Ethel did promise to review the situation although warning me that she was stubborn and intended to abide by her decision not to play any more competitive singles. Although this is a democracy and the individual has the right to make one's own decision in such matters, I did suggest to Ethel that perhaps she would give friendly regard to the wishes and hopes of the members of the A.B.A. that she would represent the U.S.A. against any over-the-border entries and defend, once again, her National Singles title.







★

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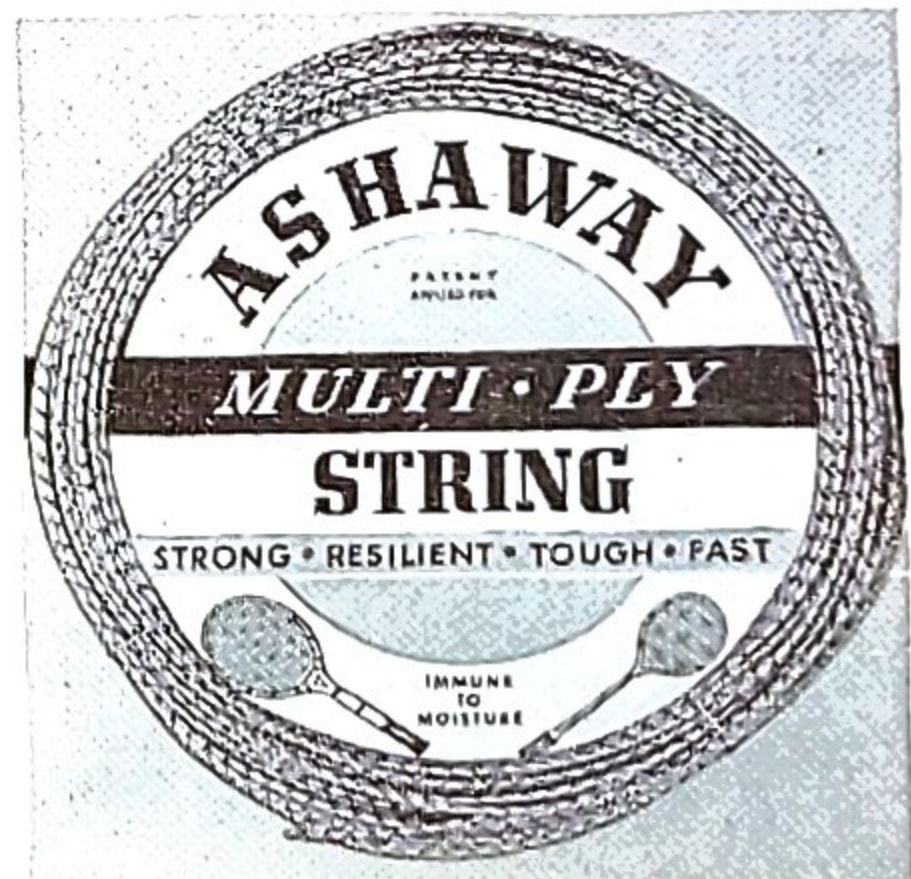
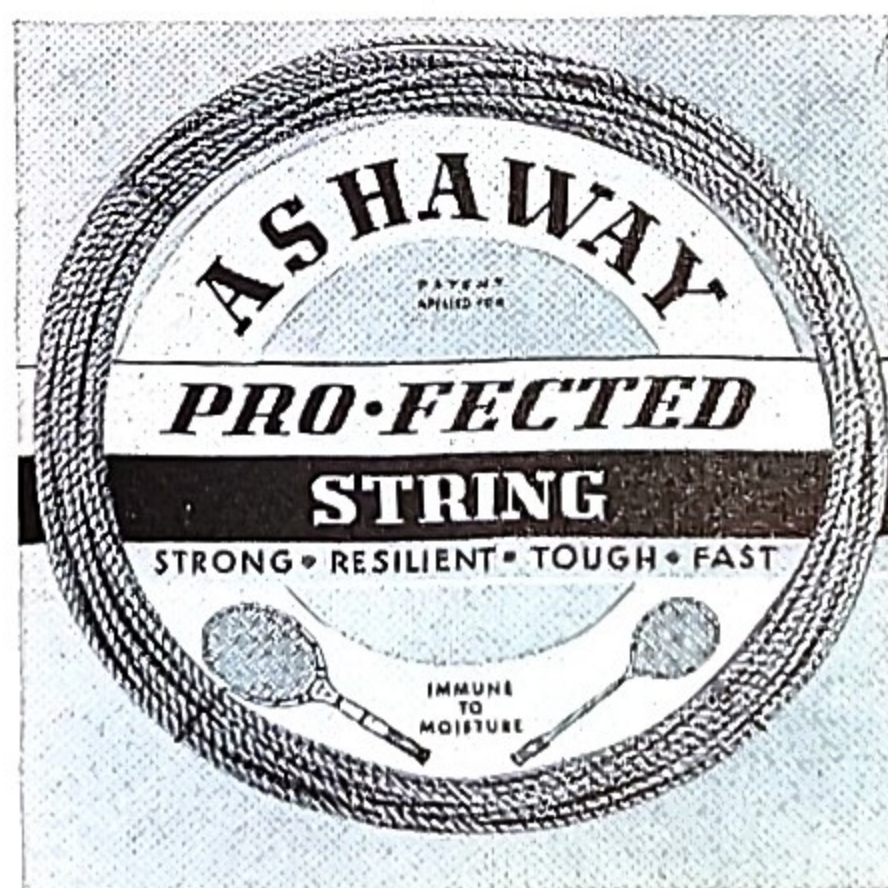
Put more "zip" in your badminton game and get more pleasure out of it with this livelier, longer-lasting racket string. Check its outstanding features below. Choose it in your next new racket or restringing job.

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ASHAWAY PRO-FECTED BRAID
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Approximate Badminton stringing cost. **\$4.00**
In 20 gauge for badminton; also in 15 and 16 gauge for tennis.

Approximate Badminton stringing cost. **\$3.00**
In 19 gauge for badminton; also in 15 gauge for tennis.

ASHAWAY PUTS A BETTER GAME IN YOUR FRAME!

Junior Badminton News

What is being done by the American Badminton Association as reported by the National Junior Activities Chairman, Mrs. J. Frank Devlin of Baltimore. Junior tournaments are being sponsored by most of the Associations—a Junior Linesman and Umpires Association is being worked out. Junior matches are being arranged with Canada, in the East and the Mid-west.

The most active parts of the country are, probably, Southern California where the Hulet Smiths are very active. In San Antonio, Mrs. Laurie Muldoon and Mrs. Celeste Randall are in charge of the junior activities. In Minneapolis and St. Paul, Mrs. Helen McLeod is working hard for the juniors, and in Baltimore, Mrs. Richard Ball is active.

Other centers, such as Buffalo, Lewiston, N.Y., Wilmington, Delaware, and Rhode Island have growing Junior centers. Other parts of the country too numerous to mention, have junior groups in various stages of activity.

Our Senior champions set an example of good sportsmanship and to them must go much of the credit for the excellent behavior of the Juniors.

The highlight of the Junior season is the "American Badminton Association National Junior Championships," April 15-16-17, 1954, to be held in the Armory in Orange, N.J.

MASSACHUSETTS

100% Needham Badminton Club Juniors

The Junior badminton players of Needham, Mass., subscribed 100% to Bird Chatter. Albert A. Warner is the helping hand for the Needham Juniors and certainly is on his toes when it comes to badminton. We are happy to include in this issue the names of the Juniors who are helping Bird Chatter: George Marchant, Susan Hargett, Russell Stone, Robert Terhune, Robert Young, Barbara E. Rae, Robert Flanagan, Brian McDermott, Donald Marini, Peter Benson, Richard Rooney, Patricia Urless, Maura Colburn, Jane Woodruff, Carol Jackson, Carol Shannon, James S. McNeish, Joan Lundquist, William McEvoy, Clifford Reid, Susan Hall, Patricia Packer, Jane and Edward Martin, Dean and Bruce McGranahan, Linda Hamilton, Mary Green, Marilyn Merchant, Robert C. Norton, Robert Jones, Colin Holes, Bruce Murray, Michael Donahue, Charles Blair, Dorothy and James McGee.

MINNESOTA

Helen McLeod, Correspondent

Five juniors from Minneapolis, Minn., are hoping to participate in the Junior National Tournament at Orange, N. J., in April. They are: Ramona Gunner, born June 4, 1937; Bob Gunner, born January 27, 1936; Janet Harter, born April 19, 1936; Steven Schodde, born February 6, 1936; Allen Horovitz, born October 10, 1936.

All of these juniors have entered tournaments since 1950 except Steven Schodde who started in 1951. They entered the Twin Cities, Minnesota State, Mid-west and the Nationals and in 1952 they entered as a team the Mid-west Canadian-United States Tournament.

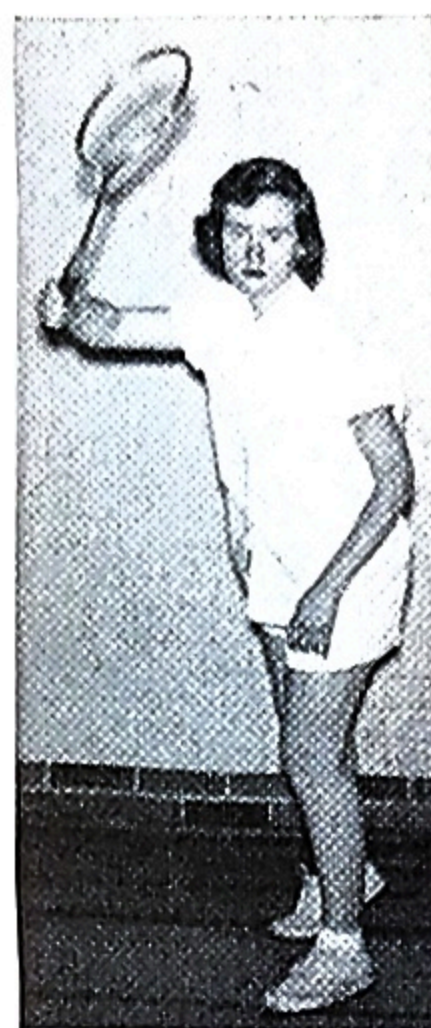
Under the guidance of Walter Ray Smith they play at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. These juniors have been trained to umpire and assist the tournament committee in any way required. They will enter Singles, Girls' and Boys' Doubles as well as Mixed Doubles in the 1954 Junior Nationals.

Ramona Gunner is ranked 8th in Girls' Singles Nationally, in Girls' Doubles she is ranked 5th with Shirley Mans as her partner. Janet Harter with Irene Urashi is ranked 6th in Girls' Doubles. Allen Horovitz and Robert Gunner are ranked 5th in Boys' Doubles, and Stephen Schodde teamed with Robert Rose to be ranked 7th.

WISCONSIN

By Elmer Blaesing

The article by Ken Davidson "Let's All Do Something for Badminton" was a good and timely article. We would like you to know what the Racine Recreation Department is doing. We have 41 juniors from the seventh grade through high school signed up to play on Wednesday from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. Three courts are available. On Saturday from 7 to 10 p.m. we have a mixed adult beginners group. I teach both of these groups. The Juniors play FREE and the adults pay 25¢, the city furnishes birds and rackets.



JANET HARTER
Minnesota

I am also in charge of a small community center with one badminton court where the juniors play from 5 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday with 13 participating. Our Radio Station WRAC gives me wonderful publicity, announcing activities several days each week at least three times a day and the newspapers cooperate in every way. My boss, Mr. B. A. Solbraa, Director of Recreation, gives me everything to make my work easier.

In my little community center mentioned previously I have six ping-pong tables with perfect lighting—18 fluorescent lights. We have a lot of activity in table tennis; at least once a week we have matches with out of town clubs. Needless to say my wife gets a bit fed up at times.

WESTERN NEW YORK

Junior badminton in Western New York was given a tremendous impetus this year by the presence of Ken Davidson, who with Bob Williams presented a series of clinics and demonstrations in many schools, colleges and clubs. During December many personal appearances and demonstrations were given by Ethel Marshall and Bea Massman at various clubs. On Jan. 29, Ethel Marshall, Bea Massman and Bob Williams will give a demonstration and Clinic for Teachers and Students at the New York State Health & Physical Education Teachers Convention at the Hotel Statler in Buffalo. Feb. 12 and 13 the Western New York Junior & Juvenile Championships will be held at the Bennett High School in Buffalo.



EARLHAM OPEN Richmond, Ind.

Men's Singles—Van De Ven, Detroit def. Pritula, Detroit, 15-7, 15-10.
Ladies' Singles—Rutledge, Prudue def. Burdick, Chicago, 11-7, 11-4.
Men's Doubles—Van De Ven & Pritula def. Boston & Robinson, Chicago, 15-8, 13-15, 15-11.
Ladies' Doubles—Coombs & Burdick, Chicago def. Stille & Lillard, Carmago, 15-5, 15-11.
Mixed Doubles—Boston & Coombs def. Stille & Stille, 15-12, 15-9.
G. H. Oberle, Tournery Chairman

NOVELTY HANDICAP Oregon

Men's Doubles—Larry Gillen & Bill Corbin def. Al Brown & George Clinton.
Ladies' Doubles—Mryle Hoffman & Dorothy Mckean def. Dollie Sundeleaf & Flo Weidel.
Mixed Doubles—Larry Gillen & Blanche Hoiten def. Morris Searcy and Janelle Wentz.

So. California Juniors



RON MILLER
California

Four Southern California junior badminton players are hoping to enter the Junior National in 1954.

Diane Myers, Gwen Garnsey, Carlene Hester, and Ron Miller will enter three events each if they represent Southern California. The

three girls play at the Pasadena Club and Alhambra where they are given the opportunity to play and improve their game, are taught good sportsmanship and given much encouragement. Ron plays with the Glendale Club where he is encouraged and helped in every way by all the club members.

All four of the players enter the senior tournaments and do more than their share of umpiring. They are fortunate in having so many of the top-ranking senior players in this area and learn their good sportsmanship and cooperation from these players who set such a fine example.



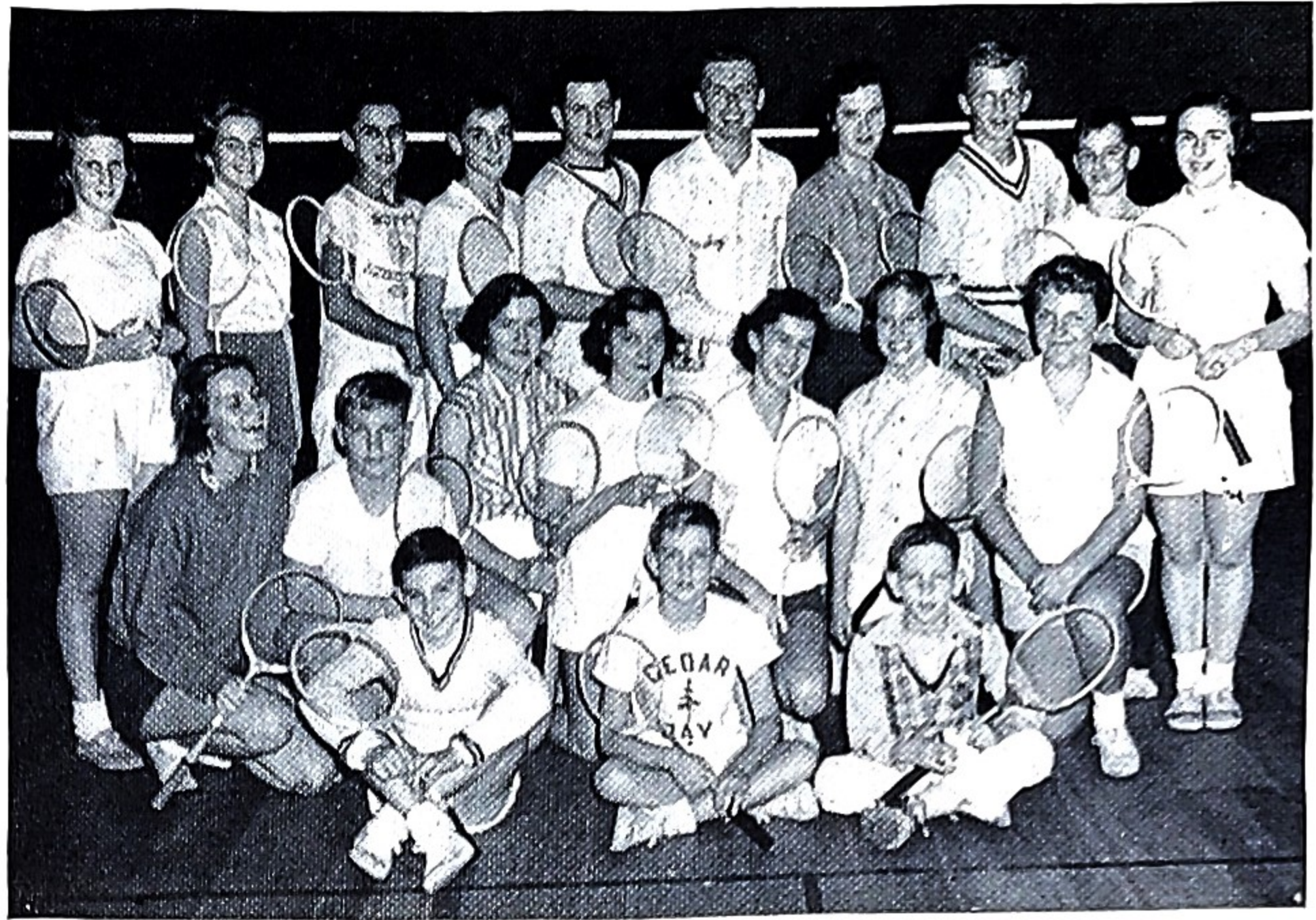
Left to Right: Diane Myers, Gwen Garnsey, Carlene Hester.
California



DON'T . . .

by Ken Davidson

- ... take your eye off the shuttle
- ... kick the shuttle: use a racket
- ... contradict the umpire: he might be right
- ... play a difficult shot when an easy one would do
- ... forget that good footwork is all important.



JUNIOR ACTIVITIES — WESTERN NEW YORK

Front Row—left to right: Bob Scharmach, Richard Wiley, Jim Hackett. Second Row—kneeling: Bonny Geyer, Jim Hooker, Mary Hallman, Mary Joan Altenburg, Joan Dulak, Marreen Mulholland, Janet Mack. Standing: Janet Oglivie, Judy Harvey, Ted Reiker, Gary McFarland, Glen Hackett, Mickey Graver, Linda Harvey, Ron McCormack, John Perry, Joan Tulloch.



RACINE, WISCONSIN, JUNIORS

Top Row, left to right: Dick Kuester, Glen Thorsen, George Noble, Ed. O'Connor, Iann Beckett. Center Row: Bob Romnek, Herbert Smith, Eddie Rasch, Alan Blaesing, Don Rasch. Bottom Row: Joan McKnight, Marion Wickman, Dorothy Andress, Dorothy Danek, Laverne West, Carol Wells.



WHY I PLAY BADMINTON

By Joe Alston

When Marguerite Miller, our hard-working new editor of "Bird Chatter," asked me to write an article on this subject, I found the prospect of actually analyzing my reasons for devoting some 17 years to "feather chasing" rather an interesting one. I'm sure that if one were to take a world-wide poll of all badminton enthusiasts as to why they play the game the ensuing list would consist of a million and one humorous and enlightening reasons. Mine have varied with each phase of my life.

I began playing at the age of nine in San Diego, California, on my next door neighbor's front lawn. My first experience with the game was as an envious little brother watching his older brother and sister batting some feathers over a net with tennis rackets. Eager to horn in on their fun, I raced into our garage in pursuit of an old tennis racket I had discarded upon my retirement from tennis at the age of 5. Bitter disappointment was mine, however, as I was promptly informed that I was "too little" for such skillful activity. Although feeling terribly mistreated, two hours of persistent heckling finally paid off when my brother's racket collapsed, and he realized that I had the only spare. Having no choice but to play with me, he attempted to soothe his injured pride by humiliating me with a complete shut-out! This inspired me to indulge in two years of diligent practice, the reward of which was revenge for that horrible trouncing. Reason No. 1—*to Beat my Big Brother!*

At the tender age of eleven, I won my first tournament! (Nash Junior Tournament, 11 and under, at Pasadena.) The thrill of traveling all the way to Pasadena to play, plus the excitement of winning something, convinced me that this game was something to work at. I can't say I really worked at the game, but I did play every day at the Municipal Gymnasium from the time school was out until ten o'clock at night—with a short break for dinner, which my mother unjustly insisted upon. This schedule continued until 1942, when the Navy decided to take over the gym during the war. This, along with Uncle Sam duty, forced me into temporary retirement until the age of 19. Reason No. 2—*It kept me off the streets!*

By 1946 the gym had re-opened, most of the boys were back from the service, and badminton started rolling again. At this point, I had entered college, and was finding numerous interesting activities outside of badminton. When I played, it was less often, and more for co-educational reasons than for athletic perfection. As I continued in college, however, I found that playing more frequently took my mind off my studies, and gave me a great deal of mental relaxation. Playing in the tournaments enabled me to put the books completely out of my mind, and I returned to them with renewed vigor. To my real amazement, frequent play proved an aid to my scholastic record rather than a detriment, as I had expected. Reason No. 3—*Mental Relaxation.*

When the first Thomas Cup play was initiated in 1948, an entirely new reason for playing badminton confronted me. Here was a goal to work for—an incentive to practice diligently for improvement, in hopes of some day making the team. The very prospect of representing the United States in team competition here or abroad inspired me to accomplishments even beyond my own expectations, when I won the National Singles in 1951. It was a real thrill when my ambitions were realized and I was elected to the 1952 Thomas Cup team. Let me assure you that the excitement of making those trips—the honor of representing my Country—the opportunity to compete against such fine athletes, such sportsmanship as we encountered, was well worth any amount of effort expended to attain this goal. Reason No. 4—*To make the Thomas Cup Team!*

Badminton being a young game, of less popularity than some, its enthusiasts seem to enjoy a certain commodity which is in evidence whenever they meet. My most impressive experience with this came as Lois and I found ourselves facing temporary residence in the Midwest and East. Moving to a city many hundred miles from home, with no acquaintances to ease your loneliness, can be a depressing situation. Not so with us, for wherever we alighted the various badminton groups took us under their wing and made us feel completely at home. This was true not only of the Americans, but of the wonderfully hospita-

ble Canadian players when we would venture into their territory in search of a game. It is this sort of thing that assures you that badminton must be a pretty fine game, or so many wonderful people wouldn't be associated with it. Reason No. 5—*Badminton Players are Swell!*

Although all these reasons for playing badminton came to me at different phases of my life, I do not mean to disassociate them from one another. In going over them now, I can say that it is a combination of all these reasons that keeps me playing the game today—even to that of beating my big brother, as he still contends that I only won on a fluke!

In closing I would like to bring to light one more rather important item—it happens that I met my crazy little wife while playing badminton, and what better reason can a guy have for loving the game?



EIGHTH ANNUAL BURBANK OPEN November 6-8, 1953 Burbank, Calif.

Conducted by the Burbank Badminton Club, George Pajares, President.

"A" Flight

Ladies' Singles—Lois Alston def. Thelma Scovil, 5-11, 11-5, 11-1.

Men's Singles—Joe Alston def. Dick Mitchell, 15-12, 18-16.

Ladies' Doubles—Thelma Scovil & Janet Wright def. Lois Alston & Beulah By-master, 15-6, 15-8.

Men's Doubles—Joe Alston & Wynn Rogers def. Manuel Armendariz & Buzz Martin, 18-17, 15-12.

Mixed Doubles—Wynn Rogers & Loma Smith def. Lois Alston & Joe Alston, 15-11, 15-3.

Veterans' Doubles—Ozzie Hilton & Howard Holman def. Dan McArthur & Al Wilkinson, 15-7, 15-9.

"B" Flight

Ladies' Singles—Gwen Garnsey def. Ardyce Carr, 11-5, 11-4.

Men's Singles—Bob Pitman def. Dave Trader, 15-6, 18-16.

Ladies' Doubles—Carlene Hester & June Mies def. Babe Pajares & Mary Ellen Dobel, 15-12, 15-8.

Men's Doubles—Dan McArthur & Al Wilkinson def. Dick van Praag & Everett Mies, 15-5, 16-18, 15-3.

Mixed Doubles—Dick van Praag & June Mies def. Jack Searl & Mary Ellen Dobel, 15-9, 12-15, 15-10.

Veterans' Doubles—Rand Myers & Jack van Praag def. Frank Auxier & Ken Conn, 15-7, 15-4.

Personals

The former Maylou Wincote would like her friends to know that she is now living in San Jose, California, at 922 Chapman St. Her husband, Hugh W. Elliott is in surgical training at the Santa Clara County Hospital. They have a future badminton star by the name of Vivian, age 18 months.

Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Walker of the Meramec Club, St. Louis, Mo., have a daughter born on June 13th, 1953, and they call her Jennie.

Pat Price became Mrs. William Horn on July 24th. Both are members of the Meramec Club in St. Louis, Mo.

Nancy Skinker became Mrs. Albert Schlueter on September 24th. Also members of the Meramec Club.

On the 24th of October, Teddy Moehlmann, Jr., of the University City Club, was married to Beverly Barshfield in Kansas City, Mo. The couple will make their home in Kirkwood, Mo.

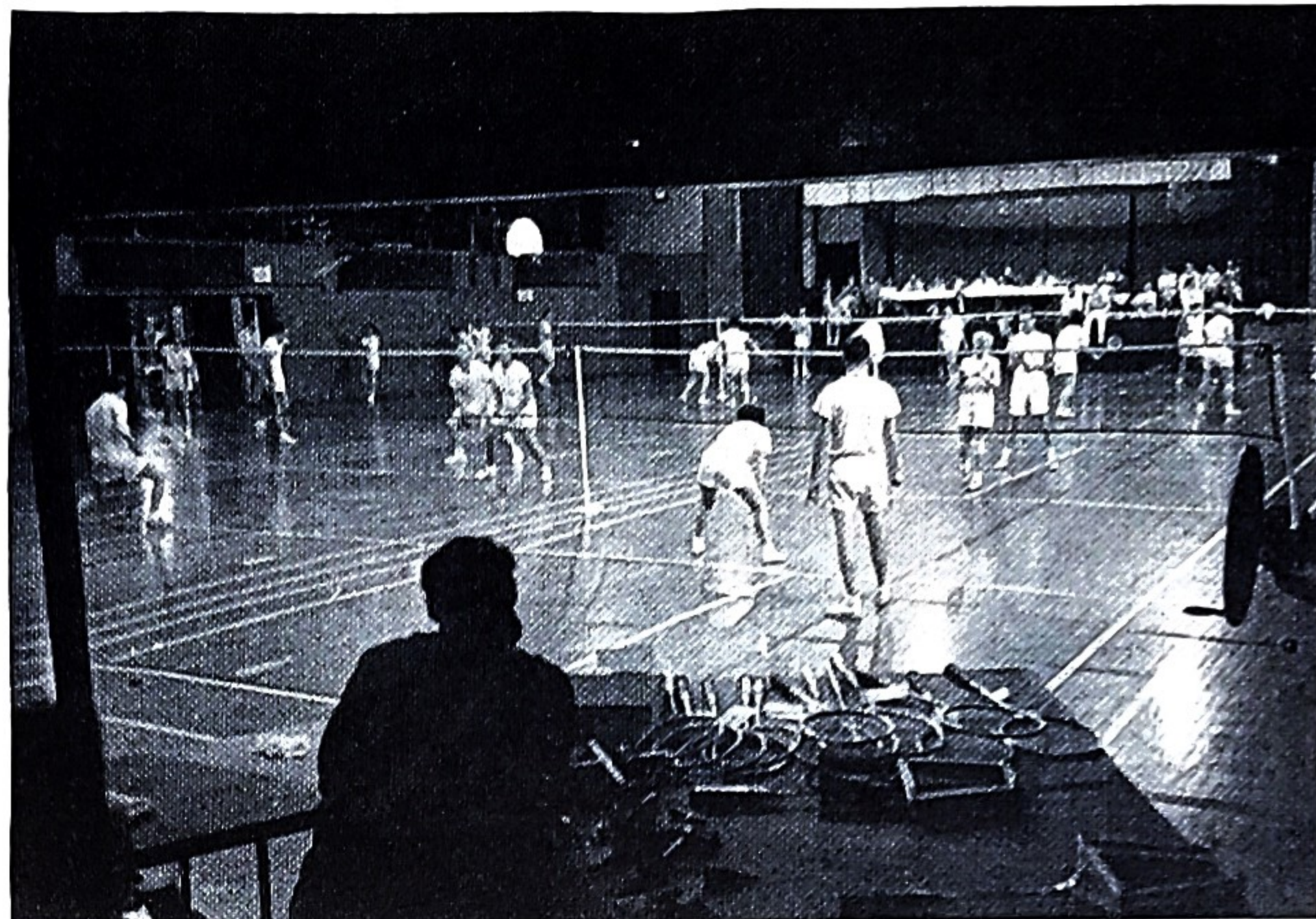
November 14th Harriet Woods became Mrs. Henry Sharp. Both are members of the Navy Club, St. Louis, Mo.

The Meramec Club members of St. Louis, Mo., extend their sympathy to Mrs. Mabel Opfer, on the death of her mother, and to Carl Lundvall, on the death of his daughter.

Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Reynolds have a new prospective badminton champ, born October 31, 1953, in Santa Barbara, Calif. It's a boy champ.

Santa Barbarans John and Connie Einmo became the parents of a second daughter, born in mid-July, just before they moved to Texas to make their home. John has a job with the Border Patrol.

Santa Barbara, Calif.—Bill Irvine and Nelson Baker have been elected to the Semana Nautica Board of Directors to serve for two years. This gives badminton a very nice berth in the "top section." Dates for the 1954 Semana Nautica Tourney have been set for July 2, 3 and 4. Plans are now



Ninth Annual Golden Bird Torney
Chicago Badminton Club, River Forest Concordia College Gym

under way to make this the biggest Semana Nautica ever.

Bill Busby of Manhattan Beach, Calif., is home from the service and plans to return to badminton soon.

Sad news comes from Santa Barbara, Calif. Myrtle Baker reports that the old gym (the barn to many) has been condemned by the city. The club hopes to play at the Country Club at least one night a week.

Badminton players and enthusiasts throughout the U.S. will be interested to hear of the Valentine's Day wedding of Thelma Kingsbury Scovil, former National Ladies' Singles and Doubles Champion and Claude Welcome, 2nd Vice-President of the American Badminton Association.

"Bird Chatter" staff and California players and fans join their many friends from coast to coast in congratulating and wishing them happiness and many more years in badminton. They will reside in Glendale, Calif., the home of "Bird Chatter."

Dick van Praag, member of the National Publicity Committee of the ABA, and son of the Chairman, Jack van Praag, announces the birth of a daughter on November 14 at the St. Luke Hospital in Pasadena, Calif. Dick and Carolyn now have a mixed doubles team to train for badminton.

The Glendale Badminton Club of Glendale, Calif., wishes to extend their sympathies to Dorothy Dalzell, a charter member. Dorothy's husband, Jess, passed away early in November. Jess was well known in Southern California for his willingness to help in running tournaments.

Loma Smith recently tore a leg muscle and is taking it easy in a wheel chair until February; however, the doctor says she will be in condition to play in the California State, as well as the Nationals.

The English badminton world is sure that 17-year-old Judy Devlin is emulating her famous father. Not yet out of the junior ranks, Judy, who was runner-up in the ladies' singles event at the American Championships last April is, of course, a daughter of the one and only Frank Devlin who won the All-England singles titles more often than any other player.



METROPOLITAN DOUBLES

New York

Ladies' Doubles: Winners—Doris DeLord and Rosine Capehart. Runners-up—May Shields and Eleanor Ross.

Men's Doubles: Winners—Ronnie Palmer and Don Kerr. Runners-up—Larry Howard and Max Schirmer.

Mixed Doubles: Winners—Ronnie Palmer and Fay Shaw. Runners-up—Edward and May Shields.

From Coast...



HOLLYWOOD Y.M.C.A.

Top Row: Mary Terrusa, June Van Ness, Vera Berry, Betty Rohrer, Emmy Dreier, Betty Rudberg, and John Pastor, director. Front Row: Dora Gosch, Dolores Dreier, Sylvia Zuckerman, and Zona Rich.

It is badminton two mornings a week at the Hollywood YMCA—yes, the YM, no men allowed—for thirty or more of Southern California's housewives. The three courts at the Y are kept busy on Tuesday and Thursday morning from 9 to 11 a.m., after which the gals adjourn to the swimming pool for an hour. Lessons in badminton and swimming are given to those who wish them by "Y" instructors. Many of the YMCA and the YWCA's throughout the United States are subscribers to "Bird Chatter" and they are certainly doing much in the way of encouraging people all over the country to play badminton. A fine example of what badminton can do for you is shown in the smiling faces and good looking figures shown in the picture of the Hollywood YMCA Women's Group.

TEXAS

Thelma Harrison, Correspondent

There have been no announcements to date of coming tournaments. The Texas-Oklahoma Cup matches are tentatively scheduled for December 5 in Oklahoma City.

One compliment for Bird Chatter coming up. All of the comment on

your new issue was very nice. Of course, I ask if there was anything from the Southwest and the reply ran something like this, "Well-er-uh, I guess nobody sent anything in." It has been a year and a half since I have seen anything in from Texas and I mailed that. I will send you all badminton news I can get my hands on if you want it.

MARYLAND

Grace Devlin, Correspondent

Lina Windsor of Baltimore, Under 18 Singles Consolation winner in the last year's Junior Nationals, was in an automobile accident the last weekend in August. She is slowly recovering in the Union Memorial Hospital in Baltimore and hopes to be home for Christmas.

Judy Devlin, who spent her summer playing tennis and ranks in the top ten of the Under 18 Girls' Division in that game, was named on the Southeast Women's Field Hockey team as Right Inner last week and played in the National Hockey Tournament at Hunter College, N.Y., recently.

The 1st Junior Junior Match (under 16) between Winnipeg, Canada, and Minneapolis was played in Ft. Garry, Manitoba, November 28th, thanks to the energies and interest of Helen McLeod of Minneapolis and Jack MacDonald of Winnipeg. Results have not as yet been received.

The Baltimore Interscholastic Championships (Badminton) were played November 21st and won by Towson High School. Sixteen schools entered teams and four girls play on each team. The school scores one point for every match won. The Consolations score 1/4 point for every match won and this keeps the interest alive until the end. For the first time both public and private schools entered. A Silver Challenge Bowl is held by the winning school for the year.

Junior Mid-west Canadian-United States

The University of Minnesota at Minneapolis will be the site for Mid-west Canadian-United States matches January 9, 1954. Walter Ray Smith will be in charge. Invitations have been sent to the five top girls and the five top boys of the United States Mid-west district (Regions 4 and 5). Janet Harter and Bob Grunner will be co-captains of the United States team.

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... to Coast

OREGON

Rita Muntz, Correspondent

The Reed Badminton Club have elected their officers for the year. They are: President, Joe Griffith; Vice-President, John Rankin; Secretary-Treasurer, Odesa Reinke.

On December 2 the Reed Club was invited to Multnomah Club for an evening of badminton and good eats. The matches were close and fun was had by all.

We have heard through the grapevine that Johnny Rankin is cookin' up a tournament for the Reed Club. We'll all be waiting to play, Johnny.

NEW YORK

Ted Jarrett, Correspondent

Competitive activity in the Metropolitan Badminton Association started with a one-day Doubles Tournament under the auspices of the New Rochelle Badminton Club. This year's event constituted a change from the Mixed-up Mixed Doubles affair sponsored by his club in previous seasons, and offered double-elimination draws in Men's Doubles, Ladies' Doubles and Mixed Doubles, with handicaps to permit all classes of players to compete.

The four courts in the New Rochelle Y.M.C.A. were kept busy until after midnight as a sizeable group of players from New York, Westchester County and the New Jersey suburbs played through the several events. Although Class A players occupied all of the final brackets, the handicaps enabled Class B and Class C players to get into the quarter-finals and semi-finals, so a good time was had by all.

Ed and May Shields did their usual fine job in setting up arrangements for the tournament and in running the very full program of three events.

Similar one-day events are planned to be held by other clubs in the New York Metropolitan area, in addition to the Metropolitan Championships scheduled for the latter part of January.

CONNECTICUT

R. S. Ober, Correspondent

The Stamford Y Badminton Club is again this year supporting "Bird Chatter" with a 100% subscription.

Noel Fehm, Correspondent

Peggy Varner, Texas, was ladies' singles winner in the M.A.A.A. International Invitation Tournament, held in Montreal recently. Peggy, North Hadley, Mass., school teacher, defeated the defending champion, Marge Shedd of Toronto, 11-7, 11-5. She teamed with Boston's Wayne Schell to win mixed double honors by defeating Marge Shedd and Bill Purceill, Toronto, 15-4, 18-14.

Gut N' Feathers, Marblehead

Tom Brown, Correspondent

Plans are under way for the Ninth Annual Gut N' Feathers Club men's doubles invitation badminton tournament to be held at Marblehead, Mass., on January 30, 1954. Shea Smith, 3rd, is again this year serving as chairman for this event. This tournament is considered one of the outstanding badminton events of the year in the New England section of the country. It is interesting to note that this tournament, as distinguished from exhibitions in official Thomas Cup matches, was the only tournament in which the Thomas Cup Team from India competed while in this country four years ago. Previous winners include Carl Loveday, Clint Stephens, Bobby Williams, Dick Yaeger, Ken Kost, Harold Seavey, and last year's winners, Noel Fehm and Harry Quinn, of Westport, Connecticut.

Another interesting aspect of this tournament is that the members of Gut N' Feathers put up all of the out of state players in their own homes. Lunch and dinner the day of the tournament plus a party at the end are all handled by members of the club themselves. Those attending the tournament this year will also be interested to note the progress that has been made on the new upstairs lounge overlooking the courts. Another highlight, as an added attraction, will be the finals of the "Poona Club" ladies' doubles invitation tournament, which will be held between the semi-final and finals of the men's play.

Entries for the tournament will close on Friday, January 22, and any persons interested in playing should contact Charles B. Newhall, 1st Vice President of the American Badminton Association, Fort Glover, Marblehead, Mass.

MICHIGAN

Carol Marquardt, Correspondent

New officers of the East Grand Rapids Badminton Club are: President, Tom Steel; Vice President, Emory Freeman; Secretary, Monty Terryberry (Mrs. A. Parker); Treasurer, Russ Weigle.

This season's play started on Tuesday, October 20. The club plays three times a week—Tuesday and Thursday evening and Saturday afternoon.

WASHINGTON

Jack Harvey, Correspondent

We think you are doing a fine job and certainly hope we can get the Washington badminton players supporting "Bird Chatter" 100%. The Washington State Open Badminton Tournament is scheduled for January 28, 29 and 30, at the Armory in Spokane, Wash., but not officially until sanctioned by the ABA.

VIRGINIA

Byron W. Settle, Correspondent

Roanoke Badminton Club elected the following officers for 1953-54: President, Jimmy Kramer; Vice-President, Beverley Tucker; Treasurer, Jeanne Bentley; Secretary, Nancy Leonard.

The Roanoke Club started its eleventh year this fall at the new Monroe Junior High School, and during this time they have had visitors from Maine to California. For the past three years we have sponsored a teen age group during the summer months on the Huntington Court Methodist Church recreation grounds and play twice a week. The Southern Tournament on March 19, 20 and 21 will be held in New Orleans and Ken Davidson will be their special guest.

"Bird Chatter"
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FEBRUARY 10, 1954

ITEMS *from Abroad...*

There is good reason to suppose that the two Malayan students, Eddy and David Choong, studying in England, may be induced to come and play in the U.S. National Championships, Niagara Falls, on April 7-11, 1954. These two great Malayan champions have swept all before them in the past two or three years. Eddy, the younger brother, has won the All-England Singles for the past two years, and with David, won the Men's Doubles championships for the past three years. Eddy won the triple crown by winning the All-England Mixed title last March. However, David is considered the better doubles player, an opinion strengthened when he went home to Malaya last summer and, with a new partner, Law Teik Hock, of Penang, won the Malayan championship title, beating the teams which represented Malaya in the last Thomas Cup matches against the United States.

Strong as they undoubtedly are, the Choongs can be beaten, and have been—last season by the Irish team of Peard and Fitzgibbon and the Danish team (ranked 2nd) of Oleson and Nygard. In a recent Danish tournament this season, Eddy was hard pressed to win the Singles title; first by a 17 year old newcomer, Finn Kobberro, and then by the 30 year old Jorn Skaarup, who won the first game but ran out of wind in the third game. On the last two occasions they met, Skarrup had proved too good for Eddy.

The appearance of Eddy and David Choong at Niagara Falls would be a great boon to the tournament since they are both exceedingly colorful as well as fine, quick, aggressive players. The Choongs are going to play in Canada in the second half of January, 1954, when their main appearance will be at the Stu Lawson International Invitation Tournament, at the Strathgowan Club, Toronto, on January 14-17, 1954.

In addition to the Malayan brothers Choong, there is an excellent chance that the two top Swedish players, Nils Jonson and Stellan Mohlin, of Stockholm, will make the trip to the U.S. to play in the first United States Open Nationals. In a letter to Ken Davidson, who is attempting to get as many of his overseas friends as possible to visit Niagara Falls next April, Stellan

Mohlin is highly optimistic regarding the chances of both Nils and himself making the trip. Jonson, No. 1 singles player in Sweden, won both his Thomas Cup matches against the top Danes last year, and he and Mohlin have proved a formidable doubles team on more than one occasion, often beating the top Danish teams, and although never beating the Choong brothers, have made it a close match by going three games with them. Stellan Mohlin, a left hander, is also an accomplished mixed doubles player.

★

A great deal of interest is evidenced in Canada and in Europe over the decision of the American Badminton Association to open up the United States Championships for a trial period of three years. Since the tournament is to be held at Niagara Falls, New York, close to the Canadian border, a large contingent of our Canadian neighbors is expected to enter. The tournament is to be held from April 7 to 11, 1954, and will be open to all amateurs in good standing throughout the world.

★

For the second time in five years a representative England team toured the Union of South Africa during the recent close season. The selected team consisted of Warwick Shute (captain), J. R. Best, A. D. Jordan, Miss I. E. O'Beirne, Miss I. L. Cooley, and Miss J. R. White. During the course of their six weeks sojourn in Africa they played matches not only throughout the Union, but also in Northern and Southern Rhodesia. Out of a total of sixteen ties played, England won 11 and lost 5.

★

The New Zealand Badminton Federation's proposal that the I.B.F. should institute an international ladies' championship on lines somewhat similar to the Thomas Cup contest was favorably received in principle, and the Executive Committee was requested to draw up and circulate concrete proposals for consideration at the next meeting.

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UMPIRING

By R. H. G. Mathews

Ass't Chairman, Rules Committee ABA

As most sports have grown in interest and popularity, there has always been an eventual necessity for the adoption of uniform rules and terminology, and trained arbiters to decide controversial questions and interpret and enforce the rules of the game.

Badminton as a sport has had a rather rapid growth, and until recently, although the ABA had made official certain rules for tournament play, local interpretation of these rules had some variance, as also had the terminology of the umpires' calls of points. The umpire who "calls" individual matches should not be confused with the Tournament Referee who is the final authority to decide all controversial matters relating to tournament play.

Since umpiring, except in very large tournaments, was left to the players themselves, it usually has been impossible to provide umpires for *all* matches until sufficient players had been eliminated. Umpiring in first round matches is just as important as in the finals. To the loser, the first round *is* the finals! Obviously, no player cares to tire himself by umpiring in between his own matches, and obviously also the poorer players who were first eliminated usually had comparatively little tournament experience and therefore were not as well qualified for umpiring.

In order to accomplish uniform and consistent enforcement of the rules and correct interpretation which is necessary so that the standards of all tournaments may be the same for ranking purposes, the ABA has decided to establish as a separate organization, but under the jurisdiction of the National Rules Committee, an ABA Umpires Association. This organization will have members in every community where badminton is played who will be required to meet certain qualifications, who will be supplied with rule books and all necessary material, and who will be trained in their use and interpretation.

In order to try out this plan, a year ago the Midwest Badminton Association formed a Midwest Umpires Association of over one hundred qualified members who functioned for the first time in last season's tournaments. Each of these umpires is equipped with rule books and instructions and is under the direction of a local Um-

pires Committee Chairman who holds meetings and instructs the members before tournaments, and directs the assignment of umpires to matches throughout the tournament. Each umpire is given an identification card entitling him to free admission to all sanctioned tournaments in the Midwest area providing he registers with the chairman of the local umpires' committee at the tournament for assignment as umpire or linesman.

It was found that many old-time badminton players, including many past champions, who are no longer playing tournaments, welcomed this opportunity to participate in the game and to continue the friendly contacts which they had had for so long. Since these players are thoroughly conversant with all the circumstances which could arise in a match, are of adult age, and possess completely unbiased judgment, they uniformly had the respect of the players. Last season at almost all the sanctioned tournaments in the Midwest area, the Umpires Association was able to furnish skilled umpires for all matches, including first rounds. For the first time, certain technical rules were enforced such as the "foot fault" rule. The players were all outspokenly enthusiastic about this procedure and the Midwest Board passed a resolution of commendation for the Umpires Association and its work.

It is hoped that at this year's annual meeting of the ABA, the basic resolutions will be passed creating and implementing an umpires' organization so that by next season, at least, this organization can be in a position to give assistance to sanctioned tournaments throughout the country.



DR. DAVE FREEMAN OPEN
San Diego, Calif.

Men's Singles—Joe Alston, Pasadena def.

Dick Mitchell, San Diego, 15-6, 15-12.

Ladies' Singles—Thelma Scovil, Burbank

def. Lois Alston, Pasadena, 11-7, 11-3.

Men's Doubles—Wynn Rogers, Pasadena

& Joe Alston def. Mitchell & Carl Love-

day, San Diego, 15-5, 15-6.

Ladies' Doubles—Scovil & Beulah Bymas-

ter, Burbank def. Loma Smith, Pasa-

dena & Dottie Hann, Manhattan Beach,

12-15, 15-4, 15-6.

Mixed Doubles—Rogers & Smith def. Al-

ston & Alston, 15-8, 15-8.

Veterans' Doubles—Frank Auxier & Ken

Conn, Alhambra def. Archie Walker &

Don Armbruster, San Diego, 15-9, 15-9.

Dick Mitchell, Tournament Chairman

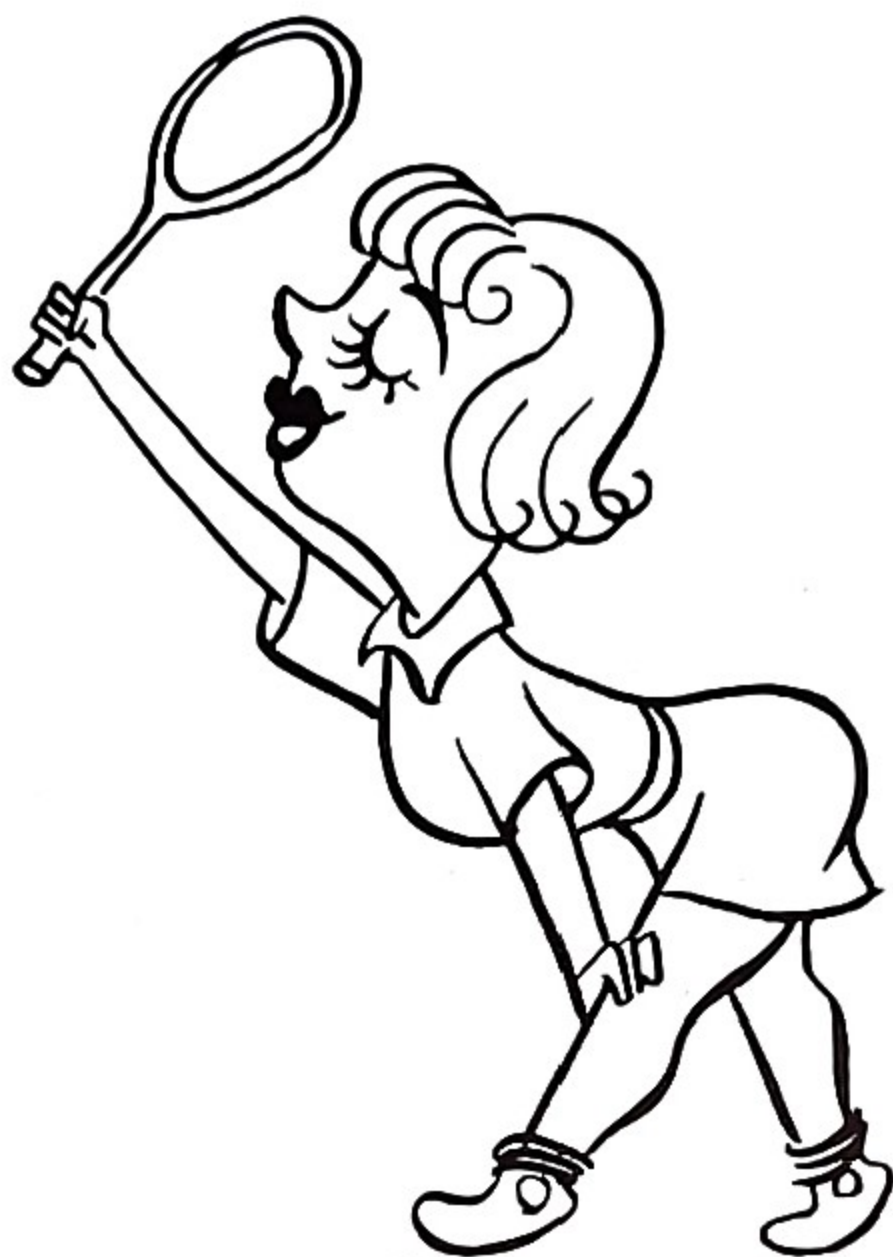
The All-England Championships will be held in London March 17-20, 1954.

Questions & Answers

Answers by Ken Davidson

Q. What is the ruling when, during the course of a rally, a contestant drops his/her racket? Would the same rule apply if a player broke his/her racket when swinging at a bird and the broken part came in contact with the floor?—Roy Lockwood, Burbank, Calif.

A. This is a "judgment" ruling by the umpire. If there is any interference with the opponent(s), the umpire must immediately rule against



the player causing the interference by dropping the racket. On most occasions, the broken part of a racket will fall into the opponent's court, thereby "invading" their territory, which is a fault. Even though the racket may not break (it may slip out of the hand) and may not "invade" the opponent's territory, the umpire may decide that the banging or clattering noise as the racket strikes the floor just as the opponent is about to return the bird causes interference with his/her stroke—in such a case the umpire can rule a fault by balking or interference. (On most occasions there is no need for a ruling by the umpire as the bird is returned and the player, causing the interference by dropping or breaking his/her racket, has no means to continue the rally.)

On many occasions, a racket slips or falls from the hand without anyone, except the player concerned, knowing or noticing such a happening. Even though the umpire does notice this slight loosening of the racket

from the clasp, he can allow play to continue if he decides there has been no interference by "invasion" or noise against the opponent(s).

Q. Can the receiver cross the short line to return the serve?—"Jud" Freeman, Geneva, N.Y.

A. Yes, providing he remains *within* his receiving court, with part of each foot in contact with the floor, until the *moment* the shuttle strikes the server's racket. Immediately the shuttle is struck by the server, the receiver can move anywhere—in front of the short service line and/or across the center line. Note: If the receiver moves *before* the shuttle strikes the server's racket, it is a fault.

Q. How can the umpire watch the server and the receiver at the same time?—"Jud" Freeman, Geneva, N.Y.

A. It is, of course, impossible for an umpire sitting opposite the net to look two ways at once, but normally an umpire, even though directing most of his attention to the server, can catch, out of the corner of his eye, the movements of a receiver moving too soon. If there is any real doubt that BOTH the server and the receiver are breaking the rules (the server by serving too high; and the receiver by pre-anticipating the striking of the shuttle on the serve) the umpire should immediately call for a "Service Judge" to help him. In top competition, National Championships, Thomas Cup matches, etc., the short service linesmen often also act as "Service Judges" on their respective side of the court. In local club play, or where the players act as their own umpire, linesmen, etc., the server should not get upset at a receiver who persists in jumping forward too soon to "rush" the short, low serves. (This usually happens in Doubles, Mixed especially with the man trying to frighten the lady server.) By having the body weight moving forward too soon, the receiver leaves himself open to be caught by a well disguised high serve. This flick high doubles serve must be delivered with the same easy forward swing as for the low serve; a slight quickening of the wrist will change the low serve into the high doubles serve. Once fooled, a "rushing" receiver will be more cautious and not nearly so "frightening."

(Editor's Note: The "Questions & Answers" column is a new feature of "Bird Chatter." All questions on any phase of badminton should be sent to "Bird Chatter", 1165 Ruberta Avenue, Glendale 1, Calif.)

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From the MAIL BAG...

Dear Marguerite:

CONGRATULATIONS to you and all your Bird Chatter staff on your great effort in turning out your first issue. A fine job — well done! I know your success will bring its just reward and I'm sure badminton enthusiasts throughout the country will rally around you and send in news and photographs to help you continue to make Bird Chatter a magazine worthy of our game. You will be pleased to hear that I have met a large number of people who praise your work.

All best wishes for continued success.

Ken Davidson

Dear Marguerite:

Clint and I were delighted to see a copy of Bird Chatter in the mail last week and we would like to wish you every success while publishing it this year.

Sincerely,
Patsy Stephens

Dear Mrs. Miller:

Just received the November-December, 1953, copy of "Bird Chatter" —interesting reading from cover to cover. Yes, that includes the ads.

Am very much interested in play and tournaments for the balance of the 53-54 season, and even though we are located in far northern California, I could and would travel as far south as San Francisco over the week-ends. Would appreciate your referring this inquiry to the Association or Clubs of northern California over even in the Medford, Oregon, area. We are situated 70 miles north of Eureka and 20 miles south of Crescent City, Calif.

All the success in the world with future editions of Bird Chatter.

Capt. Fred A. Altstadt,
777th A.C.&W. Sqdn.
Klamath, Calif.

Southland badminton players will be interested to learn that the Centro Deportivo Chapultepec of Mexico City has been elected an associate member of the International Badminton Federation.

The third Thomas Cup contest will run over 1954-55. The hitherto existing three geographical zones for preliminary ties were increased to four. These will be known as American, European, Asiatic and Australasian, and unless mutually agreed to the contrary, the winners of these four zones will dispatch their teams to Malaya in May, 1955, for the inter-zone ties which will take place immediately before the challenge tie, for which sanction has been granted to the Badminton Association of Malaya to hold between mid-May and mid-June of that year.

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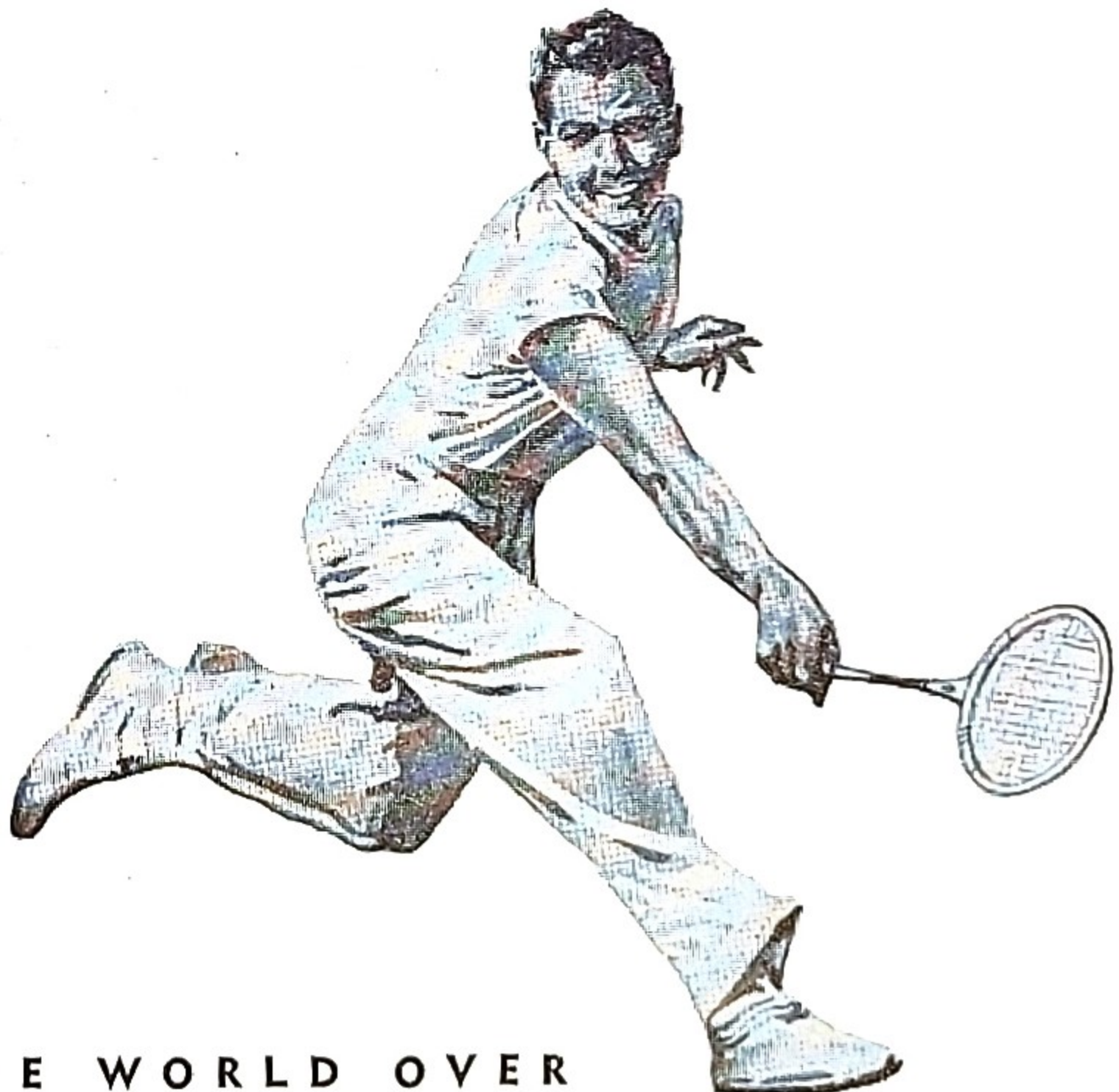
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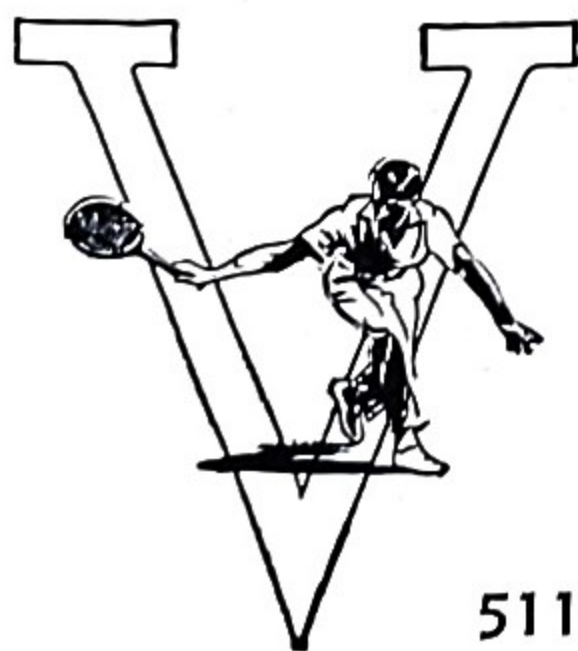
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