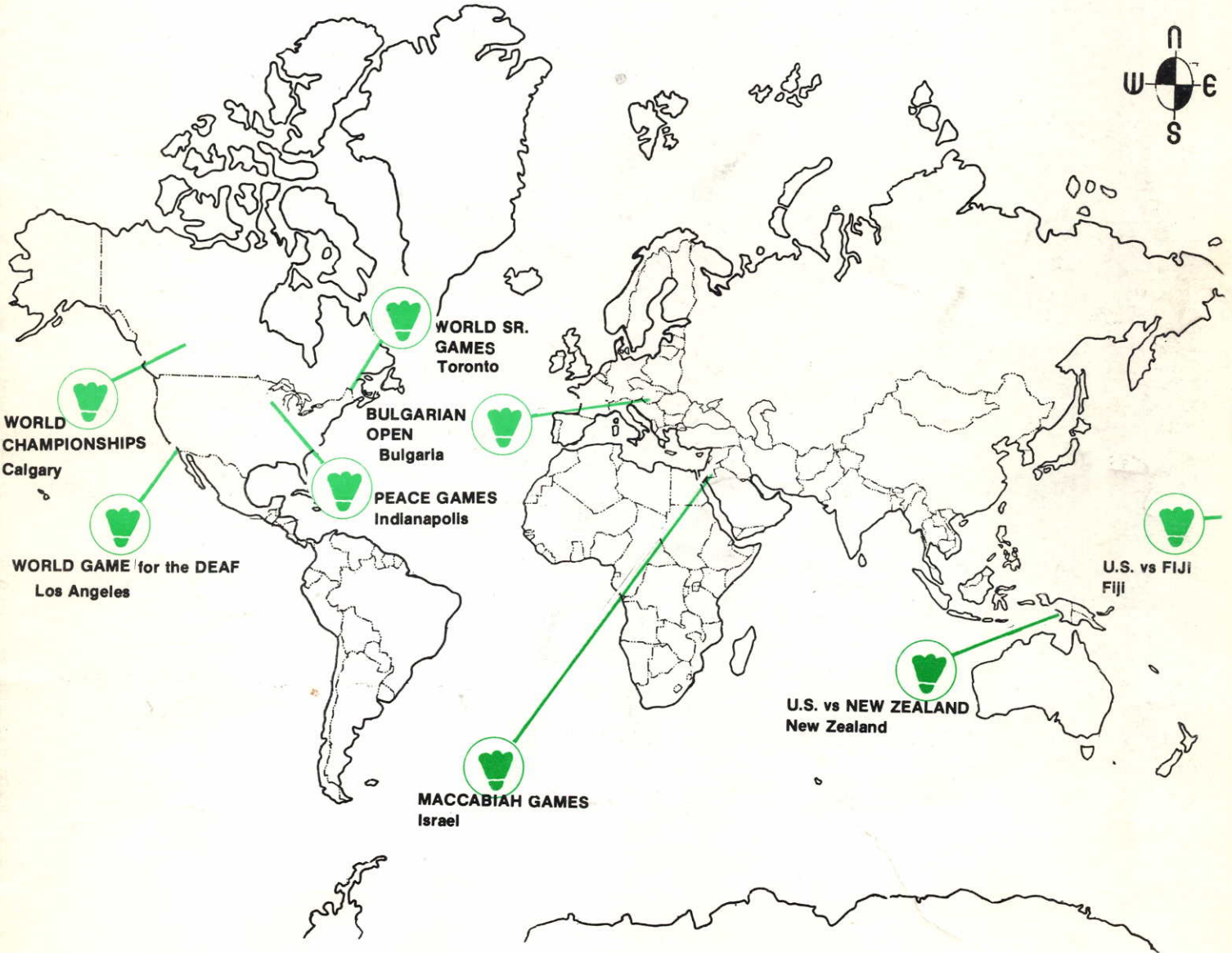


The

# BADMINTON MAGAZINE

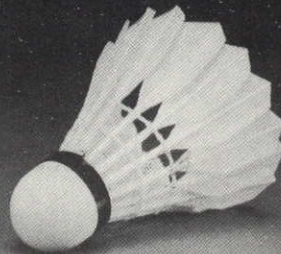
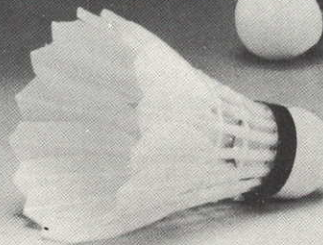
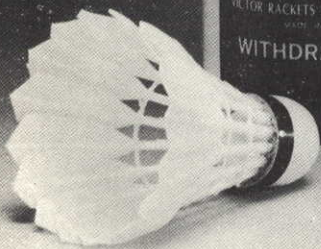


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GOES INTERNATIONAL**

**OCTOBER  
1985**



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# The **BADMINTON** MAGAZINE

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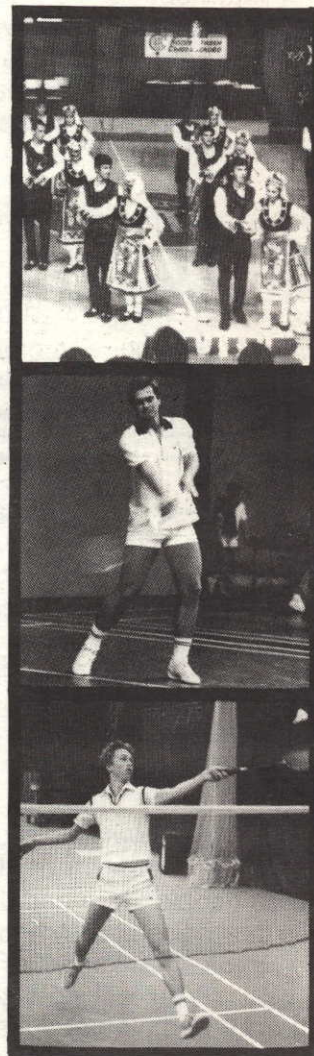
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# LETTER FROM THE

We did not intentionally plan for this issue to be a travelogue, or only a report on international play. It just so happens that is the real "news" in U.S. badminton for the last three months. And, in a way, it's exciting and important news.

The Bulgarian Open, the Deaf Olympics, the Maccabiah Games, the Peace Games, the U.S. versus Fiji and New Zealand, the World Championships, and the World Senior Games. All of these events took place since our last issue. The flurry of international play is the most I can ever remember in which U.S. players-- at all playing levels, ages and affiliations-- took part to represent the United States in world competition.

What an exciting turn of events, especially for the new and developing badminton player. It shows that U.S. players everywhere can aspire to one day

compete as representatives of their country. With a little hard work and desire, almost any developing player can achieve the journeyman skills necessary to compete internationally. It's true for men and boys, and even more so for women and girls, due to the shortage of female competitors.

With the introduction of badminton into the Olympic Games, young athletes willing to make the commitment have a realistic opportunity to participate in the world's premier sporting event. In contrast to other Olympic sports that are firmly established in the U.S., ie: track and field or basketball.

In addition to the Olympics, as we have seen the past 3 months, many opportunities for international competition and travel abound. This is one of the good results of the infancy stage of U.S. badminton



Publisher Levin

## PUBLISHER

development. There is a legitimate chance for the athlete who might not have the opportunity to compete on an international level in any other sport.

The conclusion is this: Badminton represents an exciting alternative to the young athlete choosing a competitive sport. All of us should encourage beginning players by pointing out the exciting opportunities available in badminton, both here and abroad.

David H. Levin

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**Editor's Note:** *On a recent trip to South Africa, Taylor Caffery of New Orleans discovered their system of intercity and interclub badminton matches. Here's an excerpt from his letter to USBA president Stan Hales recommending its adoption in the United States.*

Stopping in Cape Town for a couple of days, I contacted the badminton people there and they gave me the enclosed copy of their activity book that they print every year. You will note that there are 29 badminton clubs in that one western province, alone.

They have built a lovely hall in which to play, on land leased to them for \$1 dollar a year by the City. They call it the John Tyers Hall. There are four or five courts in it and it is used exclusively for badminton all of

the time. Once a week from the first of April until the end of September it seems as though four clubs play each other (their winter months). Now we can not get up anything like that in any small area in the U.S., other than perhaps Southern California.

But, the idea occurs to me that the USBA should stress intercity badminton matches throughout the U.S. These things can be a lot of fun and it increases the activity. It provides more tournament type play, and has to enhance the game.

Before World War II, New Orleans, Shreveport and Birmingham had an intercity relationship, and even though we only made the trip once a year to each city, nevertheless, it was a great deal of fun. It was on a more relaxed basis than a tournament would be, but

nevertheless, the play was always serious and hard.

We need to do something to increase interest among our own players and I suggest that this should be one way of doing it.

**Editors Comment:** *Our thanks to Mr. Caffery, who has brought to our attention a system of competition that exists in almost every badminton-playing country in the world. It is time that it also exist here in the United States.*

*For our readers information, Los Angeles started an intracity format last year and it was highly successful. Also, for the last two years the Southern California Badminton Association has hosted a California interclub tournament between the San Diego Badminton Club, the Manhattan Beach Badminton Club, the Pasadena Badminton Club, and the Northern California Badminton Association.*



# THE BULGARIAN CONNECTION

BY: BOB COOK

Badminton or not, traveling behind the iron curtain figured to be different. So without hesitation I accepted the Bulgarian Badminton Federation's invitation to bring a team to Haskovo International Tournament, the kickoff event in celebration of the town's 1000th anniversary.

Originally the team consisted of 8-10 members, but lack of bucks, visa problems and cold feet pruned us down to Chuck and Diana Linden, my wife Ana, and myself. And we even gave up when the Bulgarian Consulate would not issue us visas even with our official letters. But with tickets bought and vacation arranged, we decided to proceed to Europe anyway and visit other countries.

Chuck and Diana took off for Greece while Ana and I dug up long lost aunts and uncles in Yugoslavia. After a week we met up with the Lindens in southern Yugoslavia and we headed toward Bulgaria.

The border official was friendly but quite concerned that we didn't have visas. We pleaded our desperate cause. After a few phone calls and much discussion, he produced some 24 hour passes. So, on we sped to the capitol, Sophia, and to the hotel where we hopefully would meet our Bulgarian connection, Dr. Pusan Kassabian. To us, however,

he was Puegot the free-wheeling Bulgarian who seemed to pop up at every major badminton event in the United States during 1984.

Since all the road signs were written with Cyrillic alphabet and our maps were in Latin, we formed a linguistic combat team. While one person spotted and recorded signs, the second translated the symbols into the Latin alphabet. After receiving the new names the navigator plotted the route and gave

instructions to the driver. Even so, we made an unplanned tour of the city before arriving at our destination. But wait, the hotel had been leveled.

We eventually found another hotel, but our lack of visas aroused their suspicion. Begrudgingly they gave us rooms, but for one night only. We felt lost and very uncomfortable. And things didn't improve when we shelled out \$26 dollars for cokes and stale sandwiches. Furthermore, the







*Colorful opening ceremonies*

waitress shortchanged us. We tried locating Peugeot but the language barrier was too formidable. We just had to hope he would find us.

The \$101 dollars per night rooms were rather basic, but they did come with a jackhammer wakeup the next morning. Unhappy and nervous we readied ourselves to get out of town and back to Yugoslavia.

A hand stretched out. "Welcome my friends."

"Peugeot!" From that point on the trip changed. We were chauffeured

and pampered, wined and dined. For the next week we vegetated. Peugeot ran around, worried, argued and organized. We doubted that he ever slept. And we were sure that he must know personally every citizen of Bulgaria. To walk down the street with him was like going through an endless reception line at a wedding.

Besides having a unique language and alphabet, Bulgaria has a different time measurement. Roughly speaking 6.5 Bulgarian minutes equai one U.S. minute. So, when Peugeot said he would be back in 10 minutes, we could depend on

him being back in 65 minutes according to our American watches.

Being the first Americans to compete in a badminton tournament in Bulgaria (and probably anywhere behind the Iron Curtain) we were the hottest news story in town. We took the opportunity to meet party officials and civic leaders. They fed us an ample diet of people to people speeches, friendship slogans, and peace and brotherhood salutations. But behind it all, radiated a sincerity and warmth which made the whole trip

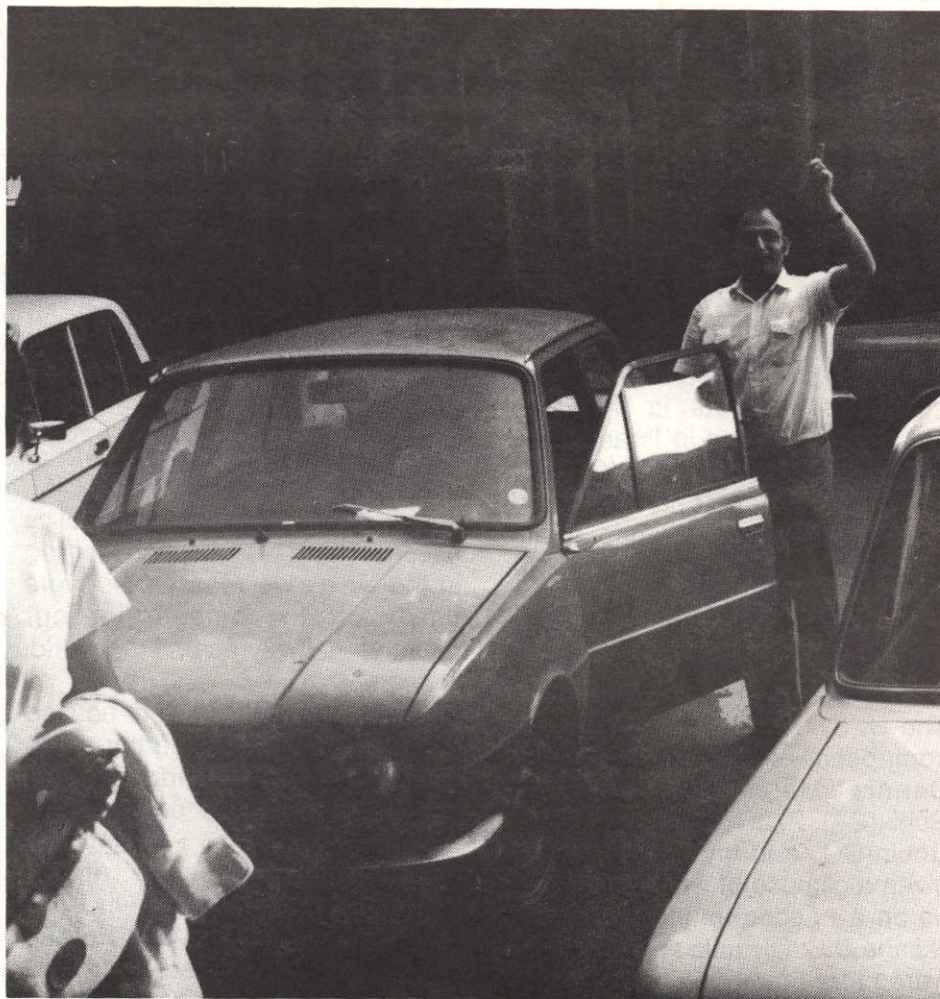


worthwhile. From the border guard to the district party secretary they all demonstrated the good natured qualities we recognized in Puget.

The team competition was divided into 2 groups of four teams. Chuck and I practiced with the junior team from Denmark and rejoiced that these little badminton machines were in the other group. Since we did not have enough players for a complete American team, we added some Bulgarians.

Against the Hungarian national team we lost 6-1 with only Chuck and me winning first doubles. Against the host team from Haskovo we appeared to have a good chance. In #1 singles I ran off to a 12-3 lead in the first game before my 3 weeks of traveling showed. I came to a gasping halt. Chuck lasted better as he puffed to a 13-5 lead in his third game, but he too sputtered to a standstill.

By late afternoon the unventilated gym pushed the thermometer to well over 100 degrees as we faced the weak Polish team. Prospects did not look bright after the Poles won the opening two mixed matches. Not accustomed to the



*"Welcome my friends!"*

heat their singles competitors melted on the courts as we won all five singles to gain a 5-2 lead. Their #1 doubles team offered some resistance to Chuck and me, But we were able to wrap them up in two games and nail down our only team victory.

The following day we played in the senior competition while the Danes were dismantling the Hungarians for the team trophy. Ana and I struggled past the Danish mixed team but we lost 15-7 and 15-2 to a strong Bulgarian team in the finals. In the doubles final Chuck and I enjoyed playing the ever combative Puget and his brother. And we enjoyed it even more when we won 15-9, 15-13.

We'd had enough badminton so we passed up the open competition and the closing ceremonies to push on to Paris. After a week of planned activities we felt relieved to once again be off on our own. The recrossing of the border proved to be sticky but not because of no visas. Our hosts had reimbursed us for the hotel and meals on that first day. We found nothing that we cared to buy, so we tried to exchange the currency back into dollars. The authorities looked at our receipts and concluded that we must have dealt on the black market. After much hand waving and some hot exchanges we finally ended up getting Deutsch marks and getting back to the world of junk food and a free press.

*Bob and Chuck Linden in action*



# THE MACCABIAH GAMES



BY DAVID LEVIN

This July, for the first time, the United States fielded a badminton squad to compete in the 12th Maccabiah Games in Israel. The Maccabiah Games hold an Olympic sanction and are open to world Jewry. This year's Games were the largest ever, attracting 4,200 athletes from 32 countries to compete in 35 different sports. The competition took 12 days.

The U. S. badminton squad was composed of Alex Berks(CA), Dennis Metz(CA), Danny Rubin(CA), Paul Rubin(CA), Regina Rubin(CO) and myself. We were given a glimpse of what it is like to be on a national multi-sport team like the U.S. Olympic squad. There were more than 500 U.S. athletes, trainers, and coaches in our contingent.

The U.S. team assembled at Rutgers University in New Jersey on July 12th to participate in a pre-camp.

Two days later, 10 buses left for JFK airport in New York City, complete with our own state police escort. There was a special feeling in the air as we realized we were finally off to compete for our country, halfway across the world.

In Israel, the athletes were housed by sport rather than country. This allowed special friendships to develop across the political and national spectrum. Badminton players were housed at the Maccabiah Village in Tel Aviv. The other countries which fielded badminton teams were Canada, Denmark, England, France, India, Israel, and Sweden.

We had a few days of practice before the opening ceremonies to get accustomed to the courts. The competition took place in a new sports stadium in Ashdod, and badminton was the first event ever to be held there. It was quite hot and humid, which eventually was a benefit to the U.S. squad because we adapted better than the European players.

The opening ceremonies were very exciting. All the athletes marched in together. As we entered the stadium, 50,000 cheering fans greeted us. It also was a special moment for the U.S. athletes because of the genuine affection the Israeli people show for Americans. And, when fellow American Mark Spitz entered the stadium as the torch bearer for The Games, it was icing on the cake.

The badminton team competition began the next day, with the U.S. squad drawing the defending gold medalists, England. The English squad apparently was cocky, thinking the U.S. players would be an easy mark. Playing #1 mens singles for the U.S., I didn't dispel their impression, being beaten badly by Stuart Spurling 15-2, 15-1. At the same time, Regina Rubin was losing to Debbie Freeman. England led 2-0.

*Squad members (lft to rt)*

*David "L'Chaim" Levin;*

*Daniel "Rosh Hashanah" Rubin;*

*Dennis "Maccabiah" Metz;*

*"Matzo" Paul Rubin;*

*Alex "Bagel" Berks*







## --MEDALS FOR THE U.S.--

Playing #2 mens singles for the U.S. was Danny Rubin. Rubin played exceptionally well against David Spurling, a higher calibre player with far more experience, and split the first two sets. Danny could not muster the same level in the tiebreaker, however, and Spurling walked away with the match 15-2 in the third set. Dennis Metz, playing #3 mens singles for the U.S., had no trouble with his English opponent and won his match. England now led 3-1.

The next match was the most spectacular of the six days of play. The Spurling brothers teamed to go for the clinching 4th match for the English squad. The Spurlings are a men's doubles team with extensive international experience in Europe.

They have played well in both the All Englands and the Victor Cup in recent years. Playing for the U.S. were Alex Berks and Paul Rubin, former national boy's doubles champions. No one gave the U.S. team much of a chance, except themselves. But they played brilliantly and did themselves and their country proud. After losing the first game, Alex and Paul won the next two games and the match. Berks, who is 6'6" tall, smashed with power and angle while Rubin, playing the front court, bounced shot after shot off the tartan floor on the opposition's side. By the end of the match, the Spurlings were talking to themselves and had no idea as to what hit them.

Danny Rubin and his sister Regina then made short work of their

opponents in mixed doubles. Although this tied the match at 3-3, we had to default the ladies doubles, giving the match, 4-3, to England.

The battle between the United States and England turned out to be the "gold medal" match as both teams were undefeated in the rest of the competition. The bronze was grabbed by France, India, and Canada who combined forces to compete as a squad. The team competition proved just a warmup for the individual events, which began the next day.

In the men's singles quarter finals, Danny Rubin played the best match of his life to defeat Stuart Spurling in two straight games 18-16, 15-10. Spurling is ranked in the top 20 in England, which makes Danny's





DAVID

win all the more spectacular. While Danny was beating Stuart, his brother Paul played brilliantly on the adjacent court before succumbing to David Spurling 18-15, 18-16.

The next morning Danny was not able to duplicate his spectacular play, losing to me in three games, 11-15, 15-3, 15-11. However when I squared off against Denmark in the finals, it was no contest. Kim Levin won easily, 15-0, 15-3. Kim is an outstanding player of international calibre who won a qualifying berth in this years All Englands. His presence at the Maccabiah Games lent a lot of class to the tournament, as well as demonstrating a calibre of play never before seen in Israel.



DANNY

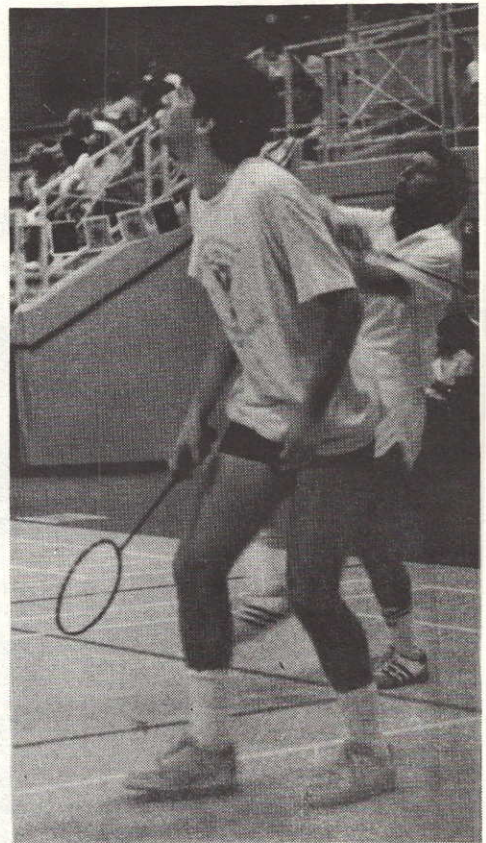
Danny and Paul Rubin weren't able to pull off the same upset in the men's doubles final that Alex and Paul had in the team competition. However even though Paul was violently ill and running a fever, the brothers Rubin still pushed the brothers Spurling to the limit before losing 15-9, 18-17. With Paul healthy, it might have been a different story.

Dennis Metz and Regina Rubin pulled off the final U.S. upset of the tournament, beating Stuart Spurling and Sarah Shulton 15-10, 10-15, 15-8. Dennis and Regina played the toughest match of their lives for the biggest stakes in their badminton careers. It paid off handsomely as they brought home the only U.S. gold medal in badminton.



DENNIS

The tournament was a great success, thanks not only to the international competitors but also to many other people as well. At least three deserve special mention: Keith Hawthorne, deputy referee in charge of the qualifying rounds at the All Englands, who mediated many major conflicts and ran an outstanding event as the tournament referee.

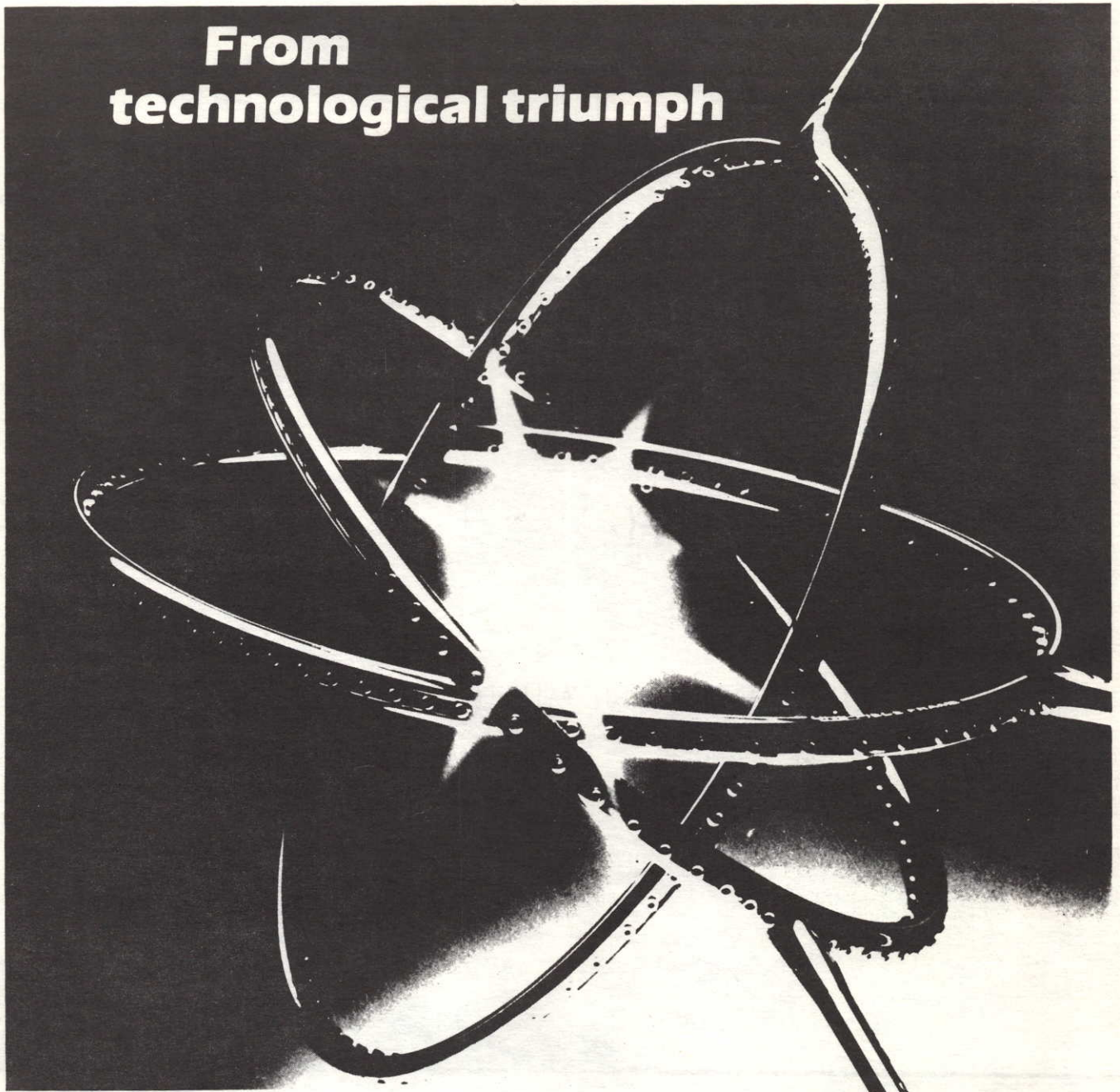


Larry Gazley, from General Sportcraft Co., who was responsible for outfitting the U.S. squad with competitive uniforms so we looked like a national team. And finally Bill Berks, badminton sports chairman who, with all his dedicated efforts, made it possible for the United States to field a badminton squad.

**Parents, do take note!  
Arrangements are in progress to incorporate junior badminton in the 1989 Maccabiah Games.**



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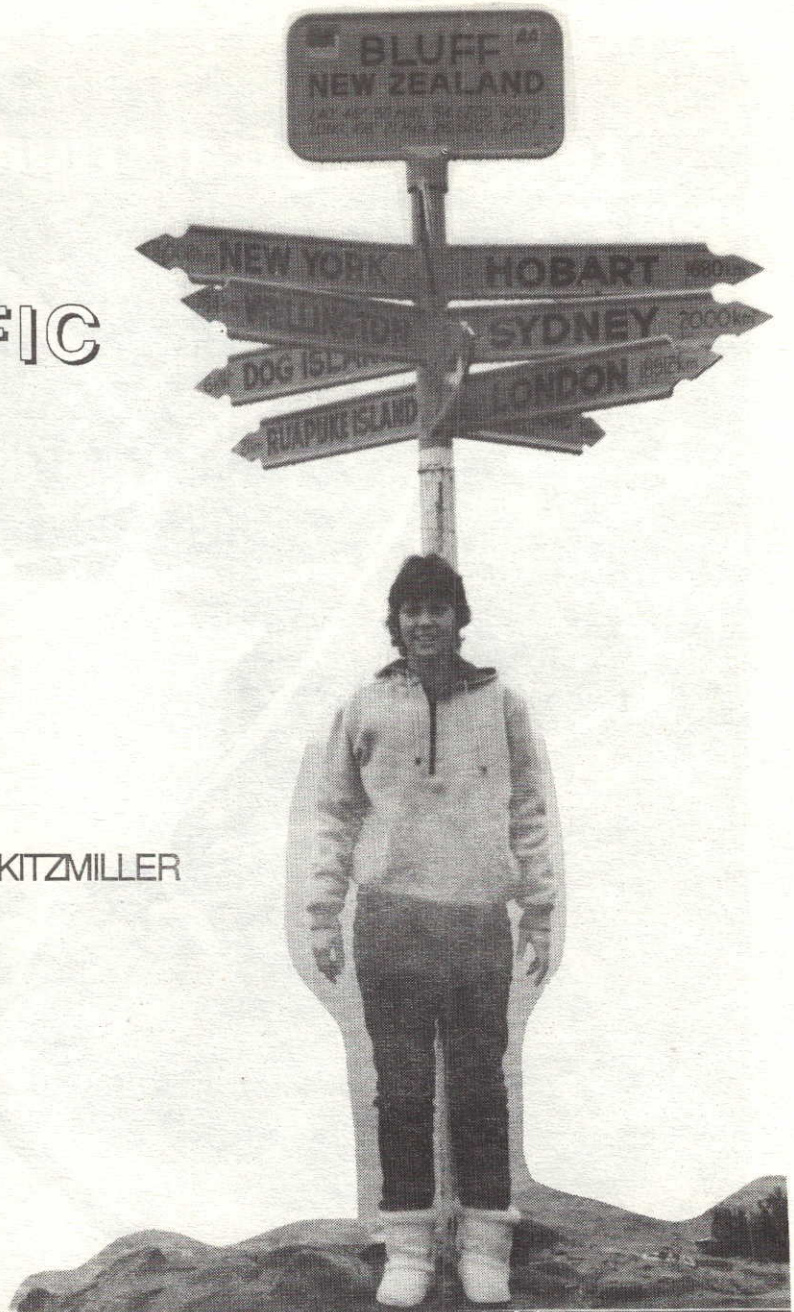


# SOUTH PACIFIC

## MAGIC -

## - U.S. TOUR

REPORTED BY JOY KITZMILLER



Who can resist the lure of a month in exotic New Zealand, starting with a side trip to Fiji? Certainly not an intrepid squad of U.S. badminton players. Even after the long flight from home, we were raring to go.

The U.S. Team included myself, Celeste Ferrer (CA), Ann French (AZ), Linda French (AZ), Barbara McKinley (MA), John Britton (CA), Gary Higgins (CA), Kevin Hussey (IL), Chris Jogis (AZ), and Jim Poole (CA) as player/coach. Minus Linda and Ann French, the rest of us first went to Fiji for a short 4 day tour of the islands.

However, the Fijian badminton players made our stay in Fiji far less relaxing than the travel brochures portray!

When we arrived in Fiji at 5:30 am June 20, they whisked us off to our billets for a quick shower and breakfast and then sent us to a picture-perfect paradise called Beachcomber Island. Its circumference could be covered in a 20 minute walk. After seeing the island in its entirety, we still had all day to kill. Gary Higgins tried snorkling, but his encounter with a five-foot shark convinced the rest of us to rule out that

activity. The only thing left to do besides sea shell inspection was play volleyball, so we proceeded to sacrifice our bodies to the coral bits in the sand.

None of us had seen a bed for 38 hours, and we were more than a bit tired after our day on Beachcomber. Nevertheless, the Fijian badminton crew (predominantly of Indian descent) were zealous to enjoy their opportunity to play the U.S. team. Thus we spent the next four hours around a single court, mixing and matching two Indians and two americans at a time. I think we must have played every possible



combination, and eventually our exhaustion was reduced to a dull ache. The caliber of the Fijians would merit a "C" or "D" rating in the States. They also used nylon shuttles, which threw most of us off a bit.

Most of the homes in which we stayed on Fiji had no hot water and no refrigeration. However, the families treated us very well, and we were all fairly comfortable. Chris Jogis enjoyed the special privilege of getting to shower with a tarantula.

We eventually got to play Fiji's "National" team, which consisted of Chinese, Malaysian, and Australian players who live in the city of Suva. They played as well as some "B" or "C" players in the States, and they even used feather shuttles.

Then it was on to New Zealand. We spent the first week of our tour in Auckland, New Zealand's largest city. Housing was provided by several gracious members of the Gillies Avenue Badminton Hall, where we practiced. Our first tie was on Tuesday, June 25th, with the Waitemata Badminton Hall (a suburb of Auckland). Everyone played singles and mixed, since there were five matches in each of those categories. We also played two women's and two men's doubles. We won the tie 15-4, losing most of the mixed matches.

Some kind of flu incapacitated me for five days, but life went on and on Thursday, the team played and lost to a Gillies Avenue mixture of top players and good players. On Friday and Saturday at the Northshore Tournament (another Auckland suburb), John and Ann won the mixed, and Chris won the men's singles, putting an international title under his belt. From what I heard, the tournament's real highlight was the party on Saturday night.

We drove to Rotorua the next morning. It is the equivalent of Yellowstone National Park and is quite a spectacular sight, if one can stand the smell of sulfur. After beating the Rotorua team quite handily, we did some sightseeing and then took a gondola up a nearby mountain. Curving steeply down the mountainside was a cement path, and for two bucks one could ride a plastic cart down this freestyle rollercoaster at speeds up to 45 mph, with no protection! I wiped out about four times and was completely covered in mud when we left.

We returned to Auckland on Tuesday, July 2, for the New Zealand International Invitational, which started that night. There was no mixed doubles event. The players were divided up into round-robin groups, and the winners of these groups advanced to the semis. None of us got that far, except for John and Gary, who were stars and a delight to all spectators. John and Gary eventually won the men's doubles and, although they played almost

flawlessly, their matches were mighty close. The men's singles was won by the Chinese-Aussie player Cze Yu, the women's singles by New Zealand's number one Tony Whittaker, and the women's doubles by Jane Clark and Karen Phillips.

On the day after the tournament (Sunday, July 7th), we had our international tie with New Zealand's National Team. We lost 10-3. Chris beat Graham Robson (finalist in the tournament), I beat Tony Whittaker, and Chris and I teamed together to beat Phil Horn and Tony Whittaker in the mixed.

Early on Monday, we flew to Wanganui, a city in the south western section of the North Island. Upon arriving, we were driven to Graham Feast's sheep farm, and after eating enough food for an army, we all had a go at sheep shearing. The sheep looked quite skinny and pathetic after being shorn. They were no longer "potatoes with legs."



*Can we give you a lift?*



On Tuesday, we visited a small museum and then a winery. For some strange reason, there was a trampoline on the winery's lawn, and the athletic Kevin Hussey gave a spectacular demonstration. John Britton subsequently had a go at it but was more comical than successful.

That afternoon we visited the Wanganui Woolen Mill, where we saw everything in wool processing from cleaning to combing, and spinning to weaving. Because we took a tour of the place, we were able to buy blankets and some clothing factory-direct. We all bought at least two pullover pure-wool jackets each, thus acquiring new team "uniforms".

That night we played and beat the Wanganui team, although we dropped a few matches.

On Wednesday (7/10) we flew to Dunedin on the south eastern side of the South Island. Celeste and I got to stay at an old dairy farm (with just sheep now and no cows), which was a fun experience. We played Dunedin on Thursday in a gymnasium so cold that the shuttles only went about half-court when tested. We shut them out, nevertheless. On Friday we had a tour of Speights Brewery and did a bit of beer-tasting, although we all had matches scheduled that night at the Southland Open in Invercargill.

The results of that tournament were impressive for the U.S. team. Chris won the singles, John and Gary the doubles, and Ann teamed with John to capture the mixed. I had the dubious title of triple-crown runner-up, teamed with Barbara McKinley in doubles and Chris in mixed.

Because our next match was not until Thursday, July 18, we had a few days free. So we drove from Invercargill to New Zealand's main tourist attraction, Queenstown to spend a couple of days. Besides shopping the highlight of our excursion was an exciting speed boat trip down the river. The boat

went so fast that the cold wind off the water gave one a headache.

While the rest of the crew stayed another day in Queenstown, I traveled back to Invercargill on Tuesday to see the southernmost part of the habitable world. It is at 46.5 degrees latitude, second only to the tip of South America in being close to the South Pole.

We played Wellington, New Zealand's capital, on Thursday, July 18, and won the match 10-0. Wellington is the "windy city" of New Zealand, with the wind over 40 knots 200 days of the year, and over 60 knots on 100 of them.

We returned to Auckland on Friday and played our second and final tie with the New Zealand team on Saturday. They had switched their team around significantly. Linda French played #2 singles and scored a good win over their top junior player, Lynne Bignall.

Barbara McKinley had been improving throughout the tour and was in top form along with Celeste Ferrer. They beat Lynne Bignall and Katrin Lockey in the #2 doubles. However, overall we fared no better than in our previous tie and lost 10-3.

After a wonderful lamb dinner and party, it was all over, we were to leave on Sunday. Although we were tired of traveling and anxious to get home, we had made a lot of good friends, and it was sad to leave. The "Kiwis" (New Zealanders) were incredible hosts and wonderful people. We would miss their hospitality and all the friends we had made. I know that I will return someday.

Another great aspect of the tour was getting to know the U.S. players better. We always see each other for short periods of time, but we never really get to know each other. Our tour was the best opportunity to do just that.



*A happy, if rather chilled, U.S. team.*





# BADMINTON DEBUTS AT THE WORLD GAMES FOR THE DEAF

—BY CASSANDRA SALAPATAS-METZ—

The competition was intense -- but the gym was nearly as silent throughout the matches as it was several hours later when the hundreds of athletes, coaches, officials and spectators had gone and I was all alone.

During the first week of July, Los Angeles hosted the 15th World Games for the Deaf. I was privileged to help out, especially since badminton was on the agenda for the first time in the 90-year history of the competition.

The Games were very impressive.

In addition to badminton, the other sports included basketball, track and field events, wrestling, and waterpolo, all held at facilities throughout the Los Angeles area. The athletes were housed at UCLA and Pepperdine University.

More than 3,000 hearing-impaired competitors, representing 41 countries, participated in the two weeks of competition. Badminton teams were fielded by Canada, Denmark, England, Italy, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, and the USA.

They call the games the "Deaf Olympics." And just like last year's U.S. Olympic Games, there were opening and closing

ceremonies, colorful flags and banners, and the awarding of medals.



*Lovely singles winner, Bente Anderson*

For deaf athletes, team sports can be especially tough. In playing doubles for instance, explained English badminton coach Ray Leathley, the players must rely completely on sight to know when the bird is hit, where it's headed, and where their partner is.

And loss of hearing may affect equilibrium, and thus impair quickness. However, the athletes showed outstanding talent and skills in concentration, especially in singles, where the quality of play was quite high.

The English dominated the tourney in both the men's singles and

doubles and mixed doubles, but in women's doubles they took a back seat to a couple of New Zealanders.

The ladies singles competition also provided a surprise in Bente Anderson of Norway, who won convincingly.

Anderson is one of the few deaf athletes to compete in the hearing world as well. She trains and plays in Oslo, and currently is Norway's "18 and under" and "16 and under" junior singles champion.

The Games taught me something not only about smooth and fluid play, but also about smooth and fluid communications.

Not having any knowledge of sign language or working with the deaf made the Games as challenging for me as for the athletes.

How does one call the score, or explain a footfault, or test shuttles to the players' satisfaction? Believe me, it wasn't easy!

During a match it was also amazing to see the sideline coaching done using sign language.

Sign language itself is not a universal language, so American interpreters had a difficult time. After the first day, however, all of us scorekeepers and line judges, as well as the coaches and players themselves settled down to an acceptable if not amiable understanding



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# THE WORLD MASTER GAMES

by Bob Cook

For us old suckers this was our Olympic Games. Indeed, for many of the 22 sports being staged in Toronto, the participants measured up to world class standards and their performances were impressive, especially in badminton.

Men's 40-and-over singles and doubles attracted superb players from India, Denmark, Taiwan and Thailand. They easily snuffed out the home grown talent. However, the 50 and 60 divisions were just another Canadian Senior Open.

For 20 years, Jorgen Mortensen has been a top Danish and world class player. So it was no surprise when he made it to the finals of 40 singles, giving up no more than 5 points in any one game on the way. He was matched against the current All-England Masters Champion, Prahdan of India, who reached the finals in almost as impressive a manner.

Prahdan built a substantial early 14-7 lead with effortlessly smooth and deceptive shots. But, at that point, Mortensen began concentrating on getting shots back and lengthening the rallies. Prahdan wilted immediately and Mortensen mopped up 17-14, 15-2.

In 40 doubles, Mortensen teamed with fellow countryman and 5-time All-England champion Erland Kops. It was great seeing the 50-plus year old Kops playing with the "youngster," though they would lose to the All-England Masters Champions, Prahdan and Natekar of India in the semis, 18-17, 15-11.

The doubles finals found the Indians facing the ever youthful Thai team of Channarong and Raphi, who had barely survived a 3-game duel against another Thai team. The

Indians quickness and shot placement found quite a match in the superb defensive game of the Thais. Prahdan's strong hitting was quite an asset in the first game, but weakened as the match progressed. The third game was dead even at 10-10 when Raphi began anticipating softer shots by the Indians and cutting them off at the net, to ensure the Thai victory.

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***"On paper it looked like a cinch for Jim Poole in the final... 60+ U.S. and Canadian titles and 30 years experience appeared to be more than a match for Canadian astronaut Ken Money."***

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On paper it looked like a cinch for Jim Poole in the 50 Men's singles final. Poole's 60+ U.S. and Canadian senior titles and 30 years of experience appeared to be more than a match for Canadian astronaut Ken Money.

Money began playing seriously just two years ago at the age of 48. Despite goofy footwork, novice level strokes, and atrocious court position, Ken had run down each of his "better" opponents in 3-gamers to reach the finals. Apparently his three hours a day, seven days a week training regime, and his ability to hit with either hand had proved decisive.

As expected, Poole handled Money easily in the first game 15-6, and continued his dominance to 9-2 in

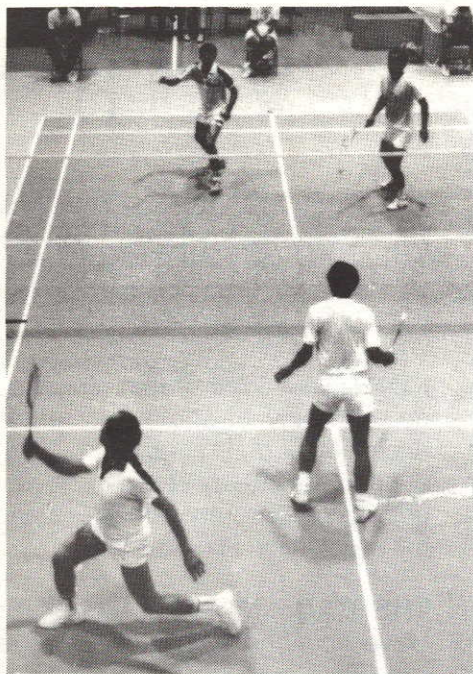
the second. Then, the noticeably puffing Poole allowed Money to creep within 2 at 11-9. After his third towel wipe, however, Poole turned on his smash and just hit through his inexperienced opponent for the match.

Poole, and his partner, Abdul Shaikh of Canada, also claimed the 50 doubles. In the finals against the Indian team of Natekar and Bopardikar, Shaikh provided the work in the early going while Poole rested up from his singles. Poole then dominated to the victorious end.

In the Mixed, Poole teamed with Joyce Jones of Seattle. Although the Canadians extended the match to three games, the result seemed inevitable. For both Poole and Jones, it was their third crown of the tournament.

In grand masters doubles, Jones teamed with Canadian Claire Bowyer to repeat their Canadian Open win. In the singles final she met her nemesis and perpetual champion Dorothy Tinline. In their previous nine meetings Jones had managed only one close win. This time though, Tinline was the tournament director and her mind was elsewhere. Jones easily pocketed the gold medal 15-3, 15-0.





*Channarong and Raphi on their way.*



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### 40 men -- 35 women

MS: J. Mortensen (Den) d. A. Pradhan (India) 17-15, 15-2  
 WS: J. Youngberg (Can) d. S. Gogte (India) 15-6, 15-0  
 MD: Ratanaseangsuang, Kanchanaraphi (Thailand) d. Natekar, Pradhan (India) 12-15, 15-7, 15-10  
 WD: Cousins, Youngberg (Can) d. Gadd, Saunders (Can) 15-2, 15-9  
 MX: Sukanake, Gadd (Thai, Can) d. McDougall, Saunders (Can) 15-11, 15-12

### 50 men -- 45 women

MS: J. Poole (USA) d. K. Money (Can) 15-6, 15-9  
 WS: S. Gadd (Can) d. A. Kotwal (India) 15-0, 15-0  
 MD: Poole, Shaikh (USA, Can) d. Natekar, Bopardikar (Ind) 18-15, 15-9  
 WD: Salazar, Gadd (Peru, Can) d. Tinline, Bowyer (Can) 15-2, 15-2  
 MX: Poole, Jones (USA) d. Shaikh, Kallweit (Can) 10-15, 15-5, 15-12

### 60 men -- 55 women

MS: K. Grierson (Can) d. D. Smythe (Can) 17-14, 7-15, 15-1  
 WS: J. Jones (USA) d. D. Tinline (Can) 15-3, 15-0  
 MD: Adams, Grierson (Can) d. Graham, MacPherson (Can) 15-4, 17-14  
 WD: Jones, Bowyer (USA, Can) d. Tinline, Hoffman (Can, USA) 12-15, 15-7, 15-5  
 MX: Grierson, Hoffman (Can, USA) d. Graham, Tinline (Can) 15-7, 4-15, 15-5



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# AN INTERVIEW WITH

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Born 32 years ago in Chicago, Illinois, Bruce Pontow has for 20 years consistently contended for, and captured, national badminton titles. His success, especially in Men's Doubles, has continued into the international arena.

**THE BADMINTON MAGAZINE:** How did you get started playing badminton?

**PONTOW:** I began playing badminton in 1958 or 1959. I was about seven years old. My mother had been a member of a Chicago Park District club and probably brought me with her because she couldn't afford a babysitter.

Actually my early training came from constant practice against the living room wall. I should also mention Chicago area names like Thelma Burdick, Ron Buck, Harold Deeman, Joe Paich, Tony Sturm, and others all of whom were helpful in starting me in badminton.

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*"I'm a highly competitive person. I hate to lose, and avoid it as often as I can"*

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**THE BADMINTON MAGAZINE:** To what do attribute your success in badminton?

**PONTOW:** If anyone begins playing a sport at a pre-teen age, the chances for success are very high. The only players I know who began as young as I did are Pam Brady and

Charley Coakley. I can remember competing against both of them in the 13-and-under age group.

I also admit that I'm a highly competitive person. I hate to lose, and avoid it as often as I can. Finally I've had some success because I've had excellent partners over the years, partners like Ron Buck, Mike Adams, Pam Brady, Matt Fogarty, and Don Paup.

**THE BADMINTON MAGAZINE:** What have been your achievements in badminton?

**PONTOW:** As a junior, I won five national titles, and as an adult I have won four national titles. All of the wins have been in doubles and mixed doubles. I have also played on two Thomas Cup teams and a Pan American team.

**THE BADMINTON MAGAZINE:** Why do you enjoy playing badminton?

**PONTOW:** First, badminton is an individual sport. I never liked football in high school because of the frustration that comes with accepting other people's mistakes. I think some people prefer to have their fate decided by their own performance.

Second, badminton is one of the great sports of the world. It requires a sprinter's speed, a distance runner's endurance, a batter's reflexes and eye-hand coordination, a dancer's footwork, a tennis player's power, and a golfer's stroke and touch. It also helps to be smart. Few sports demand such an array of abilities.

**THE BADMINTON MAGAZINE:** How would you characterize yourself as a player?

**PONTOW:** Well, I think I have a good variety of shots and a little deception. I don't smash very hard, but I do defend the smash well. My best assets are my quickness and my anticipation in doubles.

**THE BADMINTON MAGAZINE:** Have you had any success as a coach?

**PONTOW:** I coached badminton for seven years at Oak Forest High School. My teams finished as high as fourth and seventh in Illinois and first in our conference six of seven years.

**THE BADMINTON MAGAZINE:** What do you do for your career?

**PONTOW:** I am a high school English teacher. My courses this semester are American Lit for juniors, sophomore composition, and freshman Introduction to Writing and Literature. I teach at Oak Forest High School.

**THE BADMINTON MAGAZINE:** How did you meet your wife Monica?

**PONTOW:** I met Monica when she returned to Oak Forest High School to visit a coach. This volleyball coach, Mary Leach, introduced us telling me that Monica had played badminton at the school and had a record of 48 and 1. Of course, I asked her to play with me in the gym the next day.

Her badminton wasn't great but her legs were. One day when I was going home from work, I realized she had followed me. It occurred to





*Bruce and wife Monica*

## — BRUCE PONTOW —

me then that she liked me too. How bold!

**THE BADMINTON MAGAZINE:** Do you have any future goals in badminton?

**PONTOW:** I'm not ready to retire just yet. I would like to represent the USA on one more Thomas Cup team. That means remaining as the first or second best men' doubles team in the country.

Also, badminton will be an exhibition sport in the 1988 Olympics and a full medal sport in 1992. I'll be 35 in 1988. Who knows?

**THE BADMINTON MAGAZINE:** What was your greatest moment in badminton?

**PONTOW:** In the 1976 U.S. Nationals I played with Don Paup. It was my first open nationals and I was about 23. Don, of course, is a legend in American badminton. He asked me to play in the nationals even though we had never played together before. My greatest moment in badminton came when Don and I played the number one ranked team in the semi-finals -- Poole and Walker.

The match went three games and was set in the third. I remember one point in the set that I thought was crucial. We had scored the first two points and in the volley for the third point I returned a smash by Walker poorly, blooming it up just over the net in front of Poole. Poole took a big swing and smashed the bird. It hit my racket and the shuttle hooked over the net

into the far corner of the court. Sheer luck.

But that shot put doubt into their faces and confidence into mine. Don and I won the match, and won the tournament the next day. No finals victory has given me as much satisfaction as that first big win in the '76 semis.

**THE BADMINTON MAGAZINE:** Which of your international wins were the most impressive?

**PONTOW:** In the last Thomas Cup Matt Fogarty and I played the number one teams from Taiwan, Canada, Japan, Mexico, and Nigeria. We won all of our matches except the one against Japan. We lost that match 11 in the third. In two Thomas Cups and one Pan



American Games my record representing the USA is 9 wins and 1 loss.

**THE BADMINTON MAGAZINE:** What international player has impressed you the most?

**PONTOW:** Suresh Goel, the Indian Champion in the late sixties, came to America for one year. He played all the tournaments in the Midwest. His wins included everyone in the world at that time including Joe Alston and Erland Kopps. His backhand seemed to defy physics and his deception was magic.

He probably was the last great player of the "stroke" era. When I played him I was 16 years old. I ran the wrong way on every shot, not lurched or stepped, but ran only to see the shuttle on the other side of the court. The great players of today like Frost and Han Jian are impressive, but they lack the graceful trickery of Suresh.

**THE BADMINTON MAGAZINE:** Do you have any special feelings about players of the past that you have known?

**PONTOW:** That question brings to mind one person I idolized when I was a young player. His name is Ted Moelhman. Young Ted was built to play badminton. He could run down smashes, he could leap across the entire diagonal of the court, he could walk to backhands, and he could smash thunderbolts. He was quick like a cat and shaped like a greyhound--no waist, but a surging rib-cage on long, skinny inhumanly quick legs.

When I got older the few players who could beat Ted in his prime told me of his weaknesses. I didn't care to hear about them really. Ted was faster than Poole, more powerful than Alston and nothing short of an inspiration to watch. He had a world class presence I wish all of you could have seen.

I have a similar awe for Don Paup. Don's mental grasp of the game, his precise execution, and his intense concentration were elements of his game I admired.

Pam Brady is a special person too. She was 11 and I was 12 when we first met. I remember one time several years later Ron Buck and I were housed at the Stocktons and we got to peek in Pammy's drawers just to see how things were "developing." As you might guess Pammy's bras didn't look quite like mom's back home, but we thought we'd try them on anyway. Just while I was standing in front of a mirror straightening the straps, in walked Pam's mother, Lynn. My jump cleared two twin beds and the width of a dresser.

I feel lucky to have grown up in badminton with so many fine people. Most of the readers will recognize my friends --my generation of players-- by their first names, people like Mike, Pam, Ron, Charley, Chris, Gary, Tracy, Sandy, Dickie, and Barbie. And

look how many of us are still hanging in there.

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***"Badminton is one of the great sports of the world. Few sports demand such an array of abilities"***

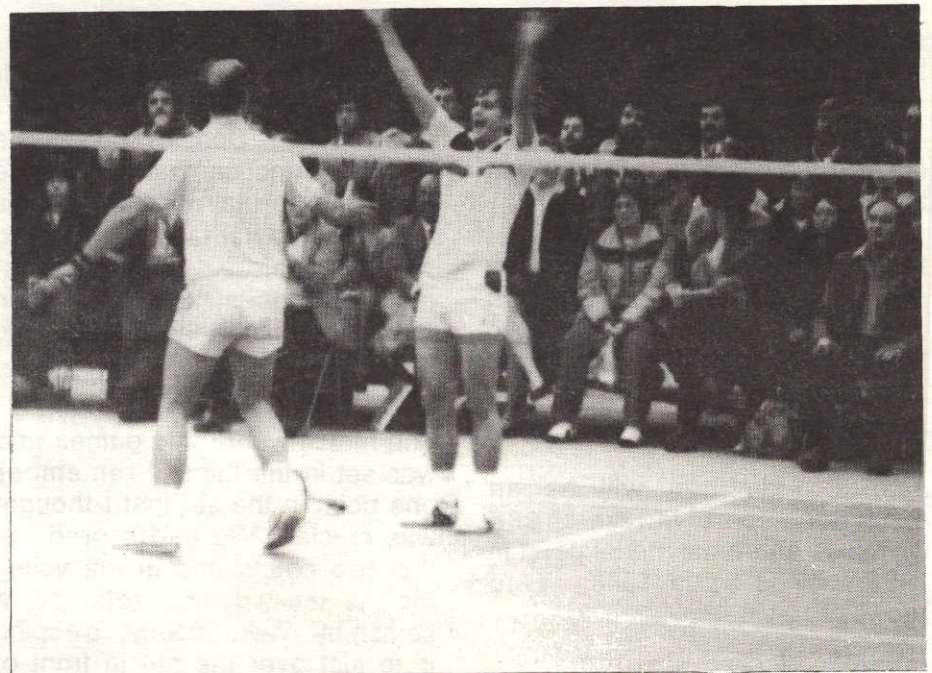
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**THE BADMINTON MAGAZINE:** What tip would you have for players just beginning to play badminton?

**PONTOW:** I would suggest two things. First, join a badminton club in your area. A new player can learn fast by watching and playing with the more experienced club members.

Second, enter local tournaments. There is no replacement for real competition as an incentive to improve.



*"How sweet it is !"*



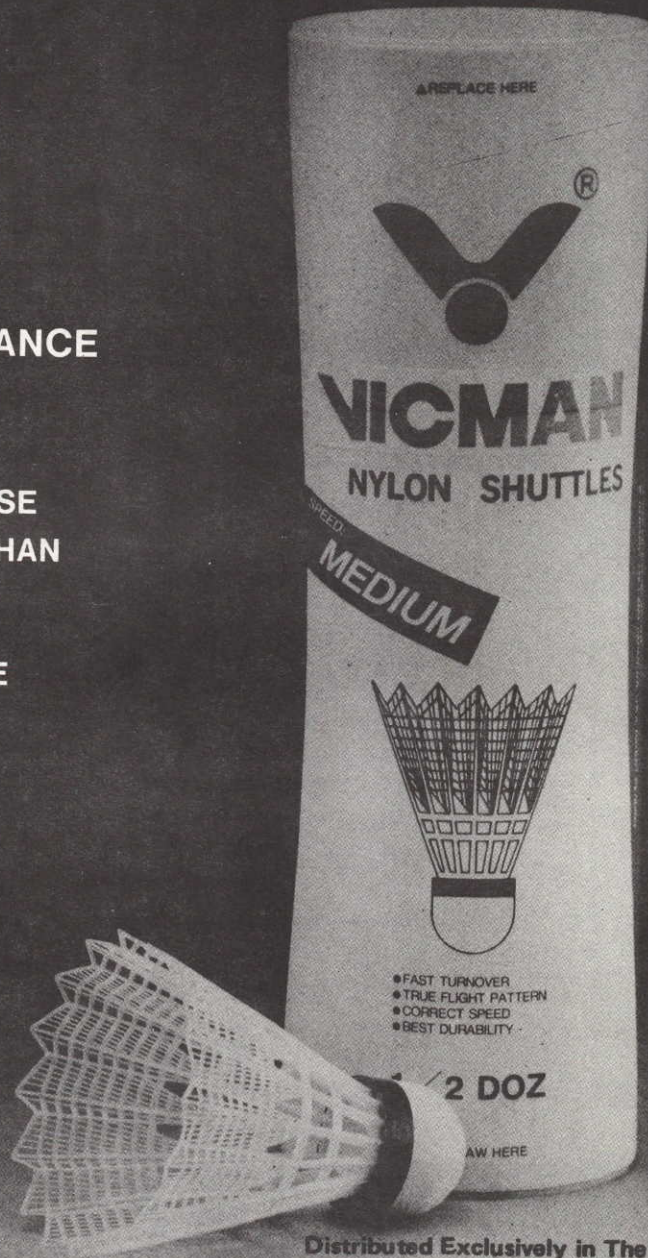
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# THE BADMINTON U.S. MEN'S



BARTON

**#1 Chrls Jogls (AZ),** age 20, holds the undisputed rights to a #1 ranking. Jogls exploded to the top by winning 5 major tournaments, including the Collegiate Nationals, New England Open and most notably, the U.S. National Men's Singles Championships. Continuing where he left off from his illustrious junior career, Jogls threatens to dominate U.S. Men's Singles for years to come.

**#2 Tony Alston (CA),** age 22, is perhaps the most skilled and certainly the fastest of the top players. Once again, however, he was unable to win some critical matches and secure the #1 ranking. Alston played up to his potential at the New Orleans Classic, taking the title by beating Gary Higgins and crushing Rodney Barton. But he lost to Barton in the semifinals of the U.S. Nationals the very next week. Alston's only other U.S. losses came at the hands of Jogis.

**#5 Kevin Hussey (IL),** 29, relying on physical conditioning and consistency, earned his highest ranking ever. Hussey's victories over Benny Lee and, most impressively, over Barton at the New England Open were very significant. Hussey beat Bob Gilmour and lost to Jogis at the U.S. Nationals and continues to be a top player at tournaments in the Midwest and on the East Coast.

**#6 Guy Chadwick (CA),** 28, won his first major title by beating Bob Gilmour at the Jim Poole Open and scored a revenge win over Benny Lee in their match at the U.S. Nationals. Perhaps the 1986 season will see Chadwick improve his game and challenge the highest ranked players.

JOGIS

HUSSEY

CHADWICK





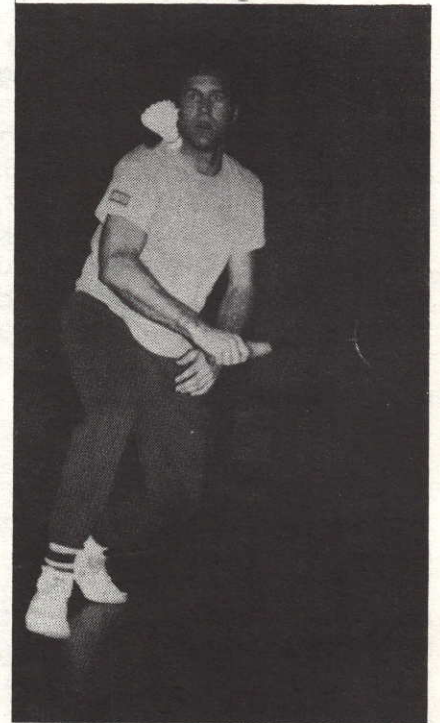
# MAGAZINE'S TOP 8 SINGLES PLAYERS

**#3 Rodney Barton (AZ)**, age 21, after earning back-to-back U.S. National Singles titles in 1983 and 1984 had a very shaky early season and was dethroned by Jogis. Barton came on strong at season end by grabbing the California State Championships title for the third year in a row and finishing as runnerup at both New Orleans and the U.S. Nationals. Two clutch victories over Gary Higgins were crucial for Barton's high ranking.

**#4 Gary Higgins (CA)**, age 33, confirmed his reputation for tremendous mental toughness with an amazing comeback after a serious achilles tendon injury. The 2-time Men's National Singles Champion captured the singles title at the Dave Freeman Open, including scoring a big win over Jogis. Higgins' only losses were tough 3-gamers to Alston and Barton. Injuries and age may prevent him from achieving #1 status in the future

**#7 Bob Gilmour (CA)**, 30, garnered his first major title at the Los Angeles Valley Grand Prix III. He moved into the limelight for the first time in his singles career by consistently being a finalist or semifinalist at West Coast tournaments and beating Benny Lee in their only meeting.

**#8 Benny Lee (AZ)**, age 20, is a very promising and talented young player. Despite victories over Jogis and other high ranked players, he is plagued by inconsistent results. But watch for Lee to continue his assault toward the top during 1986.

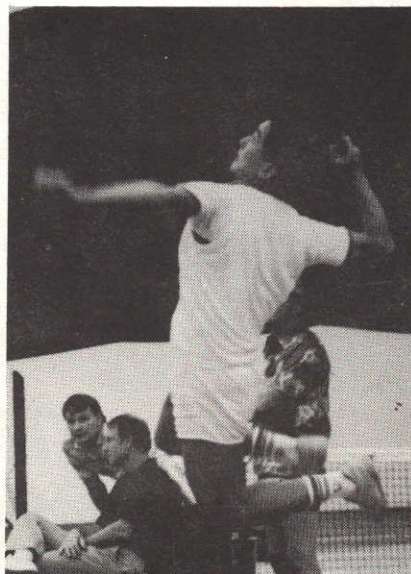
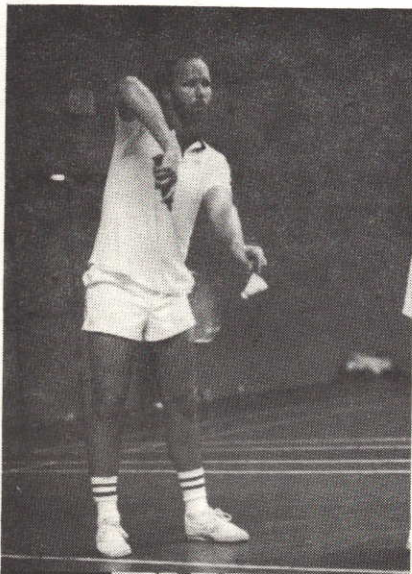


HIGGINS

ALSTON

GILMOUR

LEE





# TOUTZ LEADS UBER CUP HOPEFULS

For three days on a mid-August weekend, 18 of the top U.S. women's players were running, jumping, lifting weights, stroking the shuttle, and gutting out a grueling training schedule to prepare for the Uber Cup in 1986. The coaching staff of Vicki Toutz, Paisan, David Ogata, Hank Anderssohn and Diane Hales and team managers Ed Matanga and Richard Lira have been delighted with the work accomplished and the progress made.

The team includes: Tracy Britton, Cheryl Carton, Celeste Ferrer, Ann and Linda French, Erika Von Heiland, Mary Fran Hughes, Judi Kelly, Joy Kitzmiller, Terry Lira, Nancy Narcowich, Meiling Okuno, Monica Ortez, Pam Owens, Monica Pontow, Dawn Race, Madhavi Tijoriwala, and Gina Weber.

Shuttles were generously supplied by HL Sports and Sportcraft.

The squad put in 18 hours of intense training over the weekend. After stretching and exercising, the women concentrated on footwork drills and video taping forehand



The elite group

shots with the help of Fred Trifonoff. They also spent time analyzing video tapes of top international players in action.

The workout then continued with a series of drills on offense, defense, backhands, net play, and serves. A session of weight training was also included. Before it was over everyone was visibly tired, coaches included.

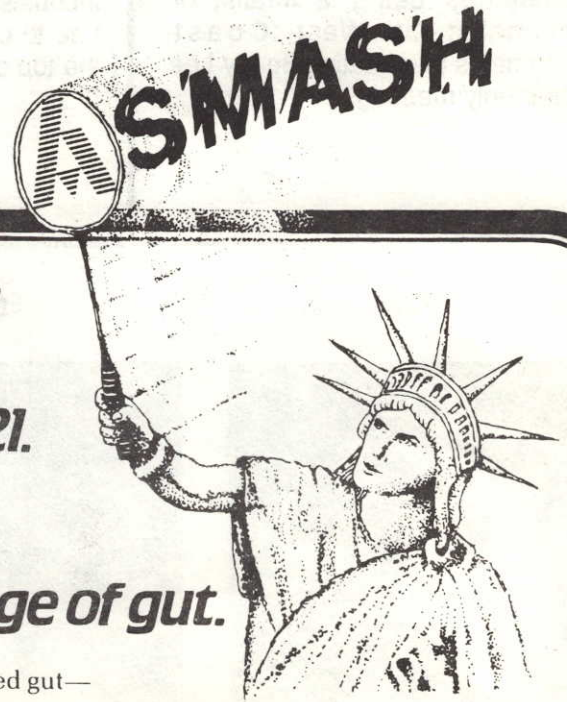
The final session included a singles ladder and doubles competition to help the women apply what they learned.

But it won't end there. Everyone went away knowing the improvement has to be sustained if success is to be achieved.

Editor's Note: Our thanks to Vicki Toutz and Diane Hales for contributing information for this article.

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# SCHOLASTIC SCENE

## START THOSE EVENING CLUBS!

Welcome back to the new school year to all teachers and coaches across the country! Although few of you will be starting your badminton season in the fall, you should begin preparations for the up-coming season.

Now is a good time to address the problem of providing your players as much opportunity to practice as possible. Most league rules prohibit teams from practicing together after school hours except at prescribed times during the season.

I would like to suggest that in order for school players to really develop their overall game, they need to play as individuals away from school in a variety of situations. First of all, if every teacher or coach could arrange for the high school gym to be open one evening a week for both students and the community, it would help greatly in promoting skill development and interest in the game. Secondly, students need to play in USBA sanctioned tournaments at the C, D, and Novice levels. This helps develop their competitive skills and abilities to deal with lots of different kinds of opponents.

If enough interest is generated in an evening group, it can become an official club and join its state badminton association. The USBA's new president, Stan Hales, wants to see state badminton associations in all 50 states in order to provide a more organized structure for badminton in the United States in the next few years. All types of clubs (school, private, YMCA, YWCA, Boys and Girls Clubs and the armed services) can belong to their state associations. In order for students to keep playing after they leave high school, they need to have local evening clubs close to where they are attending college or are working.

Badminton courts are marked out in almost all high school gyms, some junior high and recreation centers, and at many indoor tennis and racquetball clubs. Often the badminton courts are not being utilized due to a lack of organization. All it takes to put these facilities to use are individuals or groups willing to obtain and open them one evening a week.



BY: VIRGINIA HALES

So, coaches and teachers, do your part for the community and your students. See if each one of you can arrange for a gym to be opened in your community for this badminton season. With badminton being made an exhibition sport in Seoul, Korea in the 1988 Olympics, and an official sport in the 1992 Olympics, we think more Americans are going to want to learn to play.

If you are interested in working on this and need some assistance, contact THE BADMINTON MAGAZINE at our mailing address. We will be glad to put you in contact with people in your area who could help you start an evening group.

Good luck with your efforts and I'll see you next issue.

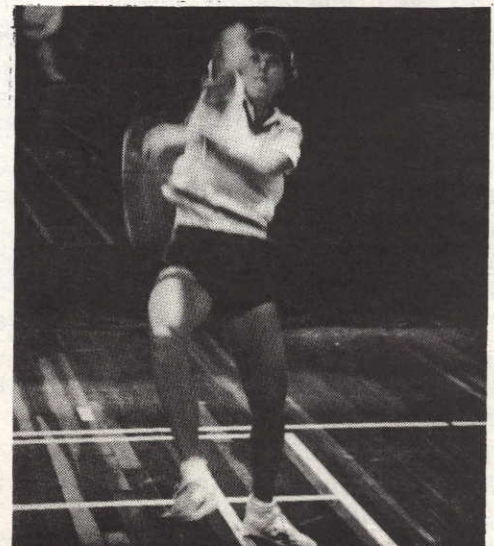
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## COACHING TIP

Does your smash fail you just when you need it the most? Do you find that you aren't winning as many rallies as you would like with your smash? In fact, when you try to hit harder, are you having less success? Then this smashing tip is for you.

**Vary the angle and speed of your smash throughout your match.**

This tactic will conserve your energy and upset your opponent's timing of his or her returns. Especially effective is an off-speed, steeply angled smash, either straight ahead or cross-court, because it reduces your opponent's angle of counterattack.





# BADMINTON, EVERYONE

The All England Tennis Championship, commonly known as Wimbledon, has come and gone for 1985. The media's thirst for Wimbledon's upper crust traditions is again quenched, and Boris Becker has become a household word. But what of the other All England Championship? What of the All England Badminton Championship, commonly known as Wembley? The traditions of this great tournament go back to its founding in 1899, just 22 years after Wimbledon's first year. The tournament is well known in England, where badminton is far more popular than tennis, and it is equally well known in nearly all of the 80 countries affiliated to the International Badminton Federation. Yet, the United States remains nearly ignorant of Wembley and of badminton as a competitive sport, and the media here do little to help.

This is all about to change. The world sporting community in general, and the International Olympic Committee in particular, have had the wisdom to give badminton the respect it deserves. By unanimous vote of the I.O.C. in June, badminton will become a medal sport in the 1992 Olympics and thereafter, and will make its debut in Seoul as an Exhibition Sport. The United States Olympic Committee has now invited the United States Badminton Association to join as a Class A member. The future of what is really the world's most demanding racket sport looks rosy indeed. But there is much education to be done before badminton is understood in the United States.

Badminton is the least understood sport in this country. The misperception of the game is enormous. American sports fans, however, put great stock in sports statistics, and it just may be that the numbers below will be

enlightening. These figures were gathered to compare the men's singles finals at Wimbledon, in which Boris Becker (Germany) defeated Kevin Curren (USA), 6-3, 6-7, 7-6, 6-4, with the men's singles finals at the World Badminton Championships held in Calgary in June, in which Han Jian (China) defeated Morten Frost (Denmark), 14-18, 15-10, 15-8. These statistics must be admitted as describing the current top standard of each sport.

At Wimbledon, the singles final lasted a total of three hours and eighteen minutes. In these 198 minutes, the tennis ball was in play 18 minutes. For 180 minutes, the players were walking or sitting, in between rallies. That means three hours of rest for 18 minutes of play. One could say that the intensity of the match was only 18/198, or 9%.

At Calgary, the final lasted one hour and sixteen minutes. However, in these 76 minutes, the shuttle was in play 37 minutes, for a playing intensity of 37/76, or 48%. This is just the beginning of the story.

At Wimbledon, Becker and Curren played a total of 299 points (or rallies), and these points contained 1,004 individual shots, including missed first services. Simple arithmetic reveals an average of 3.4 shots per rally, including missed first services. At Calgary, there were only 146 rallies played, but with a total of 1,972 shots. Han and Frost produced an average of 13.5 shots per rally. Here is another way to look at this: there were 5.1 shots per elapsed minute at Wimbledon, and 25.9 at Calgary.

A simple estimate of distance traveled by the players, based on the figures above, would suggest that the tennis finalists each ran



BY DR. STAN HALES

about 2 miles in 3 hours 18 minutes; the badminton finalists each covered 4 miles in 1 hour 16 minutes. Those millions of Americans who believe badminton to an easy game should ponder this.

Tennis is a great game, and it deserves all the attention and popularity it receives. But badminton does not deserve the disdain it has received, especially in this country, for so long. Badminton deserves the respect generally accorded to the world's most demanding sports, for this is what it is. Badminton players deserve the respect generally accorded to the world's best trained athletes, for this is what they are.

At last, badminton will certainly obtain this respect through its Olympic position. And the media may then have to admit the enormous appeal of this game. And then Wimbledon may have to share the world's spotlight with Wembley. We of the United States Badminton Association look forward to that day.

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Dr. Stan Hales is our current USBA President, former U.S. National Men's Singles champion, and Professor of Mathematics and a Dean of Pomona College in Claremont, California.



## THOMAS & UBER CUP

The Vancouver Racquets Club has been selected tentatively as the site for next February's Thomas and Uber Cup play.

Canadian Bert Fergus, the tournament organizer, calls the North American Zone the "wild card" zone because almost anyone may enter trying for a way into the finals in Indonesia.

The competition will be held February 20-23, 1986 and the closing date for countries entering the tournament was October 1, 1985.

## LYONS TOURNAMENT

Cheryl Carton returned to singles circuit after a six month layoff and captured the ladies singles title at the 1985 Lyons Badminton Tournament over the Labor Day Weekend.

Hosted by the San Diego Badminton Club, the tournament was notable as the first open tournament of the new season.

Guy Chadwick emerged as the mens singles winner. John Britton and Gary Higgins successfully defended their #1 U.S. doubles ranking by beating Chadwick and Gary Shelstad in a hotly contested final 15-13, 5-15, 15-10.

## KELLY INJURED...

Judianne Kelly, the 1985 U.S. triple crown winner, sustained a knee injury during the finals of the recent Summer Doubles Tournament in Manhattan Beach.

Her doctors think the torn cartilage in her left knee will heal with rest and therapy, but, if not, orthoscopic surgery is a possibility. Hopefully our champion will return to the courts in a few months.

## Kelly Tibbetts Summer Doubles Tournament

The annual Summer Doubles tournament hosted by the Manhattan Beach Badminton Club in Manhattan Beach, CA was held this September 14-15.

The tournament has been named to honor one of the truly great players and dedicated supporters of badminton, Kelly Tibbetts.

In the open mens doubles Britton and Higgins once again defended their #1 status defeating Alston and Walker in a clash of slashing styles: 9-15, 15-5, 15-8.

The mixed doubles event saw a major upset when young Chris Jogis (current men's singles champion) and Mary Fran Hughes teamed up to defeat reigning national mixed champions Walker and Kelly: 15-11, 15-9.

In the ladies doubles Ferrer and Lira took the title. When up 10-9 against Kelly and Ortez in the first game of the finals, Kelly pulled up lame forcing a withdrawal. We all hope her injury is not serious.

## PBC FACE-LIFT

The Pasadena Badminton Club, one of the oldest and among the very few permanent badminton facilities, recently received a face-lift. A new florescent lighting system was installed at the cost of \$5,000 and all the courts were sanded and repainted.

To celebrate the refurbishing, the PBC will host the Pacific Southwest Tournament in November.

## ATTENTION:

If any of our readers know Mr. Simon Rosen, about 35 years old, who emigrated from Russia approximately 3 years ago, please contact THE BADMINTON MAGAZINE. He used to play badminton there, and a long time friend who recently emigrated is trying to locate him.

## ARIZONA NEWS

Arizona's high school badminton season is in full swing now -- with over 30 schools vying for the state title held by Scottsdale's Saguaro High School. Not only are these young competitors aiming for team and individual honors, but they also are pacing the general growth of badminton in the Phoenix area.

Badminton's new Olympic status appears to be providing much of the incentive for development. Hank Anderssohn has begun a campaign to (re)establish the Phoenix Badminton Club, and Merle Packer heads up a new Arizona badminton committee which will focus on organizing coaching and player clinics, establishing new clubs, and lobbying to allow boys to compete in high school badminton programs. THE BADMINTON MAGAZINE profiled Packer in our June 1984 issue. She recently retired as Arizona State University's badminton coach, the winningest coach in any sport in the school's history.

The Phoenix area enjoys a corps of dedicated high school badminton coaches. The always outstanding ASU badminton team displays some of the sport's finest national talent. The new efforts of Anderssohn and Merle Packer, along with their enthusiastic assistants, are sure to make the Arizona desert a hotbed for future Olympic talent.



# EDITOR'S COMMENTS

For years we've grumbled that badminton isn't accepted by the U.S. public other than as a backyard picnic sport. Oh, some people have worked like dogs to promote it, while others tried to help or just sat back. Nothing seems to make a real difference. Badminton continues to take a back seat to nearly every conceivable sport.

Why has volleyball suddenly gained acceptance as a legitimate sport rather than a beach activity? Ten years ago most people had never heard of parallel bars, now we buy our corn flakes with Mary Lou Retton's face on the box. Crowds for women's tennis in the '60's might have filled an average jacuzzi. So what do these sports got that we don't got? Simple-- a star!

Websters defines a star as "a brilliant performer in the leading role." Here in the land of Hollywood, a star is a glowing personality, someone unique, a person who radiates success-- a winner. And that, folks, is what we don't got. The U.S. doesn't have a badminton winner!

Badminton has been played in the U.S. since the early 1900's. Yet we have had few "world beaters"-- most notably Dave Freeman, and we have not generated a truly competitive international player since the days of Joe Alston and Jim Poole.

So, why haven't we developed a top calibre player for some twenty years? Are there fewer top athletes, less training and good coaching, are other sports attracting the great players, perhaps not enough financial assistance? I don't know the answer, but these factors didn't seem to affect Dave Freeman.

One thing for sure, the acceptance of a sport and it's rising popularity coincide with the quality of its top players. Everyone loves a winner. Americans almost demand one.

How come Joe Namath can hawk everything from shaving cream to women's pantyhose? Where would women's tennis be if there hadn't been a Billy Jean or Chrissy? Isn't it fun to either love or hate McEnroe? How odd that a group of

young men can make gymnastics an acceptable sport for thousands of boys. You can talk, plead or bribe, but it seems only a "star" can change public opinion.

Many think our sport's future success hinges on the Olympics-- the rainbow leading to the pot of gold. It seems pretty obvious to me, though, that we're not going to reach the "promised land" with a first-round American loser!

Cassandra Salapatas-Metz  
Editor



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## Do You Want To Go To

### The 1986 Haskovo International Badminton Tournament?

I would like to send a full team next year to Bulgaria, so if you are at all interested drop me a line. It should be held during the last full week of June and the Bulgarian Badminton Federation will pay all your expenses during your stay in the country.

Bob Cook  
17002 Cotter Pl.  
Encino, CA 91436



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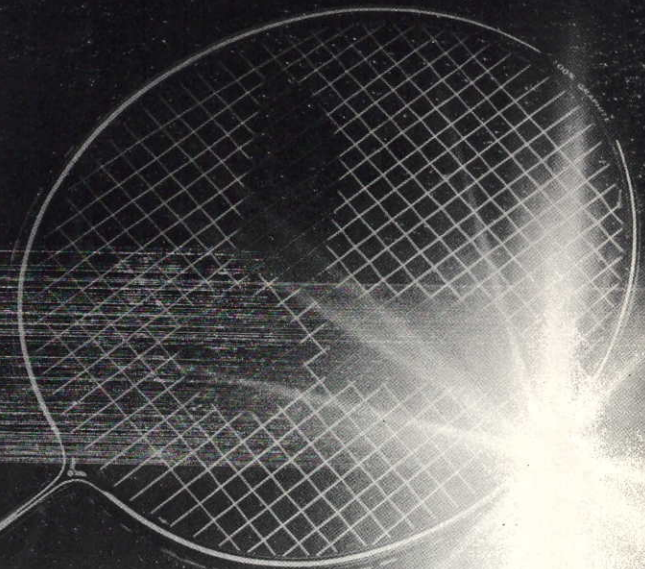


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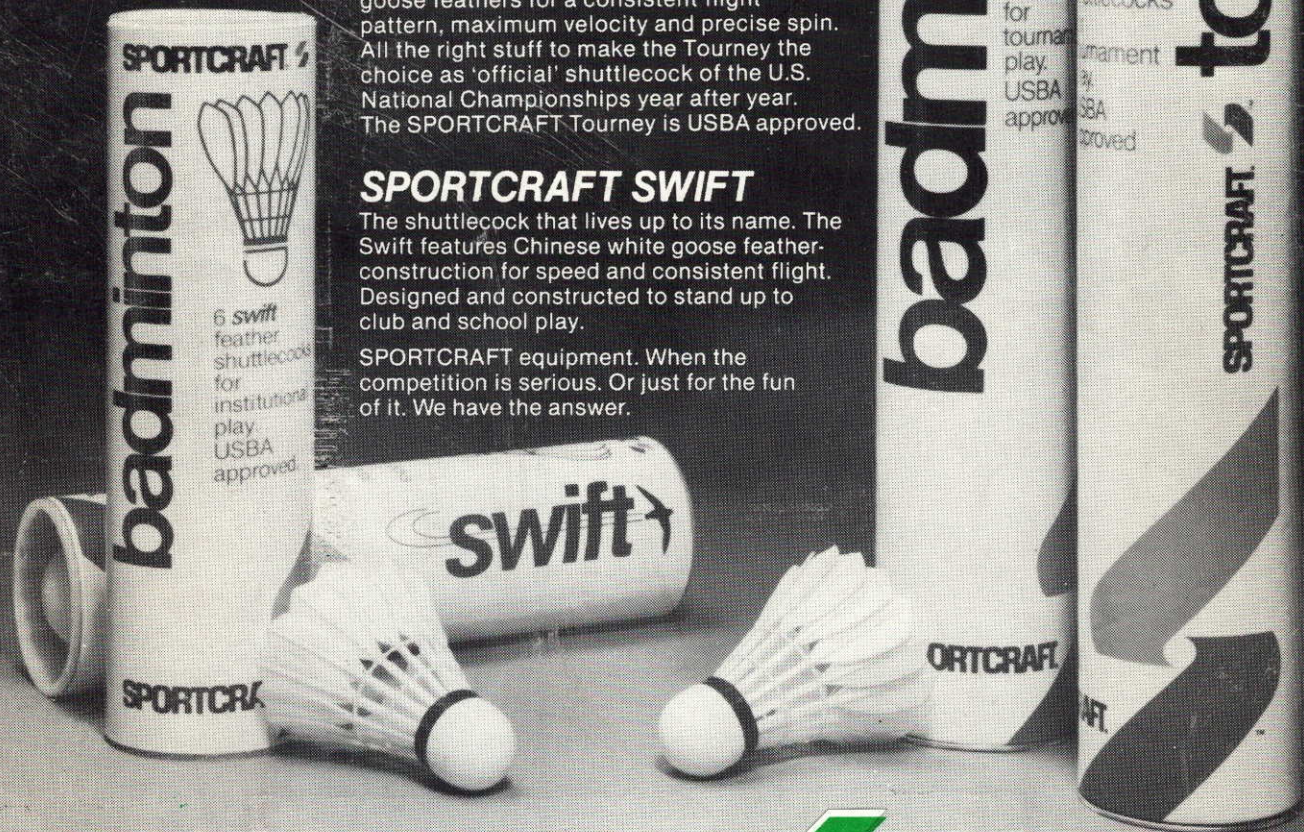
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