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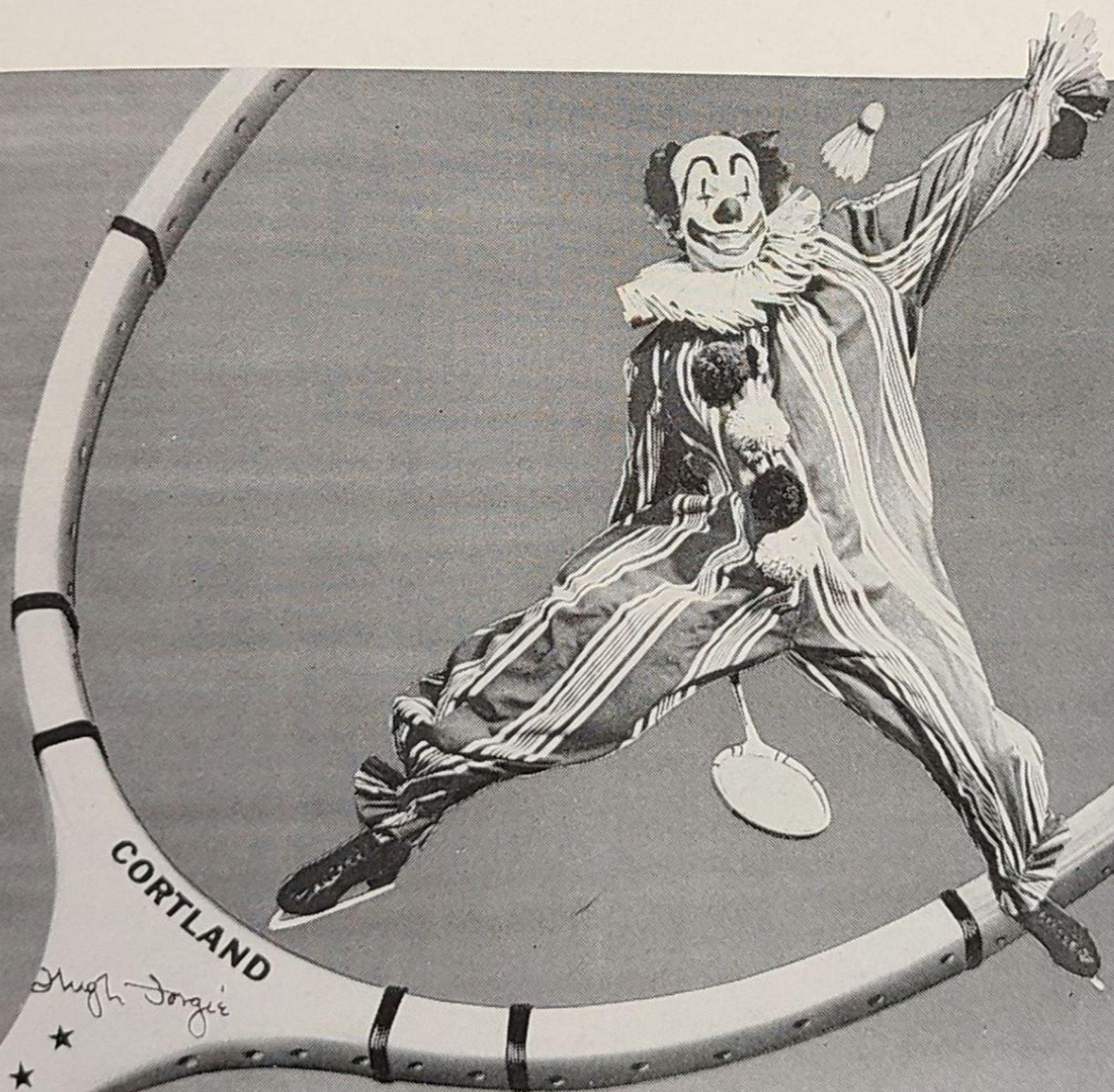


CHATTER

Vol. 14

JANUARY-FEBRUARY, 1955

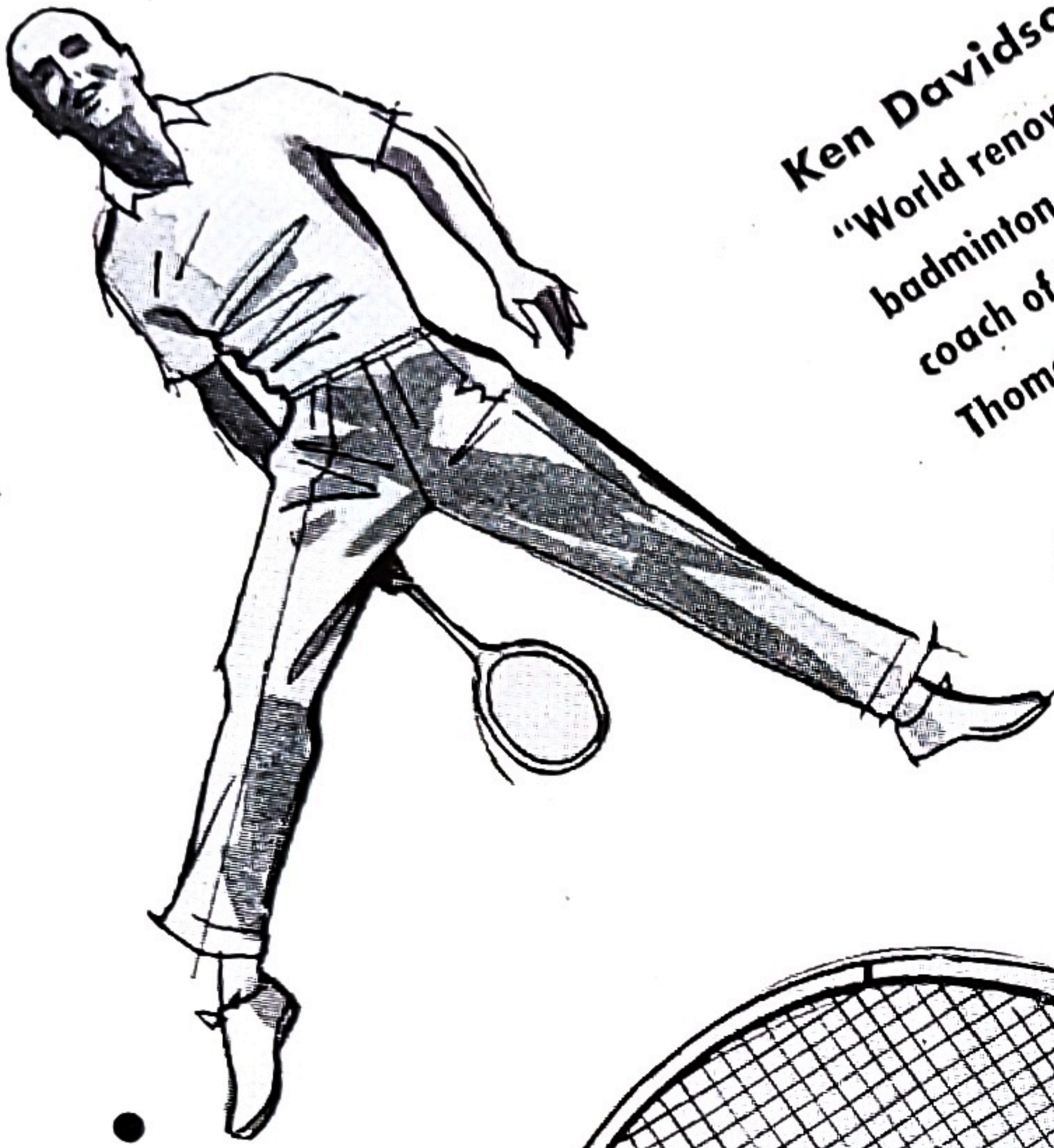
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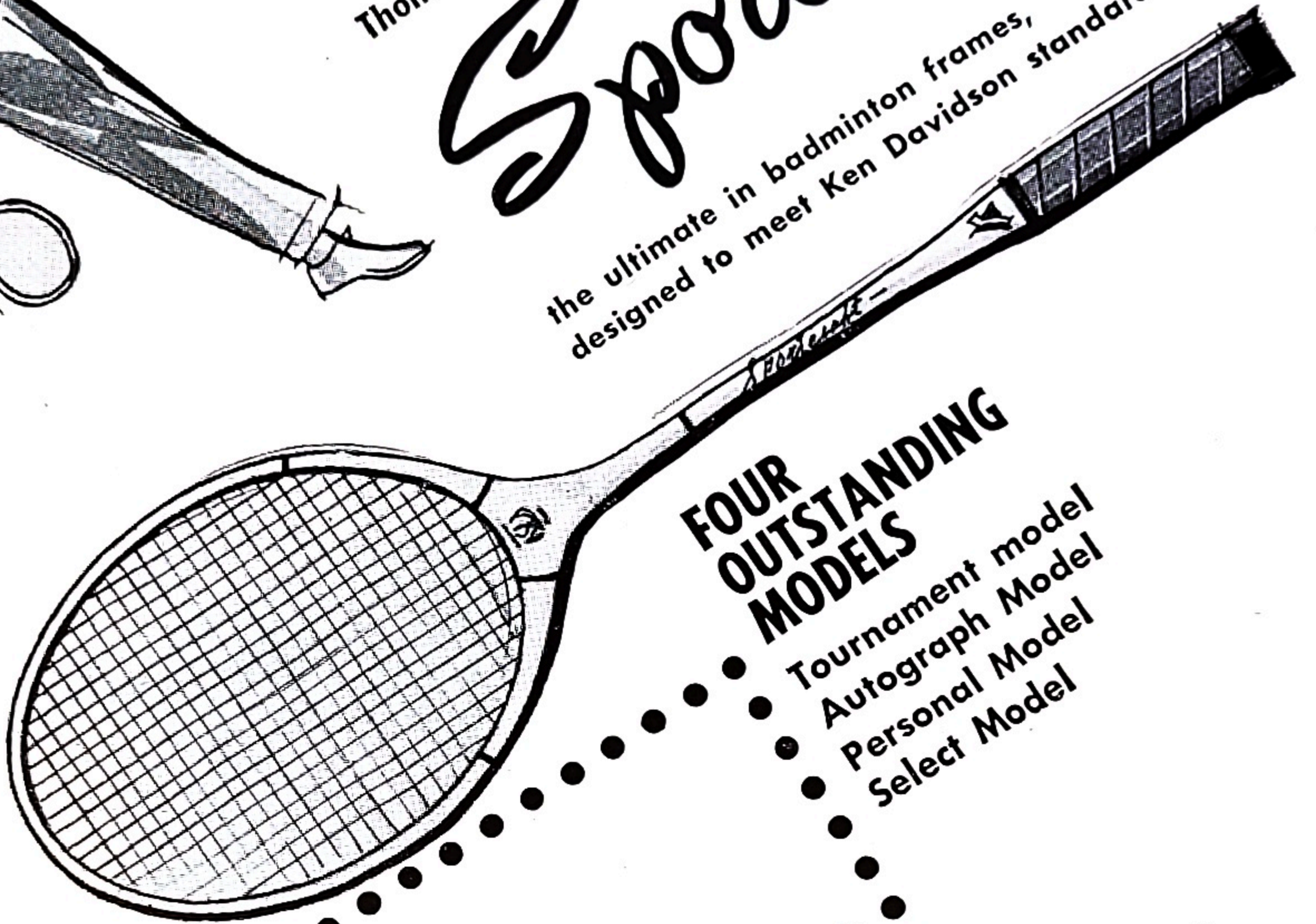
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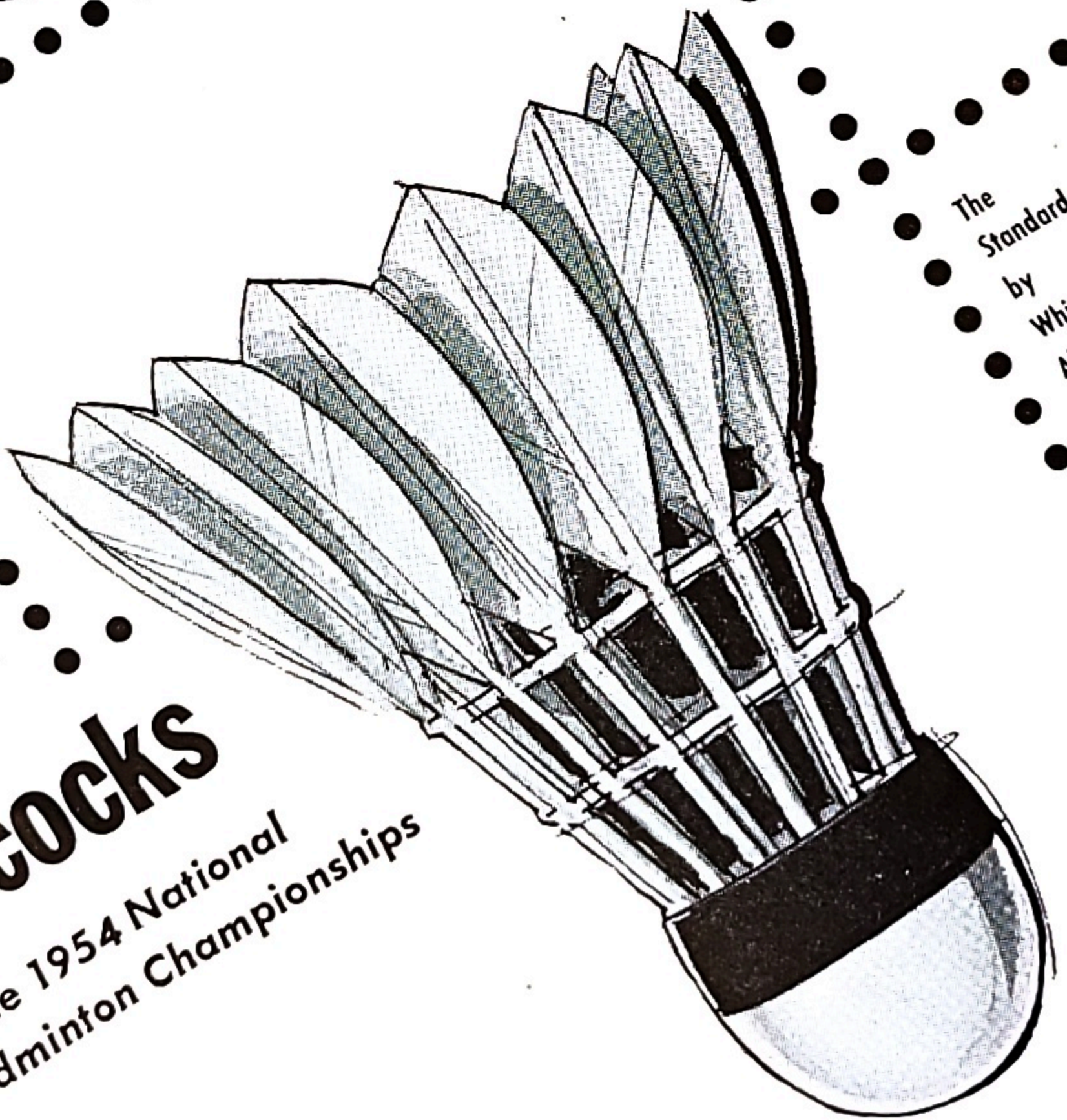


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BIRD CHATTER



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AMERICAN BADMINTON ASSOCIATION

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HELP WANTED

MEN, WOMEN, BOYS, GIRLS in these United States—you do not need experience to write for Bird Chatter, all you need is the ability to push a pencil or a pen, or pound a typewriter (mistakes gladly accepted) and the desire to have FREE publicity for your badminton group, a little time, a piece of paper, an envelope, a stamp (either a 3c or airmail) and a postman and you are hired at the same rate of pay we get—.00c. Mail answers to 1165 Ruberta Ave., Glendale 1, Calif.

DEADLINE

FOR

NEXT ISSUE IS

FEBRUARY 10, 1955

JANUARY-FEBRUARY, 1955

Death of Ken Davidson Grieves Badminton World

Ken Davidson's untimely death in an airplane crash at Prestwick, Scotland, early Christmas morning, has been a stunning blow and deep personal loss to his host of friends throughout the United States and other countries where badminton is played. No one in the badminton world had won the affection of as many players and others as Ken. Our heartfelt sympathy goes to his wife and daughter, as well as to his mother and other members of his family in England.

Ken was such a vital factor in building up badminton in this country that it is difficult to visualize badminton without him. No one else can fill the distinctive place he occupied. His clinics and world-famous exhibitions, comprising an exceptional combination of humor and skill, were of tremendous promotional value. His thorough knowledge of the game and ability as an instructor of technique and strategy were evidenced by his book "Winning Badminton" and his numerous articles in "Bird Chatter"—all of great assistance, both to top-flight players, and to those just taking up the game. His thoughts were always on the furtherance of the best interests of badminton in this country, and he never ceased to work enthusiastically and intelligently to that end. He was particularly interested in Junior Development. Our American Badminton Association relied upon him heavily in many ways; he was a storehouse of information and always had a number of stimulating suggestions. His experience as Coach and Manager of the first two United States Thomas Cup Teams (as well as former holder of British, European and American titles and Captain of the Scottish International Badminton Team) will be solely missed this year by our Thomas Cup Team, for whom he was again acting as coach. His interest in international competition was keen, and because of the high regard held for him by foreign officials and players, it was he, more than anyone else, who was responsible for making and carrying out arrangements involving the competition of outstanding foreign players in this country and of top American players in other countries. A trip to Malaya and India with our two highest ranked American women players had just been completed by him.

Consideration is being given to the possibility of one or more memorials for Ken. Undoubtedly the memorial which Ken would most desire is for us in this country to maintain in a healthy and thriving state the game of badminton to which Ken devoted his life. We cannot let Ken down.

CHARLES B. NEWHALL, *President*
American Badminton Association

DEDICATION

To the memory of Ken Davidson, who was never too busy to extend a helping hand, this issue of BIRD CHATTER is respectfully dedicated. In order that our readers could enjoy as many as possible of Ken's writings submitted for this issue, it has been necessary to leave out several items from other contributors. If still timely, these will appear at a later date.

ABA Sanctioned Tournaments

- Jan. 22-23—Illinois State Open, Evanston, Ill.
Jan. 29—Flint Invitational, Flint, Mich.
Jan. 29—Gut'n Feathers Club Invitational, Men's Doubles, Marblehead, Mass.
Jan. 28-29-30—Dave Freeman Open, San Diego, Calif.
Feb. 4-5-6—Massachusetts 1955 Class "B," Boston, Mass.
Feb. 18-19-20—New England Open, Boston, Mass.
March 3-4-5-6—Mason-Dixon, Baltimore, Md.
March 5—Michigan Badminton League Annual, Grosse Pointe, Mich.
March 11-12-13—Middle Atlantic Open, Philadelphia, Pa.
March 11-12-13—Massachusetts State Championships, Boston, Mass.
March 12—Maryland State Junior (under 13), Baltimore, Md.
March 19—Maryland State Junior (under 15), Baltimore, Md.
March 25-26—Maryland State Junior (under 18), Baltimore, Md.

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Procedure for Obtaining Tournament Sanctions

1. Contact your Regional Chairman and obtain Application for Sanction forms.
2. Submit four copies of Application together with check for sanction fee to your Regional Chairman. To avoid conflicts, this application should be made at the earliest possible date.
3. The sanction fee for all tournaments is now \$5.00 with the exception that the fee is only \$1.00 in the case of Junior tournaments, Class B, C and D tournaments and local tournaments limited to contestants from clubs within a 25 mile radius of the tournament site.

From the SECRETARY . . .

Dear Editor:

May I call your attention to a statement on Page 4 of November-December *Bird Chatter* which is not quite complete or correct.

A little pamphlet does exist entitled "Official Rules of the American Badminton Association" which may be secured from your secretary. But since this costs the ABA something to print, he exacts a slight tariff—the sum of one thin dime or ten cents in stamps. May I add that it's well worth this charge.

And while this pamphlet does contain certain rules of the ABA pertaining to member clubs, to amateur standing, etc., its main purpose is to present the laws of badminton play. For a real record of the Rules and Regulation of the ABA (including its constitution, laws, committees, and so on) the ABA publishes a handbook. This is available at \$2.00 from Mr. T. M. Royce, 3002 Smith Tower, Seattle 4, Washington, and since Tim Royce loves to mail letters, he keeps these handbooks up-to-date by mailing corrections and changes each year (at no extra cost). It's the ideal reference for officers of member associations and their clubs.

Richard G. Slauer, Secretary, ABA.

Badminton—Its Role As A Physical Conditioner

By Lowell N. Douglas, Ph.D.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Dr. Douglas was killed in military service January 12, 1946, at the time he was serving as Chief of Reconditioning for the United States Army, and was on an inspection tour of hospitals for the Surgeon General's Office. Dr. Douglas' son, now fifteen is following in his father's footsteps in badminton.

In a series of studies conducted by the Department of Physical Education at Baylor University, information has been obtained which suggests that badminton is one of the finest conditioning types of activities. The game possesses all of the fundamental motor skills with which man is endowed and demands faster reactions than most any other game.

Fundamentally, the game demands the execution of such skills as running, jumping, twisting, striking, throwing, and various combinations of these skills executed in rapid hand-eye coordination. In a three-game singles match played between two average men, players of approximately equal ability, one should expect to find that the three games require a total time of about 45 minutes, during 20 minutes of which the shuttlecock is in actual flight or being batted by one player or the other. During that 20 minutes of highly concentrated running, jumping, twisting, stretching, running backwards, throwing and striking, each player will travel approximately one mile. He will also make at least 350 changes of direction of 90 degrees or better, and will strike the shuttle some 400 times. Of these 400 strokes, 150 will be full arm swings of a racket weighing some 5 ounces. (Many major league pitchers have pitched complete baseball games without throwing that many times.) Players in normal physical condition should expect an increase in pulse rate from 72 to approximately 125 and an increase in systolic blood pressure from 120 to 145.

Few games require as much concentrated action as badminton. In three set tennis match one should not expect the ball to be in play any more than eight per cent of the total time; while in football, a game we think of as being so vigorous, the ball is actually in play only about 14 minutes of the two odd hours that the players spend on the field.

Alan Mahaffey is working toward his C.P.A. at Sawyer School of Business.

Badminton Personality



VIRGINIA HILL

National Badminton Champion, Secretary-Treasurer, Secretary, Home maker and probably the most important of all, "Grandma," are the titles held by our personality for this issue. Who in Southern California but Virginia Hill could hold so many titles so successfully? Virginia is three times a grandmother and proud of it. Daughter Betty has two children and son Stuart has one, future badminton stars, we hope. Husband, Leroy, besides playing the game at one time, has done more than his share of hard work in badminton. Leroy was instrumental in establishing the present system of scheduling tournaments in Southern California. Since *Bird Chatter* moved to the South, Virginia and Leroy have cooperated in every way with the staff by writing articles, selling subscriptions, and contributing endless words of encouragement.

In 1939 Virginia became a member of the Southern California Badminton Association and has served as Secretary-Treasurer of the SCBA under four presidents, Ray Moore, Claude Welcome, Howard Taylor and is now serving under Jack van Praag.

Virginia, along with Roy Lockwood, helped organize the Burbank Badminton Club several years ago (13 years to be exact) and has been secretary of the club since its beginning.

In 1947 Virginia teamed with Wynn Rogers to win the National Mixed Doubles Championship, and served as hospitality chairman on the National Tournament of that year, which was held in Los Angeles.

Virginia has played with Wynn Rogers, Barney McCay and Loma Smith in many exhibition matches arranged by Ken Davidson for schools, clubs and colleges. She has spent hours

playing with junior players in this area, including ye editor's two sons. Her words of encouragement and suggestions have helped many a discouraged youngster.

In 1948 Virginia served with the committee on the Thomas Cup Matches between Canada and the United States in Pasadena and helped make the stay of the Canadian team an enjoyable one.

Has she retired from badminton? Not Virginia, she is serving as co-chairman on the 1955 Open Amateur Championships to be held in Long Beach in April.



BADMINTON PLAYERS SEND YOUR SONS TO YALE

By Noel Fehm

Yale athletic authorities announced the recognition of badminton as an official university sport because of the great demand by the student body and the intense local interest. A Badminton Clinic was held on October 20th to start the new afternoon and evening program.

Badminton Greeted with Enthusiasm by Students, Faculty

(from the Yale Daily News, Oct. 12, 1954)

Enthusiasm was the keynote of the badminton organization meeting last Friday. With full backing of the Physical Education Department, the promising group is now looking towards the establishment of badminton as an inter-collegiate sport.

Under the direction of Coach Joe Rossomando, a year's schedule consisting of six home and six away games has already been arranged. The squad will enter the Connecticut "ABC" contests, and if successful, will continue play through March.

A round-robin ladder has been organized to determine individual ability. Coach Rossomando, however, urges all interested students to compete for a berth on the squad as rank is secured solely through a challenge match program.

In the near future exhibition matches and instruction classes featuring nationally recognized talent will be presented and sponsored by the University. Following these programs, members of the Yale aggregation will team with these celebrities to entertain the crowd.

1955 National Junior Championships

April 1-2-3, 1955

The 1955 National Junior Championships will be held in Cleveland, Ohio, April 1, 2 and 3, 1955, and will be sponsored by the Ohio State Badminton Association. Whitney Warner, Jr., will be the chairman.

In addition to the regular five Junior events (boys' singles, boys' doubles, girls' singles, girls' doubles, and mixed doubles) there will be similar events in the under 15 category and at least two consolation events. Play will start Friday noon except for some preliminary matches involving local players on Thursday evening if the entry is large.

All Presidents, Clubs and Associations, get behind your Juniors and encourage them to attend the Junior Nationals. You have time to play with the Junior members of your group and teach them good badminton. Your financial aid will be needed—make plans now and let your Juniors know you are backing them.

IN MEMORIAM . . . *Kenneth Davidson*

Kenneth Davidson
Leeds, Yorkshire, England

H. F. Chilton

Thursday, 30th December, 1954—
I still find it difficult to believe that we have just buried Ken Davidson. It was only a few days ago—it seems only a few hours ago—that I welcomed him in company with Judy Devlin and Margaret Varner at the end of their splendid tour of Asia. Ken was as gay and debonair as ever, looking after his charges, serious and smiling all at the same time. We checked our dates to see if there was any chance of our meeting in Singapore next June, then he went off to London and on to Leeds and I back to work.

And now here we are together with his widow, daughter, relatives, friends and a multitude of sporting personalities gathered at the Methodist Chapel in Headingley, Leeds—Ken's birthplace—to accompany him on his last journey.

Just around the corner is the famous Headingley cricket ground where Yorkshire and England play cricket: where Ken came as a boy to watch his county play and where later he played for them himself for Ken was a great cricketer as well as a great badminton player. And now he has returned to his native soil.

It was a remarkable tribute to Ken that so many local people came to his funeral as he has not lived here for many years but such was the stamp of his personality that he retained his friends in spite of his travels around the world. Here was a true measure of his character and personality.

From the Methodist Chapel we travelled to his last resting place and left him there in peace surrounded by the most wonderful floral tributes. Among these were tributes from his many friends and colleagues in the United States, from players, clubs, associations and the American Badminton Association—and one particularly poignant one to "The Captain" from the Thomas Cup Team of 1949 and 1952. Three of them were fashioned in the form of badminton rackets.

In addition to these and those from his relatives and friends, there were tributes from Malaya, Denmark, In-



dia, England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales and one from the International Badminton Federation, all bearing silent testimony to the esteem held in these countries for Ken as an ambassador of badminton to the world.

We can surely say of Ken that he has left this world a little happier for his brief sojourn on earth, and that is a great tribute. His famous clowning act has brought happiness and laughter to his friends and badminton players all over the world from the

Happy World Stadium in Singapore to Dublin and to Pasadena, California—and what a span that is! Wherever badminton is played he will be remembered and that remembrance will bring a smile to the lips, laughter to the eyes. I hope that will be some small consolation to his widow, Connie, and his daughter Margaret, who carried their sorrows so courageously today.

Farewell Ken, we shall remember you.

A Letter To Connie

Dear Connie:

When the BOAC airliner crashed in Prestwick, Scotland, on Christmas morning, 1954, we all lost a true and dear friend in your husband, Ken Davidson. You have undoubtedly received countless notes from many of us, expressing our deepest sympathy to you and your family in this time of sorrow. There are innumerable others of us, however, who have not written because we either have not met you personally, or have found ourselves at a loss for words.

It was a great day for badminton when Kenneth R. Davidson was born in Leeds, Yorkshire, England, on December 24, 1905. Although he was perhaps best known as a great cricket player in his youth, having played on a team comparable to the New York Yankees in this country, we are indeed fortunate that he turned his talents toward badminton shortly thereafter. You must have had many proud and exciting moments when he became holder of numerous British and European titles, and was selected as the Captain of the Scottish International Badminton Team. For all of these triumphs, however, we're sure his most cherished was that of winning your hand in marriage. We can safely say that the only subject he discussed more enthusiastically than badminton was his family—you, your daughter Margaret, and two grandchildren, Donna and Mary Lynn.

Few of us had a chance to meet Ken until 1935 when he came to this country as a representative for R.S.L. Shuttlecocks. Because of this connection he was classified as a professional in our country, which undoubtedly deprived him of numerous U.S. National titles. It was actually most fortunate for us, however, that he was made a professional, as it is common knowledge throughout the U.S. that without his undying efforts, the game of badminton would not be what it is today.

You, of all people, are certainly aware of the time and effort he expended in organizing clubs, giving exhibitions, and generally selling badminton to the middle west and eastern U.S. in the middle and late 30's. Many of us had our first introduction to both the comical and serious aspects of the game through his crusade here. At that time we often caught his world famous act at such places as the Roxy and Paramount

theatres in New York, the Madison Square Gardens, and in innumerable variety shows. It must have been a thrilling moment for you both when he presented his act for a Command Performance before the King and Queen of England in 1938.

Most of us on the west coast had our first glimpse of this fabulous act when Ken joined the famous "Ken Murray's Blackouts" at the El Capitan theatre in Hollywood. We enjoyed this for several side-splitting years in the middle 40's, and wish it had continued indefinitely. Ken, however, was not satisfied with merely displaying comical badminton, and during this same period he was also extremely active in promoting the game through free clinics, school programs, and exhibitions in every nook and cranny throughout the area. Remember when he even went "Hollywood" on us, and started making badminton movies? We best recall the one entitled "Let's Play Badminton," which he edited, directed, and produced as an aid for beginners.

Connie, we can well imagine the excitement and confusion around your household in 1948, when the first Thomas Cup matches were held. Ken, as coach and manager of the U.S. team, had a terrific task to perform in picking, organizing, training and coaching the boys to a win over Canada, and a subsequent trip to Europe. We all were certainly proud to have him represent us in these matches, and feel that he did a super-human job in all respects.

A sad day for the Westerners, but a joyous one for the Easterners was that of your move from Los Angeles to New York in 1951. Ken, however, continued his indefatigable effort in promoting the game throughout the eastern half of the U.S. We realize how unpleasant it must have been for you to have Ken gone on clinic tours the major part of each season, but we are eternally grateful to you for sharing him with us, and have hundreds of junior enthusiasts to prove it!

When Ken was again appointed as the coach and manager of our Thomas Cup team in 1952, he repeated his splendid performance of 1948, and certainly earned the title of "Badminton's Good Will Ambassador."

Many of us were familiar with Ken's desire to write a really complete book on badminton, which would be of assistance to both the beginner and the experienced player. For years Ken utilized what little spare time he had

in putting his vast knowledge of the game and its techniques on paper. When he felt convinced that it was complete, and the book, "Winning Badminton," was published, it was truly all that we had hoped for. There is no one, from the newest beginner to the most experienced champion, who would not improve his game by absorbing its contents.

We all realize the tremendous task that was Ken's in being in charge of all the overseas visitors for our first open National Tournament. He handled it in his usual proficient manner, however, although we must say it would have been nearly impossible without your unfailing assistance in handling last minute immigration matters, meeting players at airports, and countless other duties.

We were all pleased to learn that Ken was again to be coach and manager of the Thomas Cup team for the coming matches. Although he'll be deeply missed by the boys on the team, and the players and officials of other countries, we're sure his ideals and standards of play will be upheld by all participants. Those of us on the U.S. team have a special reason for winning the cup this year—for Ken.

It seems rather unnecessary to tell you, Connie, how deeply we will all miss Ken. His fairness of play, jovial humor, and genuine enthusiasm for the game, have given us countless memorable moments. He stood for everything that is good and fine, and was the closest thing to perfect we've come across. We can only say that we are proud to have known such a guy, and will do our best to carry on his ideals and hopes for the game of badminton.

Love from us all,

The Badminton Players of America

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BRITISH AND ASIAN TOUR

Judy Devlin, Margaret Varner and Ken Davidson

KEN DAVIDSON, Correspondent

October 20: Departure on Pan-American from New York's Idlewild Airport on a beautiful day. Arrival at Shannon, Ireland, two hours ahead of schedule. A surprisingly clear sunny day for the 150 mile drive to Dublin, our first destination, guided by an old acquaintance, C. H. Maidment, now President of the Midland Branch of the Irish Badminton Association.

October 22-23. *Dublin Invitation Tournament*. A limited field of outstanding stars, no ladies singles included, so, from a USA point of view, the important question was how Judy and Margaret would fare together in their first tournament against the 1953 All-England Ladies' Doubles Champions, Iris Cooley and June White. The men's final saw two of the world's best young stars, Johnnie Heah, Malayan student in Cambridge and the dynamic young Dane, Finn Kobbero, in action. The Malayan's beautifully controlled, steady game was too much for the Copenhagen star, whose occasional flashes of sheer brilliance were off-set by nonchalant carelessness and it seemed that the Danish boy (who beat Eddie Choong last season) did not really concentrate until the match was almost over. Heah beat Kobbero 15-7, 17-16.

The Devlin-Varner combination seemed lifeless in their first game against the top British team of Cooley-White in the final round. They did little but loft the shuttle, mainly to June White, apparently in the hope that the English girl would make mistakes, but this strategy failed and they lost the first game at 12-15. It was at once apparent that the American girls had decided to speed up the game and attack. With their powerful smashes making the opening for each other, it was not long before they battered down the defense of the English team to even the match by winning the second game at 15-4. The Britishers fought gamely and, aided by a few mistakes in the combination of the newly formed American team, the points were harder to garner. Mainly the USA girls were always in the lead and their superior weight of attack gained a well-earned victory over stubborn opponents who reluctantly surrendered the match at 15-13 in a spectacularly played third game.



Left to Right: M. Varner, I. Cooley, K. Davidson, J. White, J. Devlin.

The tournament was played in a new hall—four courts, showers, canteen for refreshments, etc., completed recently at a cost of around £10,000.

October 28-30. *Wimbledon Open Tournament*. The London audiences eagerly anticipated seeing Judy Devlin, the Baltimore All-England Singles and Ladies' Doubles champion in action once again, particularly with and against Margaret Varner. They were not disappointed for they saw these two girls put on another of their thrilling masterpieces in the singles final, and win in classic style against the British International pair, Cooley and White, for the second time within the week.

Judy reached the final without any undue exertion but Margaret had much sterner opposition in meeting England's No. 1 Singles player, Iris Cooley, in the other half. Iris, a tall, 5' 9" slim girl, has great potentialities and played extremely well against the Mount Holyoke College teacher. The match was played at an exceptionally fast pace throughout with Margaret dictating the rallies most of the time but not finding it easy to score after the London girl had gained a slight early lead with some fine over-the-shoulder smashing. But, after catching up at 6-all, Margaret played in her finest style to win the first game at 11-8 and gain a 9-1 lead in the second game. At this point Iris, who may have been a little nervous playing in front of her own club members, made a splendid fighting recovery and came back strongly to lift her score to 7. Margaret fought off this late challenge and won 11-8, 11-7.

The final was a great match, similar to the one the same two played in the USA final at Niagara Falls. Judy

got off the mark more quickly and won the long fought rallies to gain the lead. Margaret lost the first game at 11-2. The second game saw some great badminton, excellent clears, fine accurate drop-shots with some strong, definite smashing. Margaret dictated most of the play to gain the second game at 11-9. The third game followed on similar lines with Margaret having the lead at 6-3, 9-7, Judy, fighting as always, caught up at 9-all, Margaret not setting, with Judy closing out a magnificently played match at 11-9 in the third game.

Together, the two USA girls beat the English pair of Cooley and White in a close three-set match similar to the one played earlier in the week in Dublin—final score at Wimbledon, 17-14, 9-15, 15-7.

Following the Wimbledon Tournament, the U.S. visitors had their stay extended in London for a few days of practice which were interspersed with some informal but highly delightful hospitality from many badminton friends, notably dinner at the home of Herbert (I.B.F.) and Betty Scheele on several occasions; by Rene Gathier; Eddy and David Choong for a Chinese luncheon, and Frank Hensley and Bill Holwell for their sight-seeing tours.

One of the highlights of the elongated stop-over in London was a visit to the Tower of London where many of the Crown Jewels brought back remembrances of their appearance on TV during the Coronation ceremonies last year. But a close examination brought out all the dazzling display of their sparkling beauty, highlighted by the world famous 108 carat Koh-i-nor diamond set in one of the crowns—a fabulous fortune of gold and

diamonds almost within touch but guarded by an automatic device which plunges the whole display into a protective steel fortress at the first crack of a broken window.

November 10th found us, together with Iris Cooley and June White, the All-England stars, flying smoothly over the English Channel to Frankfurt, Germany; Rome, Italy; Beirut, Lebanon; Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, and then over the multitudinous and fascinating colors of the aqua-marine, green and blue hued Persian Sea to Karachi, Pakistan. Karachi, hot but dry, a city of camels and incredible traffic tie-ups. On to Bombay, India, where many old friends waited to greet us and see to our every care as we practiced in various halls before travelling on to our main destination, Singapore.

Malaya welcomed us royally . . . headed by Aw Cheng Chye, President, Singapore B.A., Lim Chuan Geok, many others, including Ong Poh Lim, present All-England and USA Men's Doubles champion, warmly greeted and escorted us to the Sea View Hotel, the same home-away-from-home as used by the last USA Thomas Cup team.

Following a few days acclimatizing

and practice, the International Badminton matches started their four days' play on November 23rd at the Singapore Badminton Stadium.

The first night, Judy Devlin and Margaret Varner beat Cecilia Samuel, Malaya's seven-time champion, and Helen Heng, twice champion of Malaya, respectively. Judy winning 11-6, 11-5; Margaret by 11-7, 11-0 scores. On the second night, Judy and Margaret combined to beat these two Malaysians very comfortably 15-3, 15-1. Iris Cooley, England's top singles player (finalist against Judy in last year's All-Englands) was far too strong and experienced for her 17 year old, slightly built opponent, Tan Eng Looi, Malaya's No. 3 from Ipoh. However, Miss June White, winner of many double's titles, including both a Ladies' Doubles and Mixed Doubles at the All-Englands, ran into a real fighter in the form of Miss Lam Kit Lin of Penang. Undoubtedly the crowd's long rooting for the home player affected June's already excited concentration, and, following a short battle for supremacy at 4-all in the first game, her control completely fell apart as error after error led to her downfall at 11-4, 11-1, for the only

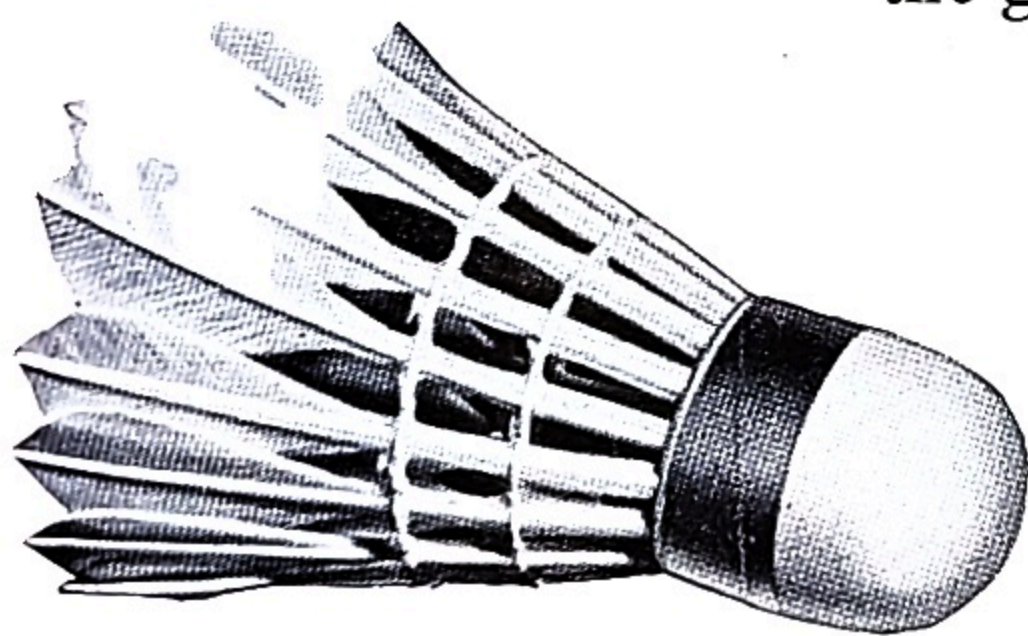
loss of any kind for the four female visitors from the USA and England. Miss Lam's coolness and steady placements gave her a well deserved victory.

The crowd's acclaim for this unexpected victory was only a natural reaction after the severe pasting their higher rated stars had absorbed. As always, the Malayan spectators were entirely impartial in their applause and they raised their voices whenever any particularly fine rally or shot struck their fancy — no matter who won the rally or played the decisive stroke.

The feature matches for the ladies on the fourth and final night was a singles between Judy Devlin and Margaret Varner, and later, a Ladies' Doubles match with the two USA girls opposing the Cooley-White 1953 All-England champion team. The singles was disappointing inasmuch as it did not reach the same high standard of play shown in all previous matches between Judy and Margaret. The heat was not oppressive but somehow the girls never really settled down to any well-sustained brand of badminton. Only occasionally did a flash of brilliance flow from one of their

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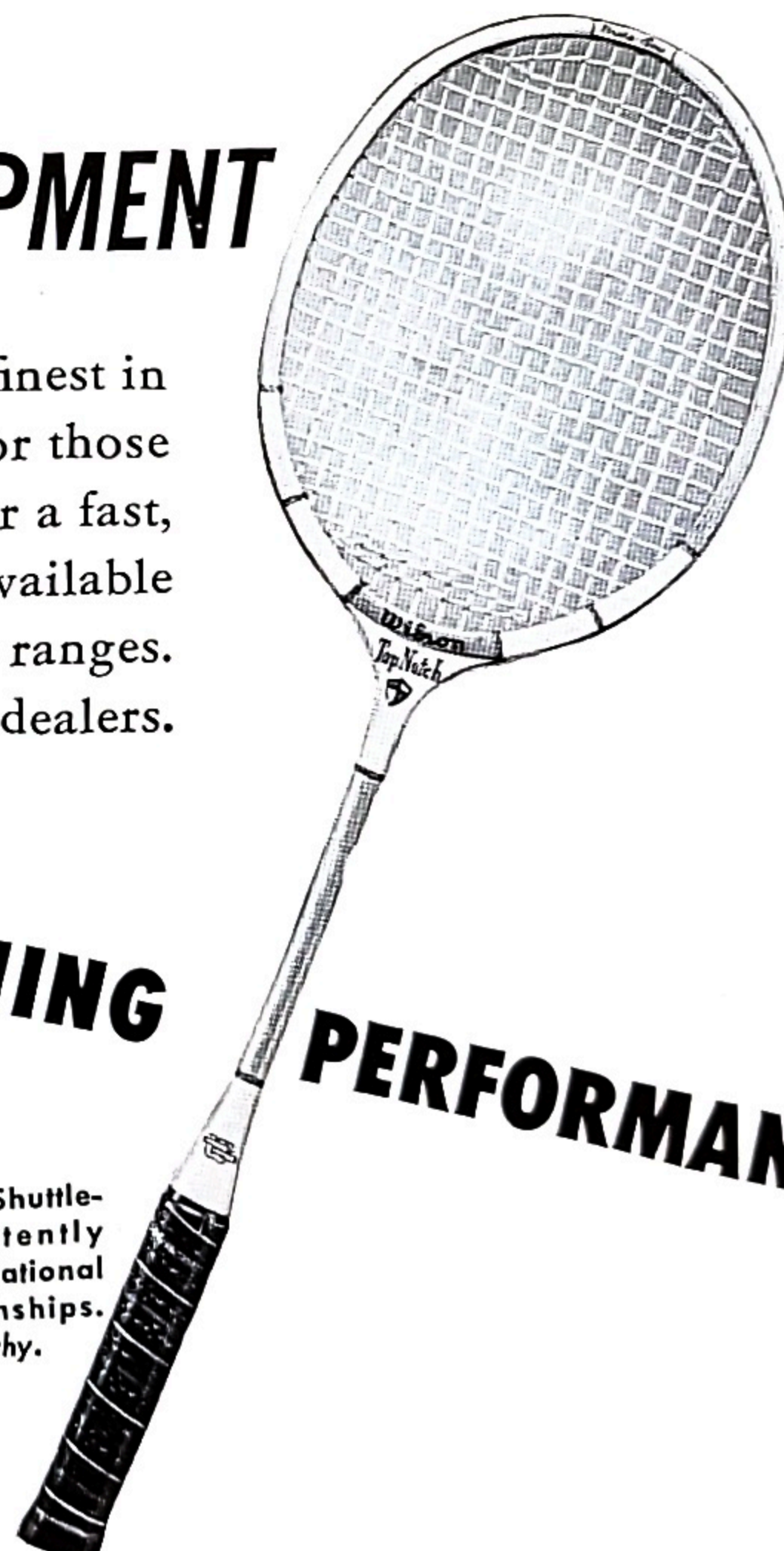


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rackets. Judy, less apt to make mistakes, was mainly in the driver's seat as she won a lack-lustre match at 11-8, 11-7.

In the doubles, the USA girls shook off their lethargic stroking and, combining and attacking beautifully, they overwhelmed the London pair in two straight sets, 15-7, 15-8, with a display of power which showed the Malayan public how aggressive and powerful ladies play can be.

This power, from overhead in particular, was the big difference between the play of the four visitors and the Malayan women players. In addition to the delicate placements, favored in the main by the Malaysians, the visitors could stroke the shuttle strongly from the back of the court whereas the home players, built on much lighter physical lines, relied mostly on net returns, particularly on a "push" return from the deep backhand corner—a favorite hunting ground for points by the visitors.

Undoubtedly the tour achieved its main object in Malaya—to create more interest in women's badminton and to show the Malaysians how well women's badminton can be played. Judy, Margaret, Iris and June motivated great interest among the officials and followers of badminton in Malaya and surrounding countries and already plans are being set to improve the standard of women's play to the same degree as the Malayan men, which, as every Thomas Cup follower knows, is mighty hard to beat.

Farewell, Malaya, thanks for your hospitality. Bombay, here we come, for the International Invitation Tournament on December 11-15 at the Bombay Gymkhana courts.

PATRONIZE

BIRD CHATTER

ADVERTISERS

BUCKINGHAM JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Springfield, Mass.

Mr. Raymond E. Parker, Principal of Buckingham Junior High School of Springfield, Mass., was kind enough to send *Bird Chatter* the following letters, included is one of explanation from Mr. Parker.

Dear Editor:

During the first week of October, Ken Davidson assisted by Margaret Varner, conducted several instructional clinics and exhibitions for high schools in this immediate area. Audience varied from four to nine hundred per assembly with total of over three thousand for five programs.

After Mr. Davidson's appearance at this school our English teachers used the occasion or the subject for themes and reports in their follow-up. I am enclosing four or five papers from which you may quote in any way you choose or not at all if not feasible—you need not return them. They were so interesting to us that we thought they might prove equally so to others as well.

At this school, instruction in badminton is included in the Physical Education Program with after-school recreation opportunities in addition.

Very truly yours,
Raymond E. Parker
Principal

Thrilled by Matchless Play

Ace Reporter, P. Mason

Hilarious show in gymnasium of Buckingham Jr. High School couples comedy with art of badminton to amaze student body and faculty.

Ken Davidson and Margaret Varner with the assistance of, as Mr. Davidson puts it, "Four pretty girls and four not so pretty boys," demonstrated the tricks of the trade to the 9th grade students exclusively.

Mr. Davidson, who is nationally known in the badminton world, entertained the audience with humorous antics, while Miss Varner played the straight game more or less with fabulous returns a dime a dozen. Miss Varner is No. 2 in U.S. rankings.

The girls and boys came on the floor two at a time. One went on Mr. Davidson's side of the net, the other on Miss Varner's. As each group came to the gym floor it was taught how to serve, return, make various shots, plus a briefing on the general rules of the game.

The last few minutes pitted the duo against themselves. They used this

opportunity to exhibit, to the delight of their already entertained congregation, such points as how to make soft shots, speed up the rate of the game, or how to drive the bird deep into either of the opponent's corners.

Mr. Parker, the principal, who plays badminton himself and who has had the privilege of playing with Ken, put in a plug for the show and to ask the pupils to refrain from boisterous outbursts of laughter lest they miss some of the valuable points Mr. Davidson was trying to bring out.

Lasting Impression

Even as the pupils were filing out they were still recounting deeds they had just witnessed. This was truly a great showing of skill in the highest sense of the word.

Badminton Exhibition

By Ronald Woodland

This morning (October 5, 1954) in the gymnasium we saw an exhibition of badminton by Ken Davidson, coach of the U.S. International Badminton team and Miss Varner, second ranking woman player in the United States.

When we entered the gym I was expecting to see a technical exhibition of a game I knew nothing about in the first place. What I did see was a fine teaching of the fundamental skills of badminton loaded by ad lib comedy.

Mr. Davidson's method of teaching a large group is that of taking a few, having them play, and pointing out their mistakes. Mr. Davidson's finely timed comedy prevents the players from feeling overly self-conscious.

I mentioned before that the comedy is ad lib, I do not mean this in the strictest sense of the word. While Mr. Davidson does not have a rehearsed routine he is aware of the mistakes which most novice players make and is ready with the punch line when it happens.

Toward the end of the period Mr. Davidson and Miss Varner played a short game. During this game we saw that Mr. Davidson's timing for comedy is equaled only by his superb body coordination and timing. His running line of chatter mixed with trick shots had his opponent, who is the second ranking woman player in the United States, completely in his power. What a Player!

This exhibition aroused my interest in the game of badminton as nothing ever has or ever will.

Assembly Report By Ralph Peck

The assembly we attended yesterday was of unusually good quality. Mr. Davidson demonstrated to us in a very amusing manner the game of badminton. His ability to teach and hold the interest of the audience through his sense of humor is commendable. Not once during the teachings was I bored. The match at the end between Mr. Davidson and partner showed us one of the finest examples of mental and muscular coordination that we will ever see. The audience was wonderful and gave Mr. Davidson the applause he deserved. It was evident that they were champions.

One point brought out by this assembly is that badminton is not a game for anyone because it takes a great deal of concentration, skill, and mental and muscular coordination. This assembly is one that ought to be repeated each year.

The recent Tournament of Roses annual competition for Queen of the 1955 New Year's Day activities included Carlene Hester as a contestant up through the round of 75. Nice going, Carlene.

9TH ANNUAL BURBANK TOURNAMENT

Twenty-two nationally ranked players entered the 9th Annual Burbank tournament held recently in Burbank, Calif., at the Burbank High School Gym. Two nationally ranked junior players entered and made fine showings for themselves.

Entries were received from Lois Alston, Thelma Welcome, Joan and Jean Gibbs, Beulah Bymaster and Dorothy Hann in the women's division.

The men's division found entries from Joe Alston, Bob Williams, Dick Mitchell, Bill Berry, Manuel Armentariz, John Leib, Wynn Rogers, Carl Loveday, Buzz Martin, Alan Mahaffey, Ozzie Hilton, Howard Holman, Dan McArthur and Al Wilkinson.

The junior entries were Carlene Hester, who did exceptionally well in Ladies' Doubles A flight and is well on her way to being in the finals in coming tournaments, and Ron Miller who won the Men's Singles in the "B" flight and with his partner was runner-up in the Men's Doubles "B".

Carl Loveday arrived with a large contingent from San Diego as usual.

Player's Memorial

Realizing that all friends and acquaintances of Ken Davidson are eager to help in some way to perpetuate the ideals and standards of play for which he stood, a group of players have organized in an attempt to establish such a memorial. It has been left up to you, the contributors, to help decide just what form it should take—whether it be a perpetual trophy to be awarded at the nationals, a fund set up to further junior development, or any other of numerous possibilities. Your suggestions are eagerly awaited, along with any contribution you care to make, and no matter what form it takes, it should be from all the players in honor of a wonderful guy.

Dottie Hann, Janet Wright, Dave Freeman and the Alstons are the members of this committee.

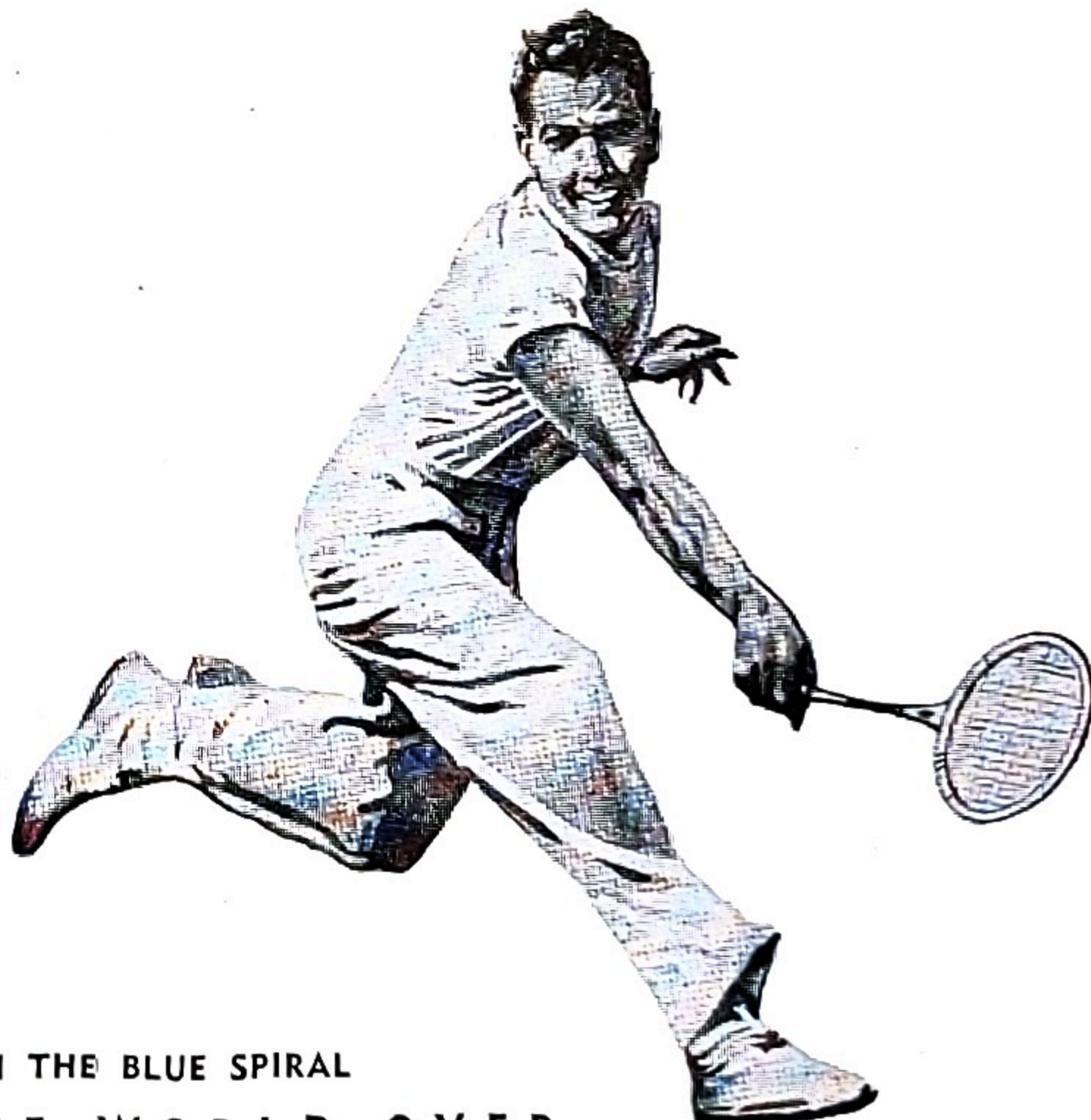
Send your contributions and suggestions to Lois Alston, 829-C Grevelia, South Pasadena, Calif.

Ronnie Palmer is playing his usual good game again after a lay-off. He and Bob Pitman are attending Redlands University and drive in to Pasadena to play two or three times a month.



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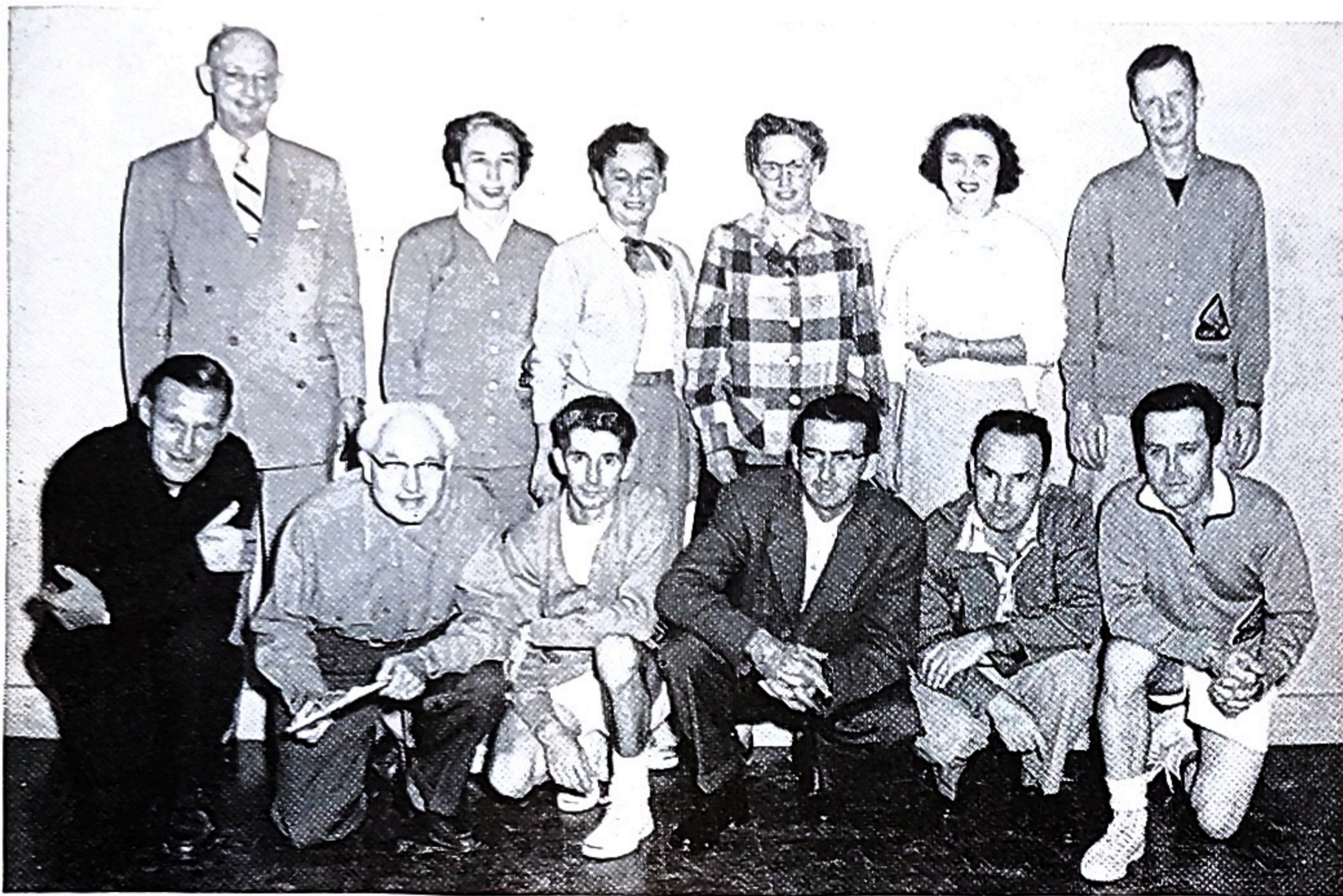
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1955 NATIONALS



TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

(Left to Right)

Back Row: H. Taylor, L. O'Connell, M. Miller, L. Anselm, V. Hill, E. Hellman.
Front Row: A. Kirby, J. van Praag, W. Giles, H. Holman, B. Rawak, T. Gray.

The official headquarters for the 1955 Open Amateur Championships of the ABA will be the beautiful Lafayette Hotel located two blocks from the Pacific ocean at the corner of Broadway and Linden in Long Beach, California.

All official meetings, luncheons, dinners and parties will be held at the hotel. Transportation to the playing area is being planned by the Long Beach Badminton Club.

The Lafayette Hotel is the newest and most modern hotel in Long Beach and has recently been completely re-decorated.

Three hundred and fifty persons can be accommodated. All of the bedrooms are newly decorated with over-size closets, full-length mirrors and custom designed furnishings. Each room has a private bath with tiled tub and shower, you have your choice of twin beds or a double bed. (See picture in this issue.)

April evenings in California are cool, especially near the ocean, so be

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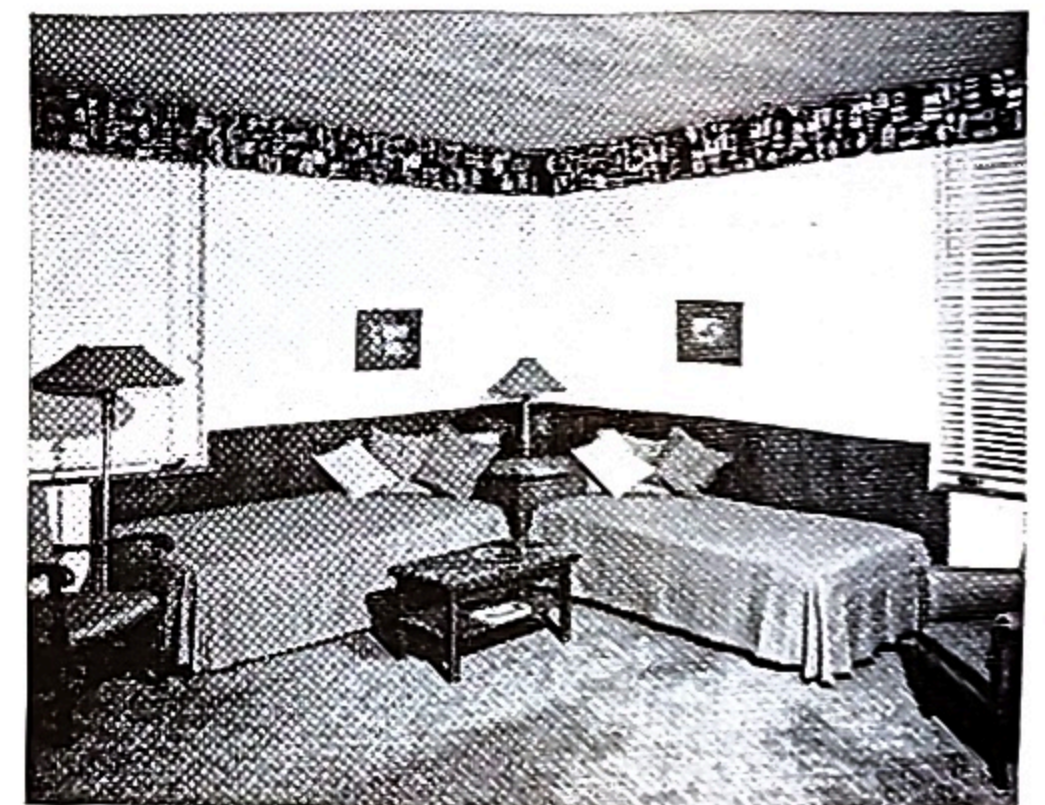
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sure to bring a coat and come prepared to enjoy our beautiful weather (smogless we hope) and the informal hospitality of Southern California. (If we should have rain it will be very unusual.) We do have year 'round swimming in Southern California, so bring your swim suit along if you don't mind turning slightly blue. We have lifeguards on duty the year around.

A visit to the "Nu-Pike," within walking distance of the hotel, should be planned. There you will find a wonderful world of make-believe and all kinds of food, including the tasty "taco" so popular in our area.

Plan to spend your vacation in sunny California the first part of April and be sure to enter the National Tournament.









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PLAY *Badminton* AND SEE THE WORLD

By Bill Berry

(Continued from last issue)

The tournament was played on one court in what had been some sort of school building. There was a stage, a cement floor, and a ceiling supported by cement columns. The openings on all sides were covered by heavy canvas so that the draft and glare were negligible. I had long since decided that since I had no touch or stamina at all that my only hope was to smash every bird I could get my racket on. Their players are all stylists who seldom smash anything but a short bird. I think I scared my first three opponents to death and many of the spectators figured I was a cinch to win. Two people weren't fooled, my next opponent and I. His name was C. L. Madan, one of their better players and member of their 1949 Thomas Cup Team. He was another of those unsportsmanlike fellows who wouldn't hit the bird to me. They told me that he defeated Carl Loveday in Malaya in 1949, so that was some small consolation. The doubles was interesting as the only other foreign player in the tournament was Shamshad Ali, Pakistan's number one. The situation was rather peculiar for just at that time the United States was planning to give military aid to Pakistan, a situation to which India objected quite profusely. In all the kidding we took I could see one of the wonderful things about sports—nobody paid any attention to politics. We won a few matches, up to the quarter finals, I believe, then lost out in three games.

As many of you discovered at Niagara Falls, the Indians have an outstanding young player in their new champion, Nandu Natekar. From the play I saw in India I would venture to say that they are just about on a par with the play here in the United States. The spectators in India are quite enthusiastic and seem to have adopted the typically British attitude toward sportsmanship. Those I talked to seemed not so much concerned with whether a player won or lost but whether he was a good "sportsman." One interesting thing I noticed is the Hindu custom of having three groups of seats; one for men, one for family groups, and one for single women. This system might have great merit

except that a dating system such as we have in this country is virtually unknown in India. As you travel thru other countries you become aware of how easily a difference in customs can result in misconceptions. The dating system, for one example, has given the people of the Far East the impression that all American women are "loose." One of them asked me, "For what other reason would an unmarried man and woman want to be together?" He had me. Seriously, it makes one realize how little we understand their ideas and motivations and, in turn, how little they know about us. They have almost no conception of our true way of life, how we act, and most important, the policies upon which our government acts.



I think it is safe to say that half the peoples of the Far East consider the United States as much an aggressor, as much a threat to world peace, as Russia.

Late one night after being eliminated from the tournament I sold one of my rackets to get some money and four of us took the train to Agra, site

of the Taj Mahal. We rode third class, an experience in itself, for the trip of about 60 miles and arrived at three in the morning. After a breakfast of hot tea and bananas we took a bus some 10 or 15 miles out of town to the deserted fort-city of Fatehpur-Sikri. It is a huge structure erected almost four hundred years ago entirely of red sandstone. A few years after its completion they discovered that the water supply was dwindling and were forced to move on. That afternoon we returned to Agra and journeyed the few miles to the Taj Mahal. This magnificent wonder was built in the early sixteen hundreds by the Emperor Shahjahan in honor of his favorite wife. A slow haze-covered river drifts by the banks on which it is built. There is a beautiful garden on the approach and red sandstone structures on either side that reflect the color of the sun. During the thirty-seven years of its construction the only material used was huge blocks of white marble. Inside and out the marble is decorated with myriad flawless designs and millions of tiny semi-precious jewels such as jade of many colors and yellow granite from Ceylon are set into the marble in the shapes of flowers. Seven chapters of the Koran, the Mohammedan bible, are written in flowing Arabic on the walls. Inside the marble tombs are guarded by a marble fence carved into an object of exquisite beauty. It is said that when the work was completed the Emperor cut off the hands of all who had worked on the Taj Mahal that they might never duplicate their work. Little wonder that the Taj Mahal has burned into the memory of all who have been fortunate enough as to gaze upon its fantastic beauty.

We returned to Gwalior that night with the finals scheduled for Christmas day. During the preceding days I had made it a point to talk to as many people as possible and to learn some of their language. There was one group of boys who were especially curious about America and we spent many hours talking about our countries and their respective customs. The village people, mostly Hindus, are quite poor and although they

could not afford to participate, these boys were very interested in sports. On Christmas morning they invited me over to have tea at the home of one of the boys. As we bicycled thru the town I could not help but wonder just what the heck I was doing in India, 10,000 miles from home, on Christmas morning. I was feeling very much alone with my hot tea when my new friends brought out a small cake they had purchased. The frosting on top read, "Merry Christmas to Berry." One of the boys gave me an old brown tie and another gave me a Christmas card. Perhaps you will realize why I feel that few people have been privileged to have so wonderful a Christmas.

That night after the finals, I met the Maharajah and his beautiful wife and the local Madya Bharat club presented Shamshad Ali and me with white monogrammed scarves. The next night back in New Delhi I played an exhibition match on an outdoor court. Never again! I again stayed with the Marines at the Embassy and the next couple of days one of them took me all through the surrounding country on his motorcycle.

Fortunately there was room this time on the Embassy flight and I headed back; Dum-Dum Airport in Calcutta, Rangoon, Mangkok, Saigon, New Year's eve at Clark Field in Manila, Tokyo with exactly five cents left, and finally good old Korea loomed on the horizon.

There is so much to tell about—the experiences, the people, the places I saw. I took about 200 colored slides which would help tell the story. As a personal experience I could not place a value upon this trip. So much can be learned by absorbing what you see and talking with the people. Aside from its value to me I like to think that America has gained because of my trip. Few of the other peoples of the world, especially Asiatics, know America; how we think, how we act, and why. When one travels to other countries he is not just an ambassador from the United States, he is the United States. Through him they will form their impressions of America. One hundred and seventy million people will be judged by the actions of one individual or one small group. The field of sport is one of the finest by which international goodwill may

be fostered or maintained. Politics, race, and religion are all forgotten in the sweat of man against man. Therefore, we must realize that if we are fortunate enough to be invited to play in some other country, individually or as a representative group, it is not only a great privilege, it is a great responsibility. You, as an individual can benefit; the sort of badminton will most assuredly benefit; but most of all, America can benefit, for you are America!

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA NEWS

By Helen Tibbetts

Mike Hartgrove is making amazing progress with the hand he injured a few months ago. He is now attending Sawyer School of Business. Mike served as official referee at the Burbank Tournament recently and it was a fine job he did, begorra.

Stuart and Loretta Hill presented Leroy and Virginia Hill with a granddaughter, Cynthia Jane, on Oct. 25. Congratulations, grandma!

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Massachusetts Ranking System

Massachusetts may be unique in its ranking system. We do not attempt to rank individuals numerically, rather we group them into classes. We have four classes of players: A, B, C, and D. The "A" Class consists of the strongest players, men and women, and the "D" Class is for beginners. The State Association conducts a tournament yearly for each of these classes consisting of Men's and Ladies' Singles and Doubles and Mixed Doubles. The Men's Veterans' event is run in conjunction with the "A" tournament each year.

A player is ranked Class A, B, C or D according to his or her performance in tournament play. Naturally we limit competition in tournaments to a player's own class or those above him, i.e., a "C" player may play in the C, B and A tournaments but not in the "D."

The ranking regulations as outlined below are administered by a committee, composed of a chairman and five to ten members. It is their job to interpret the rules as fairly as possible. All tournament results and each year's ranking are kept as permanent committee records and are a sound foundation from which to work. To further accuracy of ranking, an attempt is made to have a representative of the most active member clubs on the committee to better classify new players.

These player classifications govern in all Association-sponsored tournaments and also in interclub league play. A list of player classifications is mailed in the fall to all active players and member clubs along with the season's opening Newsletter, which creates a good deal of interest.

Below are the regulations adopted two years ago by the Massachusetts Badminton Association for the classification of its badminton players.

Ranking Regulations

1. Class D

All winners and runners-up in the Class "D" tournament to be ranked "C" the following season.

2. Class C

Any player winning one or more events in the Class "C" tournament, or who is a runner-up in two events therein, to be ranked "B" for at least one year. Any runner-up in one event, and no more, in the Class "C" tournament to be

ranked at least "C" for the following season.

3. Class B

a. A player winning one event, and no more, in the Class "B" tournament to be ranked "A" in that event only the following season.

b. A player winning two events in the Class "B" tournament to be ranked "A" in all events the following season.

c. A player who is already classed "A" in one event and who wins another event in the Class "B" tournament, to be classed "A" in all events the following season.

d. Any runner-up in the Class "B" tournament to be ranked at least "B" for the following season.

4. Class A

a. All winners in the Class "A" tournament to be classed "A" in all events the following year.

b. Runners-up in one event, and no more, in the Class "A" tournament to be classed "A" in that event only the following year.

c. Runners-up in two or more events in the Class "A" tournament to be classed "A" in all events the following year.

ment to be classed "A" in all events the following year.

d. Any player classed "A" in two events to be classed "A" in all events.

e. Ranking of the winners of State Veterans' Tournament to be at the direction of the Ranking Committee.

5. General

In addition to the above rules, the Ranking Committee may use its own judgment in extraordinary cases, such as:

(a) Players with no rank.

(b) Players who develop faster than average.

(c) Former players returning to our tournament after a year or more absence.

Any player ranked "A" or "B" who wishes to be lowered to "B" or "C" respectively may apply to the Chairman of the Ranking Committee for re-ranking. Applications must be received before November 30th. An appeal of a Ranking Committee decision may be made in writing to the President to be acted upon by the Executive Committee.

Maryland Ranking Method

By Susan Devlin

1. Eligibility:

To be eligible for a ranking a player must have played in a State championship the season under consideration. This condition may be waived only in the most unusual circumstances.

2. Records:

The tournament record of each individual or doubles team is entered on a card showing the name of the tournament, round (if semi-final or final), score, and opponent; the wins are entered on the left side, the losses on right. See example.

3. Preference is given to players who have played in: (a) the State championships; (b) the more important tournaments, and (c) the largest number of tournaments. The State champion, except in an unusual case,

is ranked No. 1 in that event.

Direct wins, whatever the round, are most important. More stress is laid on middle or late season results. Where direct wins are not available, comparative scores are used (two players scores against a third player).

Wherever the results of matches among two or three players are very close, every effort is made to make their positions in the ranking list as close as possible. For instance, a three game match in the State championships ranks the players no more than two places apart.

The record of each player is directed towards his highest possible ranking.

4. Insufficient data:

Players named under the heading insufficient data are ONLY those who have performed exceptionally well in one or two tournaments but have not played in the State championships.

1953 - 54		BILL SHIPLEY		Men's Singles	
		Won		Lost	
T. Bennett	B	7-15, 15-9, 15-2	E. Tillery	A	15-10, 15-6
E. Wheeler	B	15-12, 15-11	B. Corey	B sf	15-7, 15-13
B. Connolly	C	15-6, 15-7	K. Volk	C f	15-1, 15-8
M. Farley	C	12-15, 15-8, 15-9			
J. Hessey	C sf	15-11, 15-9			

Southern California Ranking System

By Buzz Martin

The following is the system of ranking badminton players by the Southern California Badminton Association:

1. A member of the board of directors of the association is assigned as chairman of the ranking committee. He chooses a committee of about half a dozen members to assist in classifying all players in the area.

2. A roster of all present and prospective tournament players is prepared, one for each committee member and at a meeting of the group each player is classified A-B-C as to singles, doubles and mixed doubles ability. Ninety-five per cent of the people fall into a classification easily, the other five per cent will require discussion with a decision resulting. The big problem seems to be whether to rank a player a low "A" or high "B." A low "A" player may have just completed a successful season in "B" tournaments where he either won or was finalist in several events. If the following season he is classified "A" he might be eliminated in first or second round "A" matches and become discouraged. However, it isn't fair to let this player continue to win consolation event trophies. Instead he must realize that the answer is increased competition and practice with "A" players. The general rule of our Association is that a win in one "B" event will automatically force the committee to rank that player "A" the following season in that event. However, this general rule is often violated depending on the strength of the tournament in which the win occurred.

3. The final product is a complete roster which has been approved by the association listing each player in all three events. A copy of this roster is sent to each club in the association and is used as a basis for ranking by tournament committees. Any person who feels he is not properly ranked has the right of appeal by writing to the association explaining his arguments. The association directors decide the merits of the case and amend the rankings if they see fit.

4. A further ranking of "A" players only is made and our system follows that used by the American Badminton Association for determining national rankings. An analysis of each tournament of the season (July 1st-

June 30th) is made. A winner is given 4 points, runner-up 3 points, losing semi-finalist 2 points, losing quarter-finalist 1 point. The total points are divided by the number of tournaments participated in to determine a player's average for each event. Extra consideration is given in situations where averages between competitors is close. Individual results are typical extra considerations between the players, comparative scores against others, and number of tournaments entered. The ranking committee chairman presents his statistical analysis to the committee with his recommendations and a vote is taken to decide close situations. These "A" rankings are vital to proper rankings by tournament committees during the following season.



Rex and Dawn Collins of Tasmania traveled to Perth recently to compete in the season's Inter-State matches and the Australian Championships. Rex hopes to play well enough to gain a spot on the Australian Thomas Cup team.

San Diego County

The San Diego Badminton Association sponsored an open county tournament for "B" players and novices on November 6 and 7 at Balboa Park Municipal gymnasium. John Leib and Don Armbruster co-chaired the event which drew an entry of approximately fifty players.

The results of the tournament were as follows:

CLASS B

M.S.—Don Conner def. Bill Butler, 15-12, 15-10. L.S.—Diane Jive def. Jane Phillips, 11-8, 12-10. M.D.—Gary Russell-Chuck Fageilson def. Eddie Meyers-Bill Butler, 15-12, 10-15, 15-12. L.D.—Diane Ivie and Jane Phillips def. Alma Armbruster and Charlotte Mattison, 15-5, 15-7. Mx.D.—Alma Armbruster-Jim Poole def. Eve Kincaid-Monty Carter, 10-15, 15-3, 15-10.

CLASS C

M.S.—S. Putih def. Ray Foremost, 15-4, 15-6. L.S.—Adele Tinning def. Gloria Page, 7-11, 11-8, 12-10. M.D.—Fred Benson-S. Putih def. John McNeil-Roy Vickery, 15-4, 15-6. L.D.—Adele Tinning-Solita Sommers def. Eve Kincaid-Diane Vetrecin, 15-6, 15-7. Mx.D.—Solita Sommers-S. Putih def. Shirley Vickery-Roy Vickery, 15-8, 15-8.

It was good to see Howard Taylor looking so well at the Burbank Tourney. He and Connie came to watch and ended up working.

Special appeal—all size 12 women players in Southern California please bring extra shorts to all tournaments and notify Lois Alston in time for the semi-finals.

9TH ANNUAL BURBANK TOURNEY

By Helen Tibbetts

L.S.—Thelma Welcome def. Lois Alston, 2-11, 11-5, 11-8. M.S.—Joe Alston def. Dick Mitchell, 15-12, 15-11. L.D.—Lois Alston-Beulah Bymaster def. Dottie Hann-Joan Gibbs, 12-15, 15-12, 17-16. M.D.—Wynn Rogers-Bob Williams def. Manny Armendariz-Buzz Martin, 15-11, 15-5. Mx.D.—Wynn Rogers-Dottie Hann def. Manny Armendariz-Beulah Bymaster, 15-8, 15-5. Vets—Paul Coke-Tom Carter def. Dan McArthur-Al Wilkinson, 18-13, 15-6.

"B" Results

L.S.—Laurie Cook def. Pat Lerner, 11-7, 11-2. M.S.—Ron Miller def. Dick van Praag, 15-1, 15-3. L.D.—Marguerite Miller-Frances Fleming def. Mary Ellen Dobel—"Babe" Pajares, 15-7, 12-15, 15-11. M.D.—Jack Frisz-Bert Rawak def. Wally Foy-Ron Miller, 9-15, 15-10, 15-12. Mx.D.—Dick Fleming-Frances Fleming def. Lloyd Hellman-Lois O'Connell, 15-8, 15-10. Vets—Tom Gray-Bill Giles def. Frank Auxier-Bill Evans, 15-3, 15-4.

TO THE EDITOR . . .

For the many years that badminton has been played, the interpretation of rules has been a sore spot of the game.

The governing bodies have made sincere efforts to provide rules that will give the game spirit and pleasure to everyone playing.

The intent of every rule is that it be precise and clearly stated. The language must necessarily be of a legal character, but words are only words and can be interpreted in different ways; perhaps quite differently than was intended by those who wrote them.

When the service rule was written, saying "no part of the head of the racket may be above any part of the servers' hand," I'm sure the intent was that the shuttle would be hit in an upward direction over the net, with no thought of the stroke having an offensive value.

But we, of later years, being smarter people, found that we could remain within the letter of the law and raise the height of the racket so as to produce an "offensive" shot, thereby winning an occasional point on a service ace. We have developed this shot to such a fine point that we are now too frequently "illegal." In our anxious desire to keep the shuttle low over the net, our racket has crept up.

For want of a way to make it possible for a "service umpire" to determine the legal limits, the ABA arbitrarily says, "If the hand is below the waist and the shaft of the racket is below the horizontal, the serve is legal." The law does not say the hand must be below the waist, it may be anywhere, but it does say the shuttle must be hit below the waist. If the hand is above the waist, then the determining factor must be the height at which the shuttle is hit. The angle of the racket shaft, then, has no bearing on the decision.

This may be a silly point to mention, but it is illegal even if the hand were near the floor, and the shaft pointed upward at the time the shuttle was hit, even though it were hit from a point much below the waist, because then part of the racket head is above part of the hand.

Foot-faulting in service is a subtly abused rule.

The intent of this rule is to have the server get positioned before serv-

ing, so that the receiver may also get positioned, and neither be put at an unfair disadvantage by either one moving about. If this rule were not what it is, a server, or receiver, could do strange things to cause annoyance to the other.



When a player lifts a foot off the floor a wee bit when serving, he has gained little advantage to be sure, but it would be impossible to enforce a law that tried to limit the exact height a foot may be raised. Actually this infraction is only a very careless, bad habit, that cannot be tolerated. Sliding a foot along the floor when serving, especially in singles, does gain an advantage for the server. He does not *have* to do it to gain power to hit the serve high, but if he lets himself get into the bad habit of moving his body weight into the stroke by that means, he is committing a "fault" and should be called on it every time he does it. The law specifically says, "Part of both feet must remain in contact with the ground in a stationary position."

Rule 14 H and its interpretations are the cause of the most controversy in the game.

A few years ago this law was rewritten by the I.B.F. to be what it now is. It was thought that it would clarify the "double hit" and eliminate the arguments over wood shots. Obviously it has done neither.

The ABA in its Handbook advises

umpires that "if there is a doubt the benefit of the doubt shall go to the striker." This advice is either not known, or is commonly ignored by umpires, even in nationally important tournaments. Frequently, if the umpire thinks the stroke sounded wrong, he calls a "fault" even though the flight of the shuttle was not obviously affected. When that condition happens, there most certainly is doubt, and the benefit of that doubt should go to the striker. The intent of this rule is to avoid permitting a "fluke" shot to win a rally, and to permit a player to deliberately develop the ability to carry the shuttle on his racket or strike it with the frame and thereby create a deceptive flight. It was not intended that a rally be won or lost by "sound effects" which can only be a matter of opinion, but not an established fact, therefore the ABA advice on "doubt."

The proper speed of the shuttle to be used in any given tournament is a factor to be determined by the tournament committee, based on the rules. There is a "proper" speed and that is the speed of the shuttle that should be used by all contestants. No contestant, or contestants, has the legal right to choose the speed he *prefers* to play with.

All the shuttles to be used during the play should be tested before play begins, by a qualified tester, appointed by the tournament committee, and the shuttles accepted by him will be the shuttles that are used by the contestants.

A player may test hit a shuttle to learn what its speed is if he chooses, but he may not reject it if the shuttle is supplied to him by and approved by the tournament committee.

Sportsmanship is of the utmost importance in any game, and it is the responsibility and privilege of every individual to know the rules and observe them. They are there for his benefit as well as to penalize him for infractions. Every club player should observe the rules just as rigidly as a tournament player is expected to. The rules are made for the betterment of the game and not for any class of player. All players are recognized as being equal, except in ability.

Very truly yours,

Lealand R. Gustavson

THE BIG TEN

These Clubs have subscribed 100% to *Bird Chatter* for the 1954-55 season:

Skokie Badminton Club of Illinois
Gut'N Feathers Badminton Club
of Marblehead, Mass.
Manhattan Beach Badminton Club,
Manhattan Beach, Calif.
Evansville Badminton Club, Indi-
ana
Needham Juniors Badminton Club,
Mass.

Shady Hill Badminton Club of
Mass.
Birmingham Badminton Club of
Mich.
Detroit Badminton Club
Badminton Club of Washington,
D.C.
Stamford Y Badminton Club of
Springdale, Conn.

Another rumor—Barney McCay is teaching badminton in Corona Del Mar—anyone know for sure?

It's a Girl! Bill and Ruth Berry of San Diego are now the proud parents of Lee Ann Berry, born on November 19.

Going to Alaska? After a month there, Chuck (Tibbetts) thinks he can give you all necessary information to make your trip as successful as his, especially on the subject of mooses or is it meeses, anyhow four-legged animals with horns.

Gwen Garnsey is attending Stanford University so her badminton has been curtailed. Just a temporary thing she says.

Bob Williams has joined Southern California badmintonites. Bob has brought his family (wife Pat, former skater with Ice Capades, and daughters Sherry and Cindy) to live in Pasadena. He is a real estate appraiser with the William Wilson Co. Old-timers may remember when William (Bill) Wilson was one of our top players.

Ice Capades of 1955

Be sure to see Hugh Forgie in his new clown act when "Ice Capades of 1955" appears in your city. Hugh would enjoy having you visit him back stage.

Jan. 14-23—Rhode Island Auditorium, Providence, R.I.

Jan. 24-Feb. 6—Uline Arena, Washington, D.C.

Feb. 7-13—The Arena, New Haven, Conn.

Feb. 14-26—Sports Arena, Hershey, Pa.

March 1-9—The Arena, St. Louis, Mo.

March 11-20—The Stadium, Chicago, Ill.

March 21-28—Ak-Sar-Ben Field, Omaha, Neb.

April 7-12—Will Rogers Coliseum, Fort Worth, Texas.

April 14-20—Municipal Auditorium, Kansas City, Mo.

April 22-26—Stockyard Stadium, Denver, Colo.

April 28-May 4—Cow Palace, San Francisco, Calif.

May 5-22 or 29—Pan-Pacific Auditorium, Los Angeles, Calif.

We hope the troubles of the O'Mearas of San Francisco and Glendale are all taken care of by now and that Erwin's operation was a success.

What's Your Choice?

Steel Shaft?

Wood shaft?



PURCELL PERSONAL
(light steel shaft)

Chose a Spalding for the best. The Purcell Personal racket is a point getting bat for championship play. It features a steel shaft with wide cord bindings at the throat and handle. The Wisp is another top-quality bat with a slim wood shaft. Both rackets feature laminated frames of selected white and red ash with overlay reinforced throats and shoulders. Tan top-grade perforated leather handles and attractive finishes complete these outstanding rackets.

See your Spalding dealer for a complete line of rackets, nets, presses, boxed 2 and 4 racket sets and shuttlecocks of all types.

SPALDING

Sets the pace in Badminton



TOP-FLITE SHUTTLECOCK
A.B.A. approved

Top-rank championship bird.
16 selected uniform feathers,
rounded or pointed.



WISP
(slim wood shaft)

From Two Mail Bags

Subscription and Editorial

Dear Marguerite:

Herewith are the results of the 18th Annual Invitation Men's Doubles Tournament of the Westport Badminton Club, which was played at Westport, Conn., December 4.

There is not much of a story to write about this renewal of this popular event. It drew a number of the leading players from along the Atlantic seaboard—from Boston to Baltimore—headed by Wayne Schell and Bob Wright, the National Veterans' Doubles champions, and Noel Fehm and Harry Quinn of the home club, who are No. 10 in the National Men's Doubles ranking.

After a number of close first-round matches, the seeding held up into the quarter-finals, where the brackets were easily gained by the four favored combinations. Following the intermission for dinner, the semi-finals produced two contrasting matches: Schell and Wright, winners of this event in 1951 and 1952, lost their touch completely and were swamped in a morass of their own errors, bowing quickly to the new pair of Ken Kost and Bunky Roche. In the other half, Fehm and Quinn, the current Connecticut State champions, squeaked through in a tight match with the young Boston team.

The final saw Kost and Roche, who had swept so easily through their earlier matches, failed to produce the same form as they yielded to the more forceful play and better teamwork of Fehm and Quinn. Kost won the tournament in 1953, playing with Fred Fullin, who was unable to participate this time because of illness.

Two interesting combinations in the tournaments produced pairings of Youth with Age—young Jerry Skillicorn of California (now studying theology in New York) played with Pop Hinds, twice former National Veterans' Doubles champ; and "Butch" Kevorkian, the National Junior champion, teamed with Harold Seavey who has been a ranking player in Massachusetts for a number of years.

The Westport Badminton Club favored the visiting players with their customary hospitality, both during the tournament and far into the night thereafter.

Ted Jarrett

GROSSE POINTE BADMINTON ASSOCIATION

Dear Editor:

As a new officer in our club this year I am trying to promote some "new" interest for the game, our club, as well as our league tournaments. Any publicity in your good magazine, I think, will help me in my efforts, stimulate our chances for new subscribers and inform other clubs who we are, and what we are doing—at least some might be interested here in the "Midwest."

Michigan Badminton League was started just after the war—the last one I mean—and consists of Flint Badminton Club, Ferndale Racquet Club, Birmingham Badminton Club, and Grosse Pointe Badminton Assn., all of Michigan. Each club plays with each of the other clubs for a "home and away" series during the season.

Each contest consists of four men's, four women's and eight mixed doubles matches. A point is awarded for each individual match won and the club having the highest number of points at the conclusion of the scheduled match is deemed the winner. In case of tie each club will be credited with half a match won. At the end of the season the club with the highest number of points will be awarded a trophy to keep for the next year. The trophy will remain the permanent property of the club winning it for three successive years.

Maybe some other clubs might be interested in such a set-up with their "neighbor" clubs? As far as we know we are the only such League in the country—or are we?

Here is one more subscriber: Miss Dorothy Bosch, 10468 Greensboro, Detroit 24, Mich., and one dollar enclosed in cash—hope to get more when I get your extra copies.

Hans Rogind

Newly elected officers of the Grosse Pointe Badminton Association are Jay Simpson, president; Hans Rogind, vice-president; Wesley Thompson, secretary-treasurer. Appointed to serve on the Membership Committee are John Failing, Joan Curto and Louise Veach. The Tournament and Round Robin Committee will be Hans Rogind, Chess Lagomarsino, Virginia Rogers, and Jack Lavis.

From Coast . . .

WISSAHICKON CLUB

John Cornell, Correspondent

Those who know this Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia Badminton Club, will be happy to hear that the club has weathered a major calamity of almost losing their playing courts. After prodigious work of repairing and repainting the club by the members, led by President Charles "Chuck" Root, and Bill Quittman, the courts are now in the best condition they have ever been.

The Wissahickon Badminton Club has been a strong center of badminton since its founding about 1933. Many nationally ranked players have represented the club, among them Endsley Fairman, Harry Hackett and Sally McCloud Biddle. Wes Fraizer and Tom Hamilton have been instrumental in building the club from the original clay court era through the difficult war years when badminton suffered a strong set-back.

The National Veterans' Award Cup, the Dodge Memorial Bowl, is presented by the Wissahickon Badminton Club as a memorial to one of its members.

President Root looks forward to even better times for the Wissahickon Club. The enthusiasm of the members in pitching in hundreds of hours for trowel and brush work indicates that the Wissahickon Club will indeed spark the resurgence of badminton in Philadelphia.

Delaware Valley Badminton Association officers for 1954-55: President, Arthur Jones; Vice-President, W. W. Frazier, 3rd; Secretary, Mrs. Patricia Cornell; Treasurer, Mrs. Naomi Bender.

Did you ever wonder what "Babe" Pajares' real name might be? (It's Marguerite. Ed.)

Skeeter Erikson is executive vice-president of the new Mutual Savings and Loan office in Glendale. Rumor has it that Skeeter and Reaf Haney may enter Nationals this season. We hope so.

Visiting at the Burbank tournament was George McCook who was half of the FIRST National Veterans' Doubles team.

... to Coast

MARYLAND

Mrs. E. M. Dryden, Correspondent

Maryland was a pioneer in junior activities in badminton. In 1937, under the guidance of Mr. and Mrs. J. Frank Devlin, twenty boys and girls received instructions and eventually entered into tournament play. Patsy Roberts Stephens was the first Maryland State Junior title holder. After the National Junior Tournament was instituted in 1947, Evelyn Talley, Sandra Dailey, Virginia Ball, Dick Ball, Gordon Wentworth, Bobby Steinwald, Bill Corey, were among the nationally ranked players. Of course, Judy Devlin has extended her talents to embrace international activities. At present she has conquered Europe and is besieging the Far East for more laurels. Bunky Roche, member of the Thomas Cup squad, played as a member of our junior group. Currently McGregor Stewart, Linda Flack, Jay Tischinger, have joined the ranked group of nation-wide fame.

Mrs. Richard Lee Ball followed Mrs. Devlin, Bill Saunders and Mrs. W. Pinkney West, as monitor of the group and at present there are 125 youngsters attending the Saturday morning instruction classes. There are two-hour classes for beginners, intermediate players and advanced players. Instruction is given by a loyal staff of volunteers. Along with round-robins and ladder play, three outstanding tournaments are held each year, the first being the Interscholastic team play for girls at Thanksgiving, then the Eastern Open held after Christmas, and finally the Junior Maryland State Tournaments for under 18, 15 and 13, held in March.

The Junior activity group is self-sustaining and receives no contributions from any adult group. Through snack bar and raffle profits funds are raised to help send deserving players to represent Maryland in the Junior Nationals each year. Mrs. Ball, mother of two outstanding former junior players, knows the game as an active player. Now that her own boy and girl are in college, she still maintains her interest in the juniors and is doing a fine job of guiding the organization, with the assistance of a most cooperative husband. We wish to salute her!

OREGON

Rita Muntz, Correspondent

Newly elected officers for the Oregon Badminton Association are: President, Seth George of Reed & Columbia Clubs; Vice-President, Ed Bandy of Multnomah Athletic Club; Secretary, Louise Nickles of Beaumont Club; Treasurer, Rita Muntz, Reed Badminton Club.

Officers of the Reed Badminton Club are: President, Joe Griffith; Vice-President, Charles Corbin; and Secretary-Treasurer, Odessa Reinke.

Serving as Chairmen for the Beaumont Club are Flo Weidel and Betty Clare.

Columbia Athletic Club Chairmen are Seth George and Shirley Law.

Clayton Wentz and Mary Gilman are serving the Multnomah Athletic Club as Chairmen.

Massachusetts "D"

Henry G. Der, Correspondent

M.S.—Robert T. Rose def. Tom Lamb, 4-15, 15-10, 15-11. L.S.—Penny Pritchard def. Ann Lenzi, 11-1, 7-11, 11-0. M.D.—Tom Lamb-Jack Baier def. Paul Dusossoit-Les Nusabaum, 15-4, 15-9. L.D.—Thelma Belolli-Paula Seavey def. Penny Pritchard-Judith White, 15-6, 15-7. Mx.D.—Paula Seavey-Charles Saladino def. Ann Lenzi-Robert O'Donnell, 15-8, 5-15, 15-9.

ILLINOIS

Shirley Hanzelin, Correspondent

The Golden Bird novice tournament, sponsored by the Chicago Badminton Club, was held on December 5th at the Concordia College gymnasium. Sixteen clubs in four mid-western states were presented with one hundred entries.

M.S.—Matt Enos def. Arthur Finch, 15-6, 15-2. W.S.—Jean Moore def. Norma Berger, 9-11, 11-8, 11-4. M.D.—P. Terryberry-Em Freeman def. George Brown-Al Laubinger, 15-6, 10-12, 15-12. W.D.—Jean Moore-Gerthruide Kuehn def. Barbara Berger-Norma Berger, 15-5, 15-12. Mx.D.—M. Terryberry-E. Freeman def. Eldie Figler-Arthur Finch, 10-15, 15-3, 15-4.

Consolation

M.S.—Al Sikorski def. Vance Smith, 15-0, 13-18, 15-6. W.S.—Barbara Berger def. Mary Cameron, 12-11, 11-5. M.D.—Robert Croxon-Ruben Frost def. Zitz Obara-Anton Strum, 15-3, 15-7. W.D.—Lynn Benson-Glendolyn Stevens def. Jane Gurney-E. Hehnke, 15-18, 15-11, 15-11. Mx.D.—Barbara Berger-Ed Tomczak def. Irene Plinski-Ray Kueffler, 15-5, 15-9.

MICHIGAN

Emery Freeman, Correspondent

Hunting season for birds (badminton, that is) has opened in Michigan. The East Rapids Badminton Club began its season on October 5th, playing nights being Tuesday and Thursday and on Saturday afternoons.

Serving as officers are: President, Emery Freeman; vice-president, Ruie Frost; secretary, Fran Lunan; treasurer, Don Hams. The following committees were appointed: Birds, Fred Garbrecht; Publicity, Phyllis Grettenberger; Tournaments, Ruie Frost and Patty Cliff; Membership, Hugh Cowan, Ardythe Marquardt and Tom Steel; Social, Bill and Barb Schroeder and Bob and Betty Richards.

CALIFORNIA

Alma Armbruster, Correspondent

The annual San Diego County Badminton Tournament was held December 11 and 12 at the Municipal Gymnasium, Balboa Park. Results are as follows:

Men's Singles

Semi-finals: D. Mitchell def. Carl Loveday, 17-14, 16-18, 15-10. B. Berry def. J. Leib, 15-4, 15-9.

Finals: B. Berry def. D. Mitchell, 8-15, 15-10, 15-5.

Ladies' Singles

Semi-finals: L. Skelley def. G. Bunker, 11-5, 10-12, 11-8. P. Gallagher def. G. Bunker, 15-6, 15-7.

Finals: P. Gallagher def. L. Skelley, 11-5, 11-1.

Men's Doubles

Semi-finals: C. Loveday-H. Schwitkis def. B. Wells-B. Butler, 15-4, 14-17, 15-9. B. Berry-D. Conner def. D. Mitchell-D. Armbruster, 15-13, 15-10.

Finals: C. Loveday-H. Schwitkis def. B. Berry-D. Conner, 18-17, 15-13.

Ladies' Doubles

Semi-finals: L. Skelley-G. Bunker def. A. Armbruster-R. Hoffman, 15-10, 15-18, 15-5.

Finals: P. Gallagher-J. Robb def. D. Ivie-J. Phillips, 13-18, 15-2, 15-5.

Finals: L. Skelley-G. Bunker def. P. Gallagher-J. Rabb, 17-16, 15-12.

Mixed Doubles

Semi-finals: D. Mitchell-E. Mitchell def. L. Skelley-C. Loveday, 15-11, 5-15, 17-14. B. Berry-G. Bunker def. A. Armbruster-B. Wells, 15-3, 15-2.

Finals: B. Berry-G. Bunker def. D. Mitchell-E. Mitchell, 15-6, 9-15, 15-8.

OVERSEAS NEWS

(Reprint from "The Badminton Gazette" of England, H.A.E. Scheele, Editor)

Courtesy of Jack van Praag

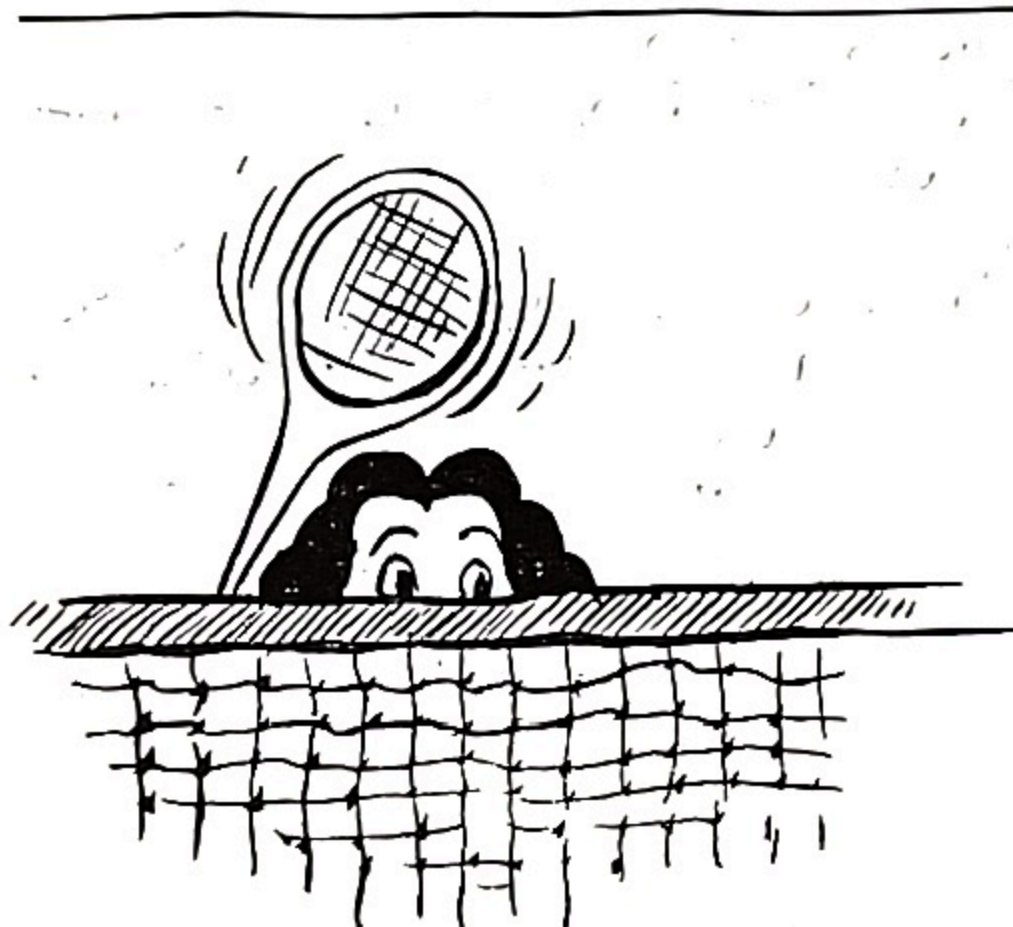
Dublin, Ireland—Judy Devlin of Baltimore and Margaret Varner of Boston won the Women's Doubles title of the International Badminton Tournament by defeating the Misses I. Cooley and J. White, 12-15, 15-4, 15-13.

London, England—Judy Devlin defeated Margaret Varner 11-4, 9-11, 11-9, to win the Wimbledon Open Badminton Women's Single's Championship. Judy felt it was well worth doing extra classes during the summer holidays so that she could come to England and travel with Margaret on a far East tour. Judy is All England and United States of America champion. She is also a Junior Wightman Cup tennis player. Judy and Margaret won the Wimbledon Doubles title by defeating Iris Cooley and Joan White 17-14, 9-15, 15-7.

Airmail letter just received from Ken Davidson, en route to Bombay and Singapore, states that Judy and Margaret played well in Ireland and England. Ken says that Judy was fortunate to beat Margaret in the third game after being down 3-6 and 7-9. It was a great game. Ken is also acting as good-will ambassador and is doing his best about getting overseas players for the Nationals at Long Beach next year.

During the next few months twenty nations will be competing among themselves for the privilege of making the triennial endeavor to shift the Thomas Cup from the fairly secure clutches of Malaya. The increase from eleven challenging nations in 1951 to twenty in 1954 represents a fair indication of the rapidly expanding international interest in most quarters of the globe. Competing in the American Zone are the United States and Canada. In the Asiatic Zone are Ceylon and Pakistan (won by Pakistan 9-0), India and Thailand (won by India 6-3), Hong Kong, Burma and Japan. In the Australasian Zone are Australia and New Zealand. The following nations are competing in the European Zone: Sweden, France, Belgium, Germany, England, Wales, Denmark,

Scotland and Ireland. Malaya, of course, will be the defending champion to be challenged by the ultimate winner of the series of elimination ties. By the time this newsletter appears in print a number of other ties will have been decided. It is interesting to note in connection with the close tie played between Thailand and India that the Thais have several very fine players who are coming along. Amrit Lal Dewan, Indian champion but two years ago when he was also a victor over Joe Alston was defeated by Pinich Pattapongsa 18-14, 6-15, 5-15. T. N. Seth, so loudly praised after the 1952 ties in Malaya, lost both his doubles matches.



A new development on the part of the Badminton Association of England was inaugurated at the commencement of the current season when national coaching courses took place for the first time in the history of the game in England. The arrangements were made in conjunction with the Central Council of Physical Recreation, and were undertaken by the Badminton Association of England's recently formed coaching committee. All the county associations were invited to send delegates to one of several courses. The chief aim of the course was to assist those who attended to train other players within their counties to be able to coach juniors, beginners and club members in the basic principles of the game, in order to increase the general standard of play and further their enjoyment. The instructors and the committee had prepared a special coaching booklet to aid their "pupils" on their return to their counties.

The thirteenth All-Malayan Open Championships were played during the week ended August 21st at the Han Chiang School Hall at Penang. The big feature of the tournament was the winning of the Men's Singles crown for the first time by Ong Poh Lim who is so well known all over the world and who has been a Thomas Cup stalwart for his adopted country ever since 1948. Ong gained his final triumph over Penang's Ooi Teik Hock who had held the title six years earlier. Wong Peng Soon did not defend the title which he had failed to win only once since 1940. The Men's Doubles was won by the veteran, Chan Kon Leong, and Lim Kee Fong. Runners-up were a promising pair of school boys, See Chim Leong and Lim Say Hup who gained the finals by an upset victory over Ong Poh Lim and Ismail bin Marjan.

Decisions to allow or disallow intervals in play between the second and third game of a match in conformity with law 22 have been notified to the International Federation by national organizations as follows:

In America:

Canada5 minutes in singles only
United States.....5 minutes in singles only

In Asia:

Ceylon5 minutes in all matches
Malaya5 minutes in all matches
Pakistan5 minutes in all matches
Thailand5 minutes in all matches

(No information has been received from Burma, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Nepal, Philippine Islands)

In Australasia:

Australia.....5 minutes in singles only
except in New South Wales
and Queensland where 5
minutes will be allowed in
all matches.

New Zealand....5 minutes in singles only

In Europe:

Denmark.....3 minutes in all matches
EnglandNo interval
IrelandNo interval
NorwayNo interval
ScotlandNo interval
SwedenNo interval
WalesNo interval

(No information has been received from Belgium, France, Germany, Malta, Netherlands)

In South Africa:

(No information has been received from South Africa)

From the MAIL BAG...

Dear Irene:

I have just read your magazine "Bird Chatter" and have gotten a thrill reading it, so much so that I send herewith check in the amount of \$1.00 for one year's subscription.

Best wishes and continued good writing.

Edward van Beverhoudt, Conn.

••

Dear Editor:

The first issue of this season was swell. Keep up the good work.

Robert Warren, Mass.

••

Dear Irene:

Our Wisconsin State Badminton Association certainly hasn't been making news it seems. As I mentioned to you this summer, I had hoped to have something for you for "Bird Chatter" by this time.

If the enclosed two snapshots are of any value to you, you are certainly welcome to them. I realize they are old and technically fall well below par for good reproduction prints. Both shots were taken at the Wisconsin State Badminton Association Tournament at Appleton, Wis., on March 27, 1954. The tourney was held in the Lawrence College Gym which has ten courts and plenty of room for spectators.

Wisconsin officers for the 1954-55 season are: President, W. U. Day of Neenah; Vice-President, R. Keuffer of Racine; and Secretary-Treasurer, S. L. Swenson of Neenah.

Starkie Swenson

••

Dear Irene:

Our club has three news items that may be of interest to your readers, especially on the East Coast. First, we are no longer playing at Kensington Armory but have been forced to change to a new location for monetary (IS that a good word?) reasons. We are now playing at the Landon School in Bethesda, Maryland. Officers of the Badminton Club of the District of Columbia are: President, Clay Norment; Vice-President, John Stewart; Secretary, Marie VanDengergh; and Treasurer, Polly Thompson.

Second, Paul and Roselyn Buskey met with us recently before starting on a tour of duty in Norway.

Third, I have during the summer, become engaged to Jorgen Kolle, brother of Mogens, who was stationed in Washington for a year. The three of us traveled around to most of the

tournaments on the East Coast and I might add Mogens won most of them—however, Polly and Jorgen are not at all famous from that respect. For an engagement present I had a quick trip to Copenhagen to visit the Kolle family, and had a wonderful time visiting with the very modern Danes as well as visiting their badminton courts which are out of this world. We took some pictures of the courts to fill our friends here at home with envy and malice or something.

Polly Thompson

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Dear Editor:

Last winter I moved to Maine and I find the move a sad one, badminton-wise, as there is no badminton activity here at all with the exception of an enthusiastic program at Colby College, which is of course, for enrolled students. I have been fortunate enough to have a chance to play once weekly there, because of my past participation in tournament play in Massachusetts, and because I offered to aid in coaching in return for the opportunity to play. As you can imagine, it is a silver lining to a cloud that appeared very dark upon moving here.

However, I did note in your issue of April, 1954, that you had a few subscribers from Maine, and I would appreciate it if you could send me their names, so that I could contact them in the hope of creating a badminton program in this state.

Before closing may I congratulate you on your excellent publication and say how much I enjoyed the fine coverage of the tournaments as well as the articles by prominent badminton personalities.

Marion A. Goodhue

Editor's Note: All of you badmintonites in Maine contact Marion at 44 Johnson Heights, Waterville, Me.

CHINATOWN BADMINTON CLUB

San Francisco, Calif.

Ah Yun, Correspondent

San Francisco's Chinatown Badminton Club is the only Chinese badminton club outside of the Orient. On April this year it was privileged to entertain and exhibit Mr. Oi Teck Hock and Mr. Ong Poh Lim, accompanied by Mr. Lim Chuan Geok, the manager, as these three were on the last lap of their journey home to Malaya after their success at Niagara Falls.

We play every Thursday night at the Recreation Center, at Washington and Mason Sts., and Monday nights at the Chinese Y.W.C.A. Membership is open to all nationalities. Our prominent members are Jim Knudsen, Bob Poon, Mr. and Mrs. Leong and Kaherine Wong, Joe Dere. Some of our outstanding lady players are Kathy, May Lum, Gracina Lowe, Betsy, Evelyn, Lily Poon Fonda, and Olive Lee. Our leading men players are Bob Poon, Jeff, Benson, Clarence, Cowboy Wong, Joe Dere, Pete Ananda, Ed O'Meara, and Chester.

Our members come from various parts of the world: Shanghai, Indonesia, Malaya, South Borneo, Hawaii and various parts of U.S.A. The club is almost 25 years old, and although produced no national champion yet, it is one of the friendliest groups of badminton enthusiasts.

Anyone passing through San Francisco and wanting to play with us should phone Wa 1 5780 and ask for Jim Knudsen to arrange some badminton games for him or her.

DON'T contradict the umpire; he might be right.

DON'T adjust your laces when out of breath; your opponent may be glad of the rest.

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A Tribute to Ken Davidson

The game of Badminton has suffered the loss of one of its finest friends and greatest teachers in the tragic passing of Ken Davidson. The world-renowned star and coach of U.S.A. International Thomas Cup teams was in no small measure responsible for developing and popularizing the game as we play it today. One might say that the game itself stands as a fitting monument to his memory. His loss will be keenly felt.

LIPPAHY
CORTLAND RACKET DIVISION, Cortland, New York, U.S.A.

JAN 27 1955

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
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