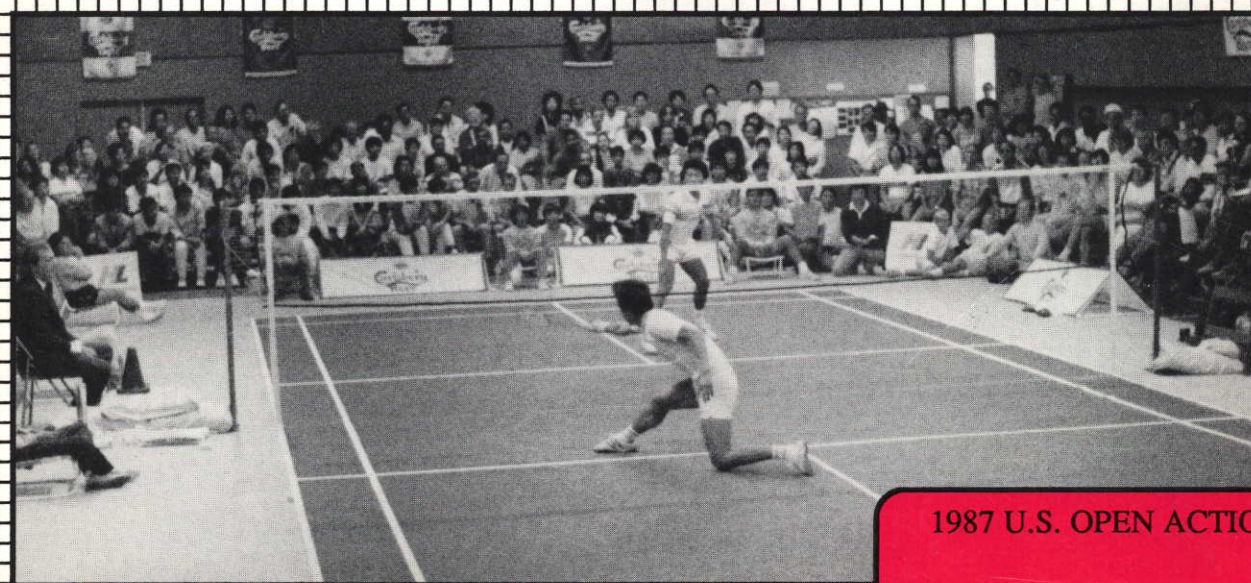
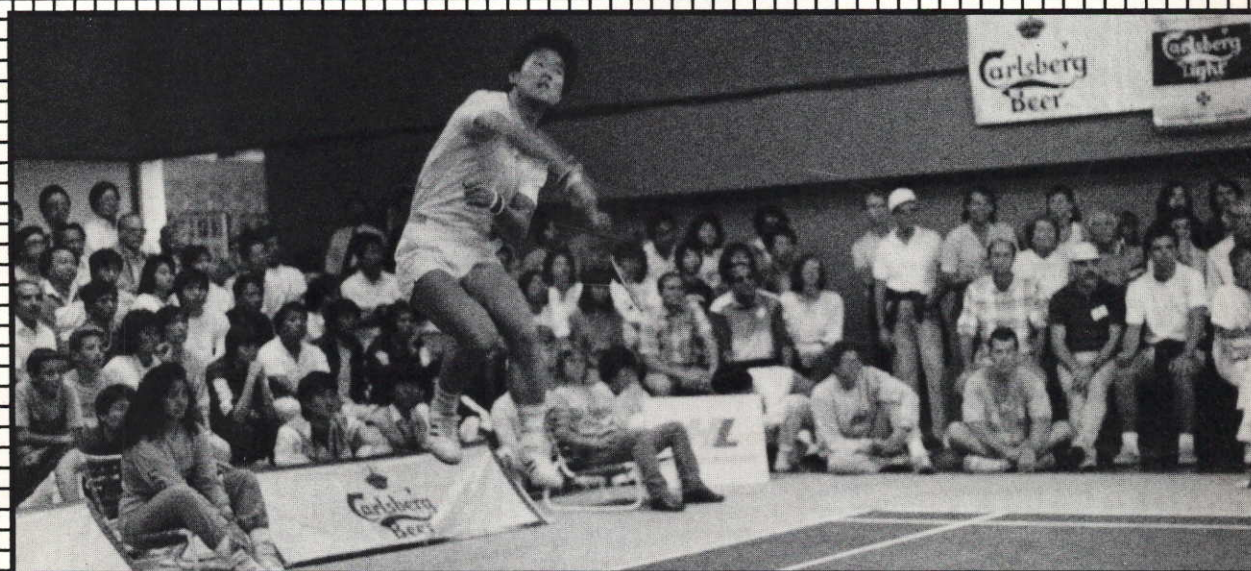


The BADMINTON Magazine

VOL. 2, NO. 5

JAN 1988



1987 U.S. OPEN ACTION

An Interview... WES SCHOPPE

Insert: SHUTTLE SCUTTLE

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U.S. OPEN-- the Koreans came in force.

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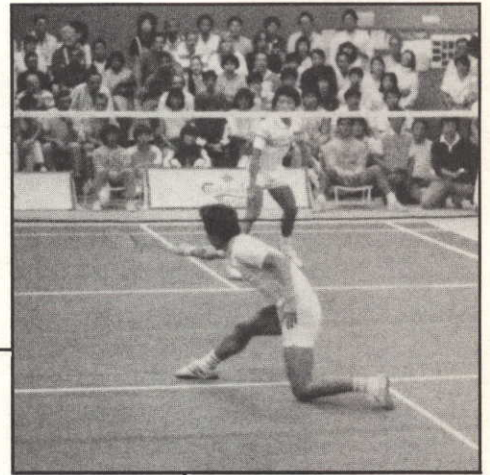
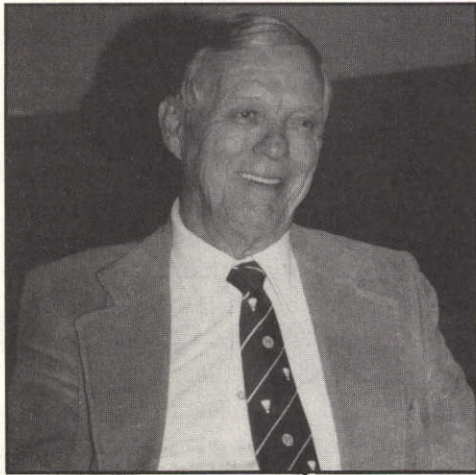
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The BADMINTON Magazine

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JAN 1988

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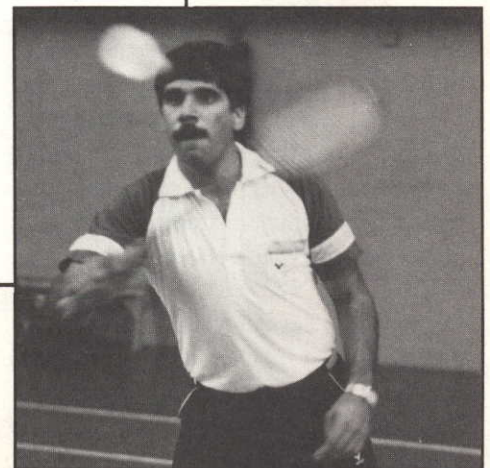
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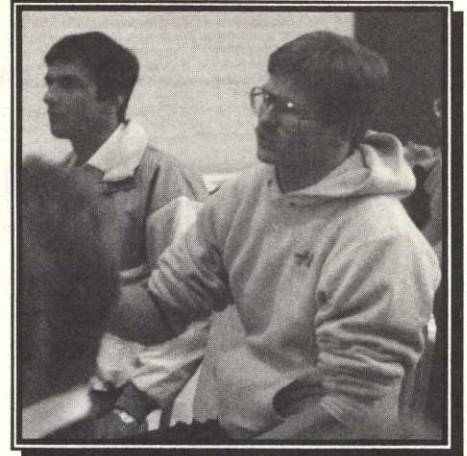
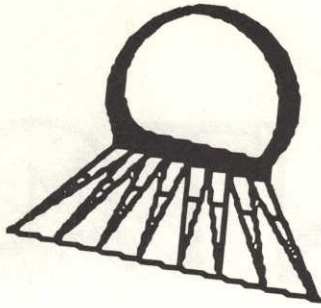
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Publisher's Letter...

Guy Chadwick

The New Year is here, and with it new changes for the sport of badminton are bound to vault us toward a more commercial future.

But, I would like to take a moment to thank some of those in Southern California that have given so much of themselves year after year to keep the sport alive and well for all of us to enjoy.

This thank you is all the more timely for me, since my family and I are moving from Southern California and back to a "more affordably family-oriented" Arizona - and Arizona State University is where badminton began for me.

About 8 years ago, I moved to Manhattan Beach* because of the concentration of badminton centered around the Manhattan Beach Badminton Club. There were more players, more tournaments, and consequently better competition and a greater opportunity to improve here as a player than anywhere else in the USA.

During these several years, many of the top California players have come and gone, and there are many new faces now. But, nearly all of the people behind the scenes - the administrators, tournament directors, and club "presidents," etc. - are exactly the same people as when I first began to play!

Year after year they provide all of the work for no obvious gain, and get many obvious headaches. In retrospect, I realize that if not for these selfless "doers," there would be no "players."

The interview of Wes Schoppe in this issue is probably the first substantial written material "recognizing" him since he first began to devote his life to badminton more than 35 years ago. Sure, he has received some nice heartfelt awards among his peers, but like most everyone behind the scenes, he receives none of the adulation the players get when they run and jump around on the court and hit awesome smashes.

It is difficult to really appreciate the tremendous ripple effect Wes's U.S. OPEN has on U.S. badminton until you consider that it is more than a display tournament. It gives supplemental events a reason for occurring, like the Challenge Cup - Mexico vs. USA, and visiting tours nearly every year by foreign national teams like China, Australia, and New Zealand. It has introduced many people together to form lasting friendships. It has given thousands of people experiences beyond the ordinary.

Coincidentally, the independent insert of the SHUTTLE SCUTTLE, also includes an article recognizing Wes (see p. 13).

And not so coincidentally, it was written by Kelly Tibbetts - another "selfless" person that deserves thanks. Kelly Tibbetts has done the SHUTTLE SCUTTLE for 30 years. Talk about headaches for her! But, the SHUTTLE SCUTTLE, and the Southern California Badminton Association it represents, is the backbone of this most successful area of U.S. badminton.

Nearly everyone on the SCBA board (see the SHUTTLE SCUTTLE's masthead on p.11) has been performing similar volunteer functions since before I heard of real badminton. They, and others like them, will occasionally have their name in print, but rarely will their "action" photo blaze across PAGE ONE.

These people provide opportunities in our lives that we probably wouldn't have otherwise. Without them, I guess we would just watch TV and get fat.

I would like to thank in particular Wes, Kelly, David Levin, Dean Schoppe, Cass and Dennis Metz, Gary Higgins, Som, Ginny Hales, Vicki Toutz, Stan Hales, David Ogata, The Brittons, Jim Poole and all of the MBBC, Long Beach, Pasadena, Valley, and San Diego badminton corps.

Thanks for helping to give me a very rewarding life in Southern California.

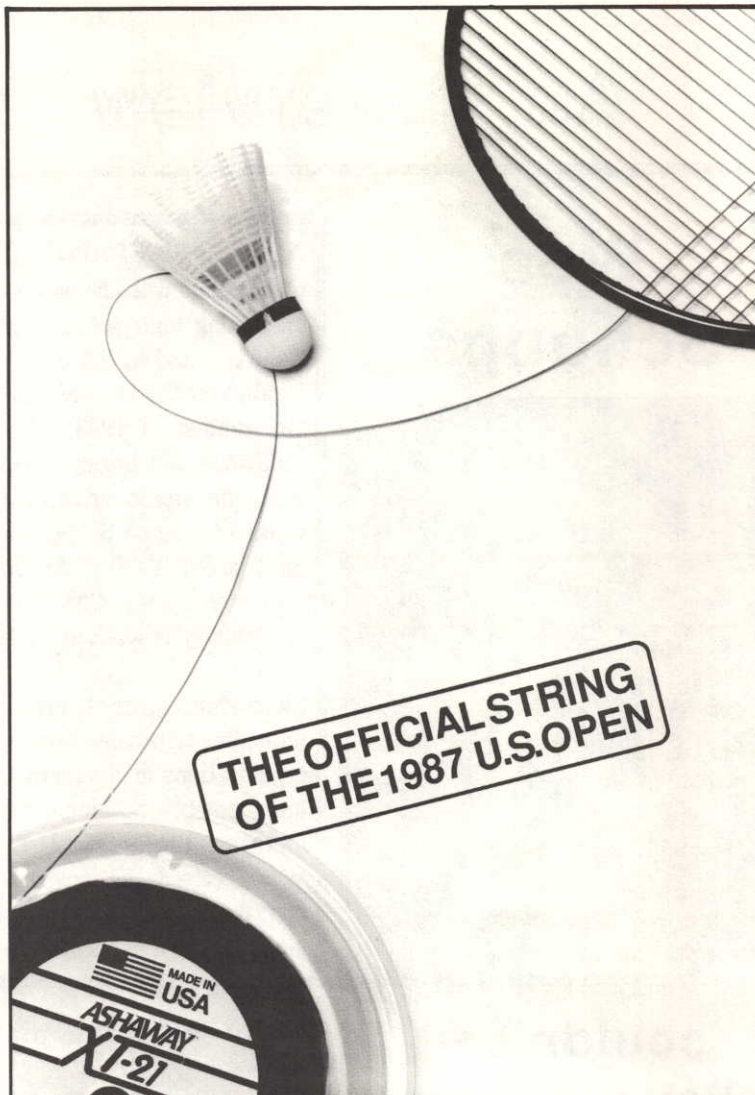
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The grace and balance
of Korean Lee Young-Suk
at the U.S. OPEN



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An Interview With . . .

Wes Schoppe



A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY-- Wes was born and raised in St. Louis, Missouri. His parents died when he was 4 years old, so Wes lived with his aunts and uncles until graduating high school and joining the war effort. He was stationed in Fresno, California and served as a Waist Gunner on a B-25 Bomber in the Air Force during World War II. He was discharged after surviving a plane crash during a test run in the summer of 1943. Soon after returning from the war, Wes moved out to California and began working for Paramount Studios in their sound department. When the studio strike of 1946 hit, Wes had to look for a "real job." He then worked for some of the major technological corporations in the Los Angeles area until about 1970. At this time Wes branched off onto his own and opened "Schoppe's Sport Shop" in Manhattan Beach for a few years until he took the opportunity to work in the badminton business from 1974 up through the present.

Meanwhile, after being introduced to badminton in the early 1950's, Wes immediately became involved in the administration of tournaments and badminton organizations in Southern California. He has worked tirelessly ever since, perhaps most notably he single handedly re-established the U.S.'s only real international tournament held these last several years (see the 1987 U.S. OPEN in this issue). Wes received the coveted Ken Davidson Award in 1985 for his outstanding contributions to the sport of badminton. Wes is married and has raised 3 children, and has been a resident of Manhattan Beach, California for more than 40 years.

"I couldn't believe a game could be so fast and quick"

TBM: How were you introduced to badminton?

WES: In 1952, Jack Cogan, a member of the Manhattan Beach Badminton Club, a good player, and a co-worker of mine, asked my roommate and I if we had ever played badminton. I said, "Of course, like everybody else (that backyard picnic game)." Well, he invited us to the club one night and I couldn't believe a game could be so fast and quick.

TBM: Had you played other sports before?

WES: In high school I had played baseball, basketball, football, and I played tennis ever since I was 9 or 10. In fact, I played tournament tennis throughout the Mid-West for the competitive and social aspects of the game until the war hit. After the war, I continued to play recreationally a few times a week until the night I went to the badminton club. After that night, I never played tennis again.

TBM: What was so special about badminton?

WES: When I started to play it seemed badminton players were all great people. I really enjoyed the

fact that they'd beat your brains out on the court and then ask you to join them for pizza and beer or something afterwards.

TBM: What level did you reach as a badminton player?

WES: I didn't start to play until I was 32, but I earned a B ranking and the best I did was win a few A consolation events. It seems I lost in the first round to all the top players of the day-- Wynn Rogers, Joe Alston, etc.

TBM: Does the game seem any different now?

WES: Internationally, the game has gotten much quicker, mainly due to the equipment. And each

generation seems to get stronger overall. Even the Asian physical stature seems to have gotten larger, giving them more strength. In the U.S., there has not been much change other than the equipment, except that there seems to be more singles or doubles specialists and more hand-picking of tournaments now. Nearly all of the top players in the 50's played every tournament and all 3 events.

TBM: Who was the most impressive player you have seen?

WES: Undoubtedly Dave Freeman. He was like a brick wall. He made no mistakes and his control was unbelievable. He always trounced his opponents. It was almost difficult to gauge how good he was, or could be, because he was so much better than his competition.

TBM: How did badminton effect your family life?

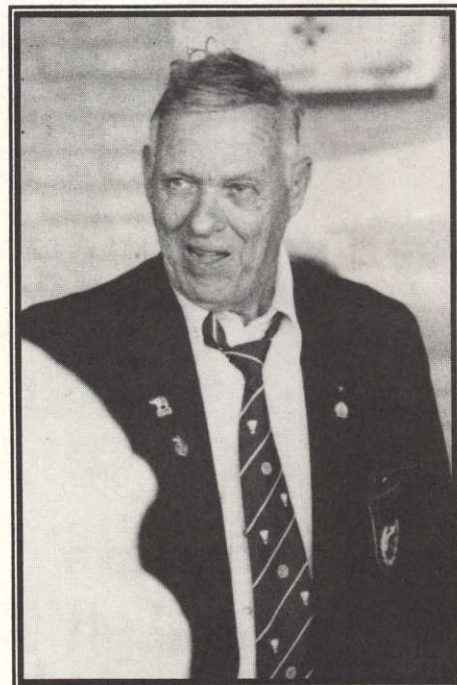
WES: To start with, I had to postpone my wedding in April 1953 for one week, because so many of our friends were badminton players and there was an important tournament scheduled on our original wedding date. Other than that, badminton has had a very good influence on us. Badminton has given me great friends both locally and from around the world.

TBM: How did your kids take to badminton?

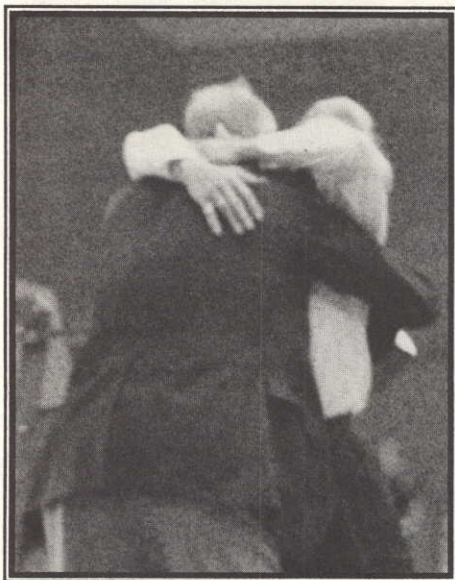
WES: All 3 of my kids went through the junior program at the Manhattan Beach Badminton Club. Leslie was a junior national champion in the 13's and 15's, and runner-up in the 18's when she was 15. She played as an A player beginning when she was 14 or 15 years old. My youngest son, Lenny, still plays, but badminton was most important for my son, Dean. He is legally blind in one eye and was having difficulty in school until he began playing as a junior. The doctors felt that badminton was critical for improving his ability to concentrate and compensate for his handicap. Dean has continued on as a nationally ranked player, and since his high school years he has been intricately involved in badminton with me.

TBM: How did you get involved in badminton administration?

WES: Almost immediately after being introduced to badminton, I started to work on interclub tournaments at the MBBC. This soon evolved to working on regular Southern California tournaments with Kelly Tibbetts and the SCBA. We did a big social Santa Barbara tournament for about 7 years, and the "Summer Doubles," the "Western States Open," and the State Championships every year. I wrote a commentary letter to the SCBA once, and the SCBA board ended up electing me as President from 1969-1974.



"I thought the U.S. badly needed at least one international tournament, there hadn't been a regular international tournament for several years"



Wes hugs Kelly Tibbetts at the closing ceremonies of the 1987 U.S. OPEN

"Each year we wondered if it was worth it, until we saw the tournament in progress again, then we knew it was worth it"

TBM: How did you get the U.S. OPEN going again?

WES: I thought the U.S. badly needed at least one international tournament; there hadn't been a regular international tournament for several years. Acting on a lead, I made 2 or 3 trips to Canada to talk to Canadian Pacific Airlines until they finally agreed to sponsor the "CP AIR Open." It took over a

year to get the first one off the ground. But once we got established, the Canadians moved their Open in front of ours, and since I had picked a date which fell before the Mexican Open, this gave us a 3 international tournament "mini-tour."

TBM: When did the CP AIR Open become the U.S. OPEN?

WES: After four CP AIR Opens, the International Badminton Federation requested that we become the U.S. Open in 1983, and the USBA went along with that. This coincided with the time of the airlines' really suffering, so CP AIR had to step out. But, a co-sponsor, Coors, stepped right in as the major sponsor. This year's, which was sponsored by Carlsberg, NEC, HL, and Victor, was the fifth U.S. OPEN, and the ninth international tournament hosted here in Manhattan Beach.

TBM: How much work does it take to run this calibre of a tournament?

WES: Our committee takes December off, but we begin our meetings in January every year, and we work the remaining months. None of these tournaments would have been possible without a committee core which has stayed together all of these 9 years; Kelly Tibbetts, David Ogata, Fred Trifonoff, Len Schoppe, Dean Schoppe, Ruth Kitzmiller, Paisan Rangsitkipho,

and Bill Foy until he died. Also, I feel the support we received from Roy Roberts, of the Canadian Badminton Association, and Victor Jaramillo, Sr. of the Mexican Association, was unparalleled. They saw to it that their countries' top players always attended, and they provided officials at their own expense. Many, many others also helped all along the way. Each year we always wondered if it was all worth it, until we saw the tournament in progress again and saw how it got bigger and better every year. Then we knew it was worth it.

TBM: Was this your last U.S. OPEN?

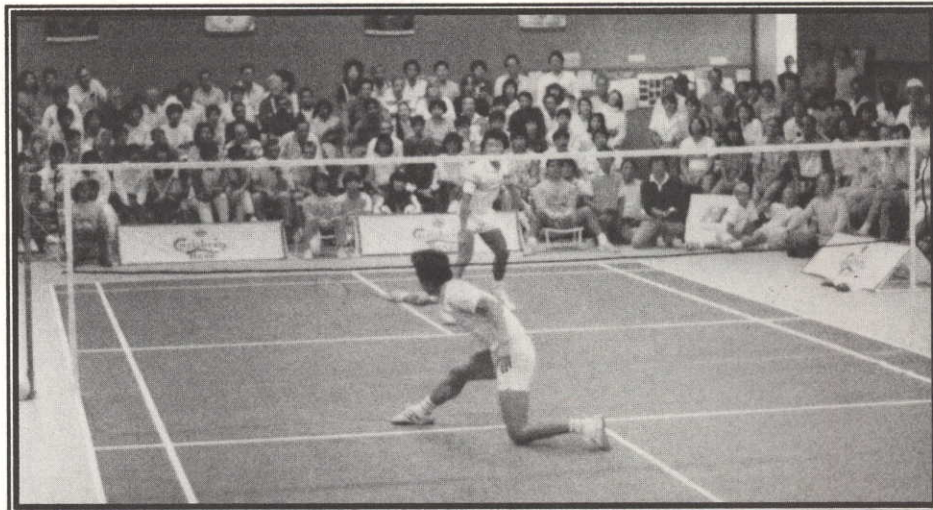
WES: It looks like it. The USBA denied our request for a 3 year extension. I believe they would like to be able to exert more control over the tournament, and try to secure more prize money to make it an international Grand Prix event. My philosophy is somewhat different. I feel that if the tournament is well run, with good competition, and has fun social events, then the players will come back. Many of the same players came back year after year, and it has grown every year. I hope the USBA can find a new committee which will continue to improve the tournament.

TBM: What will you do with all this free time on your hands?

WES: Something will pop up.

THE 1987 U.S. OPEN

tournament report



1987 U.S. OPEN action at the Manhattan Beach Badminton Club

The 1987 Carlsberg U.S. OPEN, chaired by Wes Schoppe, and co-sponsored by NEC, HL, and Victor, showcased the most exciting array of international talent in its recent history. The finals were played to a full house at the Manhattan Beach Badminton Club in California, and regional newspaper and television news coverage exposed some 2,000,000 Los Angeles area residents to the fast paced sport of badminton.

Special stars included world ranked Helen Troke of England, All-England Champion Lee Deuk Choon of Korea, 2-time U.S. Open and Canadian Champion Mike Butler, a full contingent of top Chinese-Taipei, Japanese, Korean, Australian, and Mexican players, and defending Doubles Champions Tariq Wadood and Yao Ximing of the USA.

In recent years, the Koreans have exploded as one of the world badminton powers. Their training is said to be more intense than that of the Chinese. The effects of their

training were only too apparent as their jumping ability, smashing power, foot speed, and overall fitness stood out among all competitors and made them the favorites in most of their matches.

Other than for the top Koreans, it would have been very difficult to predict results of the tournament. The previously untested match-ups between players of different styles and from many different countries created a stir of interest nearly every match. There were many surprising upsets as well.

MEN'S SINGLES

One of the first to fall was 2-time Open Singles Champion Mike Butler. Butler was cut down in straight games in his second round by the eventual finalist, the unseeded Chia Chen Chung of Chinese-Taipei.

Chia demonstrated remarkable stamina and determination throughout the tournament. He survived a brutal 3-game match

against a seeded Korean in the quarter-finals, and then knocked off the lone American semi-finalist, Chris Jogis, to reach the finals.

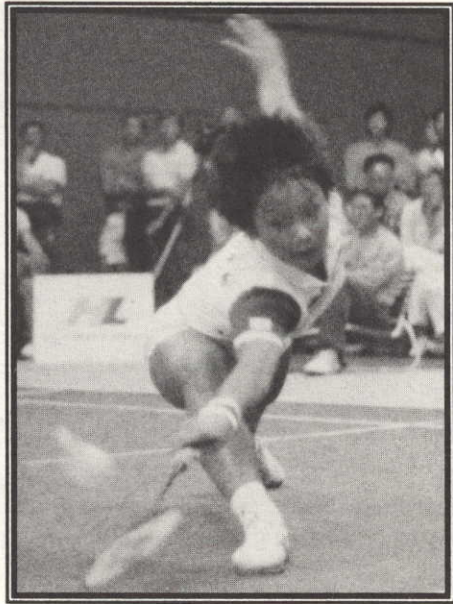
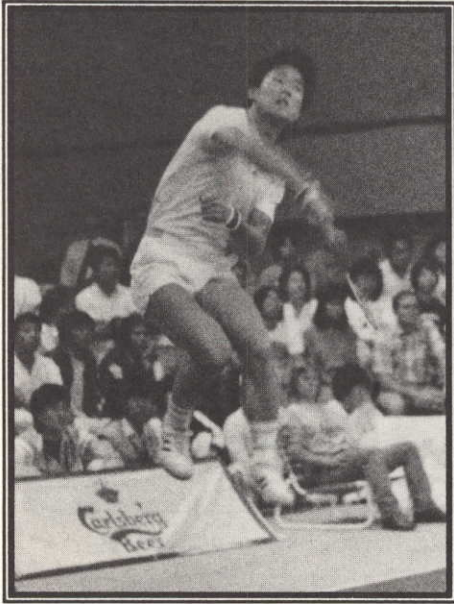
Meanwhile, the #1 seeded Park Sung-Bae of Korean was cruising through the other half of the draw. Park neutralized his fiercest opponents with a solid defense and an explosive offense.

Park seemed to have no more difficulty against his tougher opponents than his early round foes. He defeated the #3 seed Etoh, a strong Japanese player, in the semifinals 15-6, 15-4.

It wasn't until the first game of the finals against Chia, that Park seemed less than dominating. But he returned to form to close out that game as Chia's strength waned. Park grabbed the singles crown with a score of 15-12, 15-2.

LADIES' SINGLES

In the ladies' singles, the top seeds were the Korean women Lee



Top Koreans smashing and retrieving their way to victory at the U.S. OPEN

Young-Suk and Chun Suk-Sung. They did meet in the finals, however English star Helen Troke put up a good fight against Lee in a semifinal match, and former U.S. Open Champion Denyse Julian of Canada nearly knocked off Chun in a 3-game quarterfinal match.

In the finals, the top seeded Lee never seemed to put her game in high gear until she fell too far behind in the second game. Chun hung on to grab the ladies singles title 11-2, 12-11.

LADIES DOUBLES

In the ladies doubles, the Korean pair of Chung and Kim won all their matches in straight games (and never gave up more than 8 points in any one game) to gain the trophy. However, they were not as overpowering as they were consistent. They were frequently in long tough rallies, but they simply refused to make mistakes.

Meanwhile, defending U.S. Open Champions Julian and Falardeau of Canada had to battle through 3-game matches against Americans Kitzmiller and French, and then Koreans Kim and Cho to reach the finals. In the finals, the Canadians could not generate enough mistake free attack to challenge Chung and Kim, and they lost 15-8, 15-6.

MEN'S DOUBLES

The men's doubles provided some particularly fast paced excitement. One surprising duo was the unseeded Ger and Liro of Chinese Taipei. They beat top USA teams, first Jogis and Lee, and then the defending U.S. Open Champions Yao and Wadood, to reach the semis. Then they overpowered the #2 seeded Canadian Champs, Bitten and DeBelle, in two games.

In the other half of the draw, the top Korean team of Lee Deuk Choon "The Duck" and his

younger partner Lee Sang-Bok showed off their jump smashing power and impenetrable defense. They only dropped their guard in one game during the tournament, when they took 3 games to beat the Japanese team of Araragi and Etoh.

In the finals, an anticipated battle turned into a one-sided rout. The Koreans seemed to raise their level of play as they stifled Ger and Liro's attack and countered with an unmerciful offense. They grabbed the doubles title 15-4, 15-1.

MIXED DOUBLES

The Koreans completed their sweep of all 5 titles with the Mixed. #1 seeded "The Duck" and Chung showed their international experience with steady and winning play whenever it counted.

The Koreans' opponents in the finals were former U.S. Open Champions Butler and Sharpe. The Canadians looked ready to pull an upset for awhile, but both Butler and Sharpe made a series of unforced attacking errors from which they could not recover 15-12, 15-6.

All of the Koreans impressed on the U.S. OPEN spectators (and opponents) the obvious benefit of basic physical training for strength, speed, quickness, and endurance. Temporarily at least, fancy racket skills seem to have taken a back seat to brute force as badminton becomes an ever faster sport.

SCBA SHUTTLE-SCUTTLE



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VOLUME 31, ISSUE #3
Winter 87-88 "Biggest Season Ever"

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PREZ SEZ...

At the end of the year I like to sit back and evaluate where I am going and how many resolutions did I break. Well, this year is no different except I added the SCBA to my "check-off" list.

Frankly and happily, I can say the SCBA is in fine shape... I know this is true because different groups are asking for money! I don't mean this in a derogatory sense... it says to me the SCBA is now considered an effective governing body of badminton in Southern California.

Southern Cal badminton has had a busy six months. Please consider we have hosted regional and final try-outs for the Thomas and Uber Cup squads. USABA has been an active and perhaps controversial group of athletes playing in our area. The Better Ways/ Yonex Grand Prix is ready to host it's final round next month. Through the Amateur Athletic Foundation, funding for a badminton



SCBA PREZ... Cassandra & Ricky

Youth Development Program is in it's second year with a budget in excess of \$55,000! The Yonex California Grand Prix is in full swing with the Sunnyvale and Manhattan Beach leg completed. Shuttle Scuttle has a new format included and monetarily assisted by The Badminton Magazine. But we can't forget the most financially and internationally successful U.S. Open held in November.

It saddens me to realize this may be the last Open held at the Manhattan Beach Club. The USBA feels it is time to change. Whether it be good or bad, badminton as we know it is being phased out, and the "M & M" factor (money and media) is coming in it's own. I've always felt fortunate to be able to watch courtside and talk with great badminton players like Jesper Helledie, Misbun Sidek, Gillian Gilks, Yao or Tariq and develop friendships with our National Champions. Times are 'a changin' and badminton is no different.

The final six months of my term should be busy ones. The SCBA has more projects to continue and some to establish. My very best to you and your family during the upcoming new year. May all your shuttles fly straight and all your birds land in bounds.

A B C D . . .

SCBA CLASSIFICATION AND RANKING COMMITTEE STATUS

By: David Anderson

Yes, Folks..... your SCBA Classification and Ranking committee is very much alive and headed down the road to reform. As I'm sure you've heard, our committee has recently reorganized itself in an attempt to improve its services to local tournament players. To begin with, we've reestablished our goals as follows:

- 1) promote fair, equitable competition in SCBA sanctioned tournaments based on a player's age and skill level
- 2) stimulate player development by acknowledging improvement thru reclassification and ranking
- 3) establish all players' tournament eligibility
- 4) promote badminton thru increased participation.

To help accomplish this, we have expanded our committee's size to five members. This should hopefully give us assistance in monitoring tournament performances, provide some new and varied perspectives on committee business, and ensure that our decisions are made fairly and without bias. Newly selected members Dave Anderson, Mary Rivas and Curt Dommeyer have joined Paisan Rangikitpho and Ed Matanga to comprise this year's committee.

Our committee is also nearly finished updating and computerizing its various classification lists. Once completed, these lists will be regularly updated and be made available to all directors sanctioning tournaments thru the SCBA. Among its new lists include Junior and Senior player rosters. Soon the committee will begin reviewing existing classification and ranking procedures. Recommended changes and enhancements will be forwarded to the SCBA Board of Directors for their approval.

Some ideas we'll be considering this year include:

- 1) establishing ranking lists for B and C classed players
- 2) allowing players to potentially increase their ranking by playing in non-mandatory tournaments (thus promoting increased participation)
- 3) developing each year's ranking list independent of previous year's results (each year beginning July 1st)
- 4) using only SCBA sanctioned tournaments (those paying SCBA fees) for SCBA classification and ranking purposes
- 5) timely publishing of all classification changes in SHUTTLE SCUTTLE
- 6) setting up a post office box to handle all committee correspondence
- 7) reviewing automatic downward reclassification of senior players
- 8) promoting a new class for A players never obtaining a national ranking.

Congratulations to the following for their new classification:

Surya Bahari	CCC
Nathan Bonaparte	CCC
Carol Callahan	CCB
William Chan	CCC
Robert Flora	CBC
Janna Holmes	BBB
Linda Joe	CCC
Morton Jorgensen	CCC
Raymond Ko	CCC
Joe Lee	CCC
Stacey Murty	CCC
Ing Hong Tan	BCC
Tracy Tom	CBC

We're here at your service and open to all advice and suggestions.



TREASURER'S REPORT

Compiled by: Hal Carlson

Listed below is a financial statement compiled by SCBA Treasurer Hal Carlson. These figures reflect income and expenditures from July 1 - December 1, 1987. If there are any questions please contact Hal through the SCBA P.O. Box.

INCOME

Club Dues	375.00
Tournament Fees	325.00
Bank Interest	95.16
Donations	150.00
Shuttle Scuttle (subscriptions)	15.00
Shuttle Scuttle (advertising)	200.00
Yonex GP Fees	1142.00
Scholastic Memberships	15.00
Miscellaneous	116.40
TOTAL	\$ 2433.56

EXPENSES

Postage	125.70
Scholastic	11.40
US Open- Wine&Cheese	71.20
Sanction Fees	20.00
Grand Prix Fees	920.60
Awards	151.62
Shuttle Scuttle	35.67
Thomas/Uber Trials	50.00
Flowers (Funeral)	43.67
TOTAL	1429.88

CASH ON HAND \$ 4695.04

WES SCHOPPE = BADMINTON

In the 70's, Wes was full of ideas (as always) for badminton events. One plan that kept eating at him was to have an international tournament at MBBC. He hoped to show the locals what the rest of the shuttle world was like. At the same time, he wanted people from away to enjoy our city, our club, our hospitality. And it seemed to him that this was important to add to U.S. play.

By creating a package and a concept, he was able to sell CP AIR on the idea to become our first sponsor. With the backing lined up, he put together a committee and away we went.

The first four years, CP AIR had less and less to contribute to the event, but loyal Wes stuck by them as if they were putting in more and more. At the time that CP AIR had such financial problems that they had to pull out their sponsorship, the USBA and IBF wanted to make it the U.S. OPEN. Our tournament had actually qualified as just that to the U.S. schedule, and this change made sense. So the title was changed.

By using MBBC we were limited to a few hundred spectators at any time so publicity was not one of our large efforts. If we made the event so well-known and thousands of people wanted to be spectators - where would we put them? So we rented Aviation High School one year, but we didn't get



From right to left: Wes Schoppe with friends and frequent tournament assistants Kelly Tibbetts, David Ogata, and Judi Kelly

the immense crowds we wanted and needed to justify the rent.

So we tried to concentrate on details and quality for the entrants to make it all that Wes could for the badminton world.

It's been a very full, ulcerous, yet warm nine years of international tournaments. Working with Wes Schoppe is always full of surprises, hard work, and constant ideas for "what will make it better." He is so dedicated to this feather-chasing sport, and improving it, and making it grow. There is no way to make him stop.

So our 5 years of U.S. OPEN were not the ones with record attendance. They weren't the ones

that made the most money. But let me tell you - they were done with devotion on the part of one Wesley Schoppe - they were custom handled. He would take on anything in the badminton department if he thought it was for the good of the sport. He constantly has ideas roaming in his brain for creating more interest, more money, more fun!

In the infant stages any sport is dependent on TLC given by devoted folks. Badminton is very lucky to have the support of Wes. Thank you Mr. Schoppe for what you have done in Manhattan Beach to make a great game greater.

-- Kelly Tibbetts



Kia Chadwick, age 2

Kia Chadwick has been around badminton at home, at the Manhattan Beach Club, around her grandparents (the Skinners, of course) - how could she not have the game be an important thing in her life?

This gorgeous two year old has one problem right now - she is letting her family move to Arizona, so she won't be a MBBC junior.

We will miss her among the "brat pack" at the club for sure. But she will visit and eventually don't you feel that she'll be a visiting player?

Guy and Teri, as well as Kia, will be missed a great deal, but we wish them all a happy life in AZ. As Kia outgrows her little racket and progresses to full-size new equipment, I hope we can bring you progress reports of her badminton.

Keep in touch, Chadwicks.

AS THE CLUB TURNS . . .

By: Bob Cook

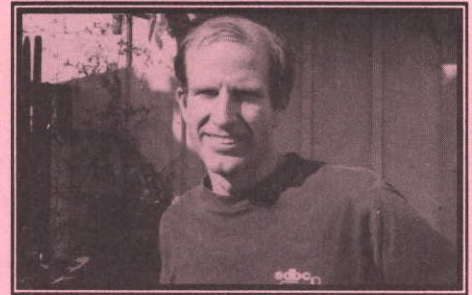
--In the previous episodes we saw how the Pasadena Badminton Club in one month transformed the dreary floors of the Armory into 4 sleek sexy badminton courts, only to receive an eviction notice from the City two weeks later.

Previously the Club had fended off developers of a mall, a glass highrise, a senior citizens' center, and a couple of miscellanies. Now the challenge came not from money and greed, but from the fantasies of artists who wish an art museum ...

By state law the City of Pasadena is obligated to relocate us. Ah, but where do you relocate a badminton club?

With encouragement from City Parks and Recreation, we proposed building a new 4 court facility on unused park land near the famous Rose Bowl. The City gave the green light and we were off and running and running and running. It took 8 months to work through an endless succession of commissions of which Design was the most crucial.

Most damaging to our cause was a stubborn homeowners group on the other side of the park far from



our site. At first they protested that the noise and lights from the courts would fill the night. When they finally realized that the courts would be in an enclosed building they ranted and raged about the drinking and drugs that would result from this insidious group. Oh my, what a pain.

The final design of the building and the negotiation of a 30 year contract occupied 4 more months. Just when it looked like we would begin building, the Design Commission resurfaced and said, "Sorry we made a mistake in approving your design, you will have to begin again." After \$10,000 and a year of effort, this was a crushing setback.

We are proceeding forward once again and I feel we will eventually prevail. This joint city and private club arrangement will hopefully provide a blueprint for other badminton organizations in the U.S. to build new facilities at reasonable cost.

Anyone wishing to contribute or just to stay informed about this endeavor, should drop me a note:

Bob Cook
17002 Cotter Place
Encino, CA 91436



Milt and Annie Koploff

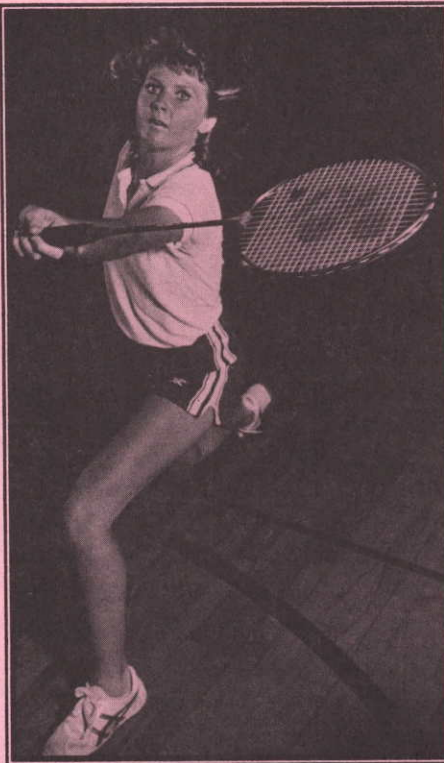
Ann and Milt Koploff were two of the real sparks of the Santa Monica Badminton Club in its heyday. Gradually that club has disbanded and most of its members now play elsewhere. Milt and Annie have been regulars at the Manhattan Beach Club for years. Because Ann loves the busiest social schedule you can produce, they were having pot lucks, evenings out, parties very often.

The last party they were involved in was their going away party combined with entertaining two people from England - remember Anne Codling? - she and her husband just happened to be visiting at the right time.

Wednesday nights and Sunday afternoons are different now without the Koploffs in attendance. But we hear they are totally enjoying their new home in Carlsbad, CA. They play golf and tennis; they use the exercise gym and she takes tap dancing class while Milt is becoming a pool shark. We sent them information about a badminton club in Oceanside. If they get into that it could boom.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE LINDENS!

We hear congratulations are in order for the Chuck Lindens and their new son! Haven't received all the details, but we know we'll get them. Another second generation badminton star to watch.



Tracy Hudson

TRACY HUDSON DIES

U.S. badminton has lost a very talented young player. When Tracy Hudson died in an auto accident during the Arizona tournament in October, not only was the rest of the tournament stunned, all those who knew her felt they had lost a promising young lady.

Tracy won all three 18 year old National Junior titles for '87, an accomplishment that happens quite rarely. During her last two years of national competition she has garnered singles wins over just about all the other current female stars.

Observers of the up and coming hopefuls have had their eyes on Tracy ever since her high school days in Garden Grove, when her talent became visible as she won more and more.

We want her family to know we will miss Tracy in our own way, and we are sorry for their greater loss.

SCBA BILL FOY PHOTOGRAPHIC CONTEST

Come on everyone - get those cameras out, into action. Let's have some great entries for our annual Bill Foy photo contest.

--Entry Blank--

Rules...

1. Photo size - 5" x 7" - no slides.
2. Each picture submitted must be accompanied by entry blank and fee of \$5.00.
3. Each photo must be identified as to subject matter.
4. Photos become property of SCBA and cannot be returned. Entrants keep the negatives.
5. There will be \$100 for the top photo as judged by the committee plus your name & year on the Bill Foy Award Plaque.
6. Judging will be done at the Calif. State Championships.
7. Entries must be received by March 1, 1988.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 St. _____ Zip _____

Identification of subject matter of photo: _____

Entry fee enclosed \$ _____

Mail: 5" x 7" badminton photo with \$5.00 fee to:

SCBA - BILL FOY CONTEST
 Suite 188 Box J
 Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

* * * * *

THE CURRENT SCBA TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE JANUARY - JULY 1988

Jan 8-10	Finals B-C GP MBBC
Jan 19-23	US Srs-Mstrs MBBC
Jan 22-23	Costa Mesa Open B-C-D
Jan 22-24	OREGON Inv, Portland, OR
Jan 23-24	San Diego Money Tourny
Jan 29-31	Valley GP III, Valley Coll.
Feb 13-15	Dave Freeman, GP IV San Diego
Feb 22-28	Am Zn Uber-Thms Cup San Jose
Feb 28-29	US Natl Srs-Mstrs CO Springs
Mar 1-3	US Adult Natls CO Springs
Mar 4-5	Covina H.S. Tourny
Mar 4-5	Garden Grove H.S. Tourny
Mar 11-12	Troy H.S. Tourny
Mar 11-13	CA State, GP V, CSU- Dom Hills
Mar 18	Azusa H.S. Tourny
Mar 23-24	CA State Collegiates CSLongBch
Apr 3-6	US Jr Natl CO Springs
Apr 15-16	Estancia H.S. Tourny
Apr 22-23	CSUDH-Costa Mesa H.S. Tourny
May 12,17,19	CIF Team Preliminaries
May 13-15	Valley College B,C,D
May 13-14	CIF Individual Prelims & Finals
May 21-23	S. Cal Jrs, Pasadena B, C
May 27-30	Win-A-Million B,C, D Pasadena
May 24	CIF Team Finals
Jun 24-26	LA GAMES 88 Jrs, CSUDH
Jul 2-4	Lyons Summer Tourny San Diego
Jul 13-17	CA State Games Jr-Adl-Sr "

YONEX GRAND PRIX CIRCUIT

(See Current Point Totals on p. 18)

Reported by: Dennis Metz

The Sunnyvale Open, the first part of the Yonex California Grand Prix circuit, was held on September 26-28, 1987. The tournament provided excellent competition and a few surprises.

First and foremost was the victory by the recently resurrected men's doubles team of John Britton and Curt Stephan. In the semis, John and Curt defeated National Champions Chris Jogis and Benny Lee in two games, and then in the finals they easily defeated last year's Grand Prix Champions, Tariq Wadood and Dennis Metz.

For the second straight year, Jogis defeated Wadood to claim the men's singles victory. Next year, maybe Tariq should look for another tournament to play that weekend. For the last two years he has been in 5 finals, but lost them all.

The women's singles afforded another surprise winner in the semis. National Champion Joy Kitzmiller was upset by Nina Lolk. However, the semis took a lot out of Nina and the better conditioned Meiling Okuno was able to wrest victory in the finals.

The mixed doubles winners were Britton and Judianne Kelly. In women's doubles Kelly and Lolk took the trophy.

-- GRAND PRIX II

Yonex Grand Prix II was hosted by the Manhattan Beach Club during the first weekend in December. Once again many excellent matches were played, but perhaps the real news was an exciting new women's doubles team which participated.

Two 19 year old sisters from China, Fawn Fan and Jhen Fan, provided some

HEY MATES . . .



Curt Stephan and John Britton

"oomph" into a standard women's doubles draw. With their strength and quickness they easily mowed down their first two opponents.

However, when they reached the team of Terry Lira and Liz Aronsohn an excellent match occurred. Lira and Aronsohn provided enough fire-power to take the third game 15-12 and reach the finals, but then lost by the same score to the champions, Joy Kitzmiller and Ann French. Perhaps the Fan sisters will provide a much needed "shot in the arm" in our women's division.

An upset occurred in men's singles when Bo Ning defeated national team member Sanjay Malde in three tough games to reach the semis. But Tariq Wadood had a walkover into the finals and easily won the tournament by defeating Benny Lee 15-2, 15-0. The women's singles provided a little more excitement as Linda Safarik-Tong narrowly beat Kitzmiller in three games.

The men's doubles team of Yao Ximing and Tariq made easy work of Grand Prix I winners, John Britton and Curt Stephan. And Yao and Traci Britton were on hand to take first in mixed doubles by winning over Solaiman Jonatan and Ann French in the finals.

By: John Britton

The SCBA played host to the select team from Victoria State, Australia for a two week period prior to the OPEN. Victoria are the state champions of Australia and contain several Australian internationals including Rhonda Cator, Australian triple champion. Their high standard of play mirrored the success of Crocodile Dundee at the box office, as they too swept everything aside, beating the USABA team 16-0, SCBA select team 14-2, and a San Diego select team 11-2.

The tour for them finished on a slightly lower note result-wise with the US OPEN. Several of their key players suffered injuries on the tour due to over play, so they were not exactly at full strength for the OPEN. However, they did sweep all the titles at the Pasadena/Aussie "Clobber a Cobber" Tournament successfully run by Ed Matanga the weekend before.

From the SCBA point of view the tour was a success, exposing our members to overseas opposition and letting S. Cal.

find out how badminton is run on a different continent.

From the Australian viewpoint they were a bit disappointed in the organizational structure of both the SCBA and USBA. They expected our level of play to be a bit higher than it was and they were shocked to find we have no organized inter-club match play on a weekly or monthly basis. Our inexperience in running challenge matches frustrated them at first, but they soon realized it was the California way.

I should at this point interject that they have two full time administrators and secretaries to run the V.B.A. and we have nothing! Hence the difficult perspectives.

Ted Barry, who arranged the tour with me, says, "for what John Britton, Chris Jogis and company did to his state on their visit to 'Oz' summed up his group's feelings-- the trip was enjoyable, pretty chaotic and a learning experience both good and bad." Ted and company - hasten ye back.



SCBA's John Britton and Cass Salapatas-Metz flanked on each side by visiting Aussies



DEAR TEACHERS AND COACHES,

The SCBA season is in full swing and the CIF competitive season will be starting in late February. Several high schools need coaches, see "COACHES NEEDED!" >>>

The Youth Development Centers are doing great! Over 300 young people between the ages of 10 and 18 have signed up so far this year. The first three months of play culminated with a Christmas Tournament at Citrus College on Saturday, December 19. Students entered 11, 13, 15, and 18 and under singles and/or doubles. Lunch, T-shirts and trophies were provided.

Congratulations to the winner of the YDC Badminton Crossword Puzzle, Karina Nguyen, age 12, from Vista School (Golden West Center). Karina receives a Yonex racket. Congratulations also to Ralph Chapman, runner-up, age 16, from Carter Oak High School (Citrus Center). Ralph receives a tube of HL feather shuttles.

Happy New Year!

-- Ginny Hales

COACHES NEEDED!!!

HUNTINGTON BEACH High
1905 N. Main Street
Huntington Beach 92648
Feb 22 - May 7
M,T,Th, 1:45-4:30
W,F, 1:45-6:00
Call Sharon Rittenhouse
(714) 536-2514 ext.275
Male preferred, \$1200 approx.

MARK KEPPEL High School
501 E. Hellman Avenue
Alhambra, CA 91801
Feb 22 - May 1
M,W,F 2:30-4:30 T,Th matches
Call Harold George
(818) 576-2457
Female preferred, fluent in Chinese

OCEAN VIEW High School
17071 Gothard Street
Huntington Beach, CA 92647
Feb 22 - May 1
Call Girls' Athletic Director
(714) 848-0656

WESTMINSTER High School
14325 Golden West Street
Westminster, CA 92683
Feb 22 - May 1
M,T,Th, 2-3:45 W,F, 2-6pm
Call Doris Pitcher
between 10-11am
(714) 893-1381 ext.275
Male preferred, \$1400 approx.

MARLBOROUGH
School for Girls
250 S. Rossmore Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90004
Feb 22 - May 15 M-F 2:45-5pm
Call Julie McCarthy, A.D.
(213) 935-1147
\$1500



SPECIAL NOTICE: SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA BADMINTON INFO NOW AVAILABLE

If you have friends who would like to know more about badminton information - schedules, places to play, contacts - Ginny Hales has produced a brochure that you can get by calling her at (213) 454-6965. We are very proud of Ginny's good work, so use one where it will help.



CA. GRAND PRIX POINT TOTALS:

Men's Singles

160pts: Wadood 100: Jogis, Lee
40: Barton, Higgins, Ning
20: Berekynei, Bashir, Djie, Jones,
Larsen, Malde, Penn, Shaw

Women's Singles

100pts: Safarik-Tong 80: Kitzmiller,
Okuno 40: French, Lolk, VonHeiland
20: Aronsohn

Men's Doubles

140pts: Britton, Stephan, Wadood
100: Yao 60: Jonatan 40: Gilmour,
Higgins, Metz 20: Barton, French,
Kamphius, Jogis, Penn, Schoppe,
Shelstad, Woods, Zuniga

Women's Doubles

80pts: Aronsohn, A. French, Kelly,
Kitzmiller, Lolk 40: Lira 20: Britton,
X. Fan, Z. Fan, S-Tong

Mixed Doubles

120pts: J. Britton, Kelly 100: Yao,
T.Britton 80: Wadood 60: A. French,
Jonatan 40: S-Metz, Warner
20: Aronsohn, Lee, Metz, Okuno



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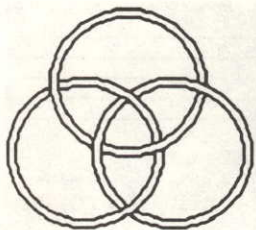
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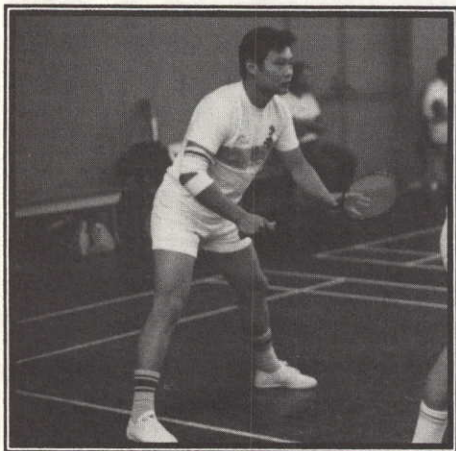
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USA Badminton Association News



New Coach Bo Ning

NEW COACH APPOINTED

USABA is pleased to announce we have added another coach to our staff. Mr. Bo Ning, who received his formal badminton training in China, will now be assisting our head coach, Yao Ximing. Both are current top nationally ranked players as well.

THE U.S. OPEN

The USABA Team was asked to serve as linesmen for the finals at the U.S. OPEN held in Manhattan Beach. This was indeed an honor and we wish to thank the U.S. OPEN committee for entrusting this responsibility to us. This also presented us with a wonderful opportunity to meet many team members from all over the world.

USABA HOSTS AUSTRALIANS

The week prior to the U.S. Open the SCBA asked us if we were interested in hosting a tournament between the USABA team and the Australian National team from Victoria. Of course, we agreed and what followed over the course of the next two weeks is truly what badminton is all about.

At this, our first exposure to an international team, we "allowed" the Aussies to get even for the Americas Cup. But what a great experience for us.

Following the tournament, USABA provided dinner at which we got to know the Aussies. As a matter of fact, we all got along so well that USABA housed most of the Australian team over the next two weeks. We learned that this same team, of the Victorian Badminton Association, had recently hosted a group of U.S. players who visited Australia this past July.

The Aussies had housed them, fed them, transported them, took them site seeing and arranged badminton tournaments. International badminton courtesy required that the U.S. respond, and upon

departing Melbourne, the U.S. team had invited the Aussie team to visit the States.

Fortunately, USABA inherited the Aussies upon their arrival to the U.S. Feeling a sense of national pride and honor, we eagerly resolved to take them under our wing. We housed four of the guys at the USABA house and the four girls at another local residence. We took them site seeing, including, of course, Disneyland, and otherwise entertained and befriended them as best we could.

However, we were quickly snake bit, as our sense of duty turned to something more important -- true friendship. The Aussies were an absolutely remarkable group of people. Australia can truly be proud of such a sincere, dedicated group of ladies and gentlemen. We really liked them.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

As reported last issue, a USABA team member, Binh Lam, was invited and did in fact attend the Indonesian World Jr. Championships recently held in Jakarta. Binh reported that this, the first IBF sanctioned world junior championships, was run



Binh Lam, second from the right, with his Russian partner, Nikolai Zoev, third from the right, the Russian coach, center, and the others are Malaysian team members.

very similarly to an Olympic event complete with personal interpreters and aids. On arrival in Jakarta, he was met by an English speaking aid who helped him clear customs and accompanied him to the hotel. On the opening day of the tournament, all participants paraded into an enormous badminton stadium proceeded by flag bearers carrying each country's respective colors and were greeted by their national anthems.

Binh said that he has never felt so important and proud as when he entered the stadium as the sole American representative, behind the Stars and Stripes while they played the Star Spangled Banner to the enthusiastic cheers of over 7,000 Indonesian spectators. Binh also added that he has never been so apprehensive. A "get acquainted banquet" followed the opening ceremonies, and then play would begin.

Unfortunately, as luck would have it, Binh drew a top ranked Korean for his first round singles match, and he was unceremoniously "dusted." Binh has now seen and experienced first hand that we here in the U.S. have a long way to go before we will be serious international competitors.

However, this type of exposure to high quality play is one of the most important first steps that we can take. That, combined with a professional training program like that offered by USABA, will get us competitive a lot faster than most currently expect.

After Binh's singles, a very interesting event took place. Since the U.S. team consisted of just one player, and the Russian team also consisted of just one player, the tournament officials teamed them as doubles partners. Well, to the jeers of the crowd, the two

managed to thrash their first round opponents, an Indonesian team -- which accounted for the jeers. It seems that throughout an entire match, the crowd constantly cheers or boos every shot depending on whether it goes well for the Indonesian players or not. Binh said that this constant shouting by such a large crowd took a while to get used to.

Their next round opponents were also Indonesians, but much tougher, and they finished off the history making pair in short order.

Following the tournament, the players were treated to another "good-bye" banquet. This should have been the end of Binh's experience but, it wasn't. Due to some misunderstanding with Garuda Airlines they refused to board him. Binh missed the flight and the next one wasn't for six days. Very graciously, the Indonesian Badminton Association further extended their hospitality and offered Binh free room and board at one of their national training facilities for juniors. Needless to say, Binh trained with the National team for the next several days and was ecstatic.

We've decided to go again next year and this time we'll be better prepared. Anyone interested? We need a few more dedicated 15-16 year olds, so contact us right away.

FUNDAMENTAL SINGLES TACTICS

with Tariq Wadood

THE FUNDAMENTALS

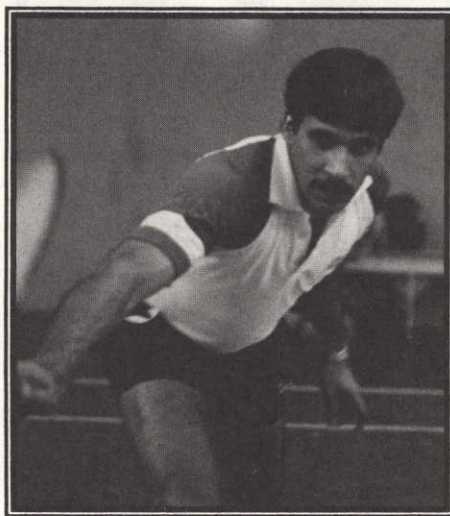
Most fundamentally, the singles game focuses on hitting shots that force your opponent to run into the different corners of the court, while you are able to control your center court base. Your opponent will tend to get off balance and ultimately hit a weak return, and you will be in position to attack and score a point.

To execute this fundamental tactic it is important to have sound techniques of footwork and shotmaking. Once the shuttle can be hit at all, the technique of footwork is perhaps the more important to focus on so that you can then be in position and on balance on the court.

THE BASE POSITION

Before and after every shot you must quickly choose a center court base position. Very often it may not be possible to get back to the best base position, but in that case, you should choose a "false base" position.

It is much worse to be caught going the wrong way by your opponent's shot, than to be in a ready position, even if you are far from the center of the court. As soon as you realize that you will not reach the center court in time



Team HL and U.S. National Team Player-Coach, Tariq Wadood, is the current U.S. National Singles Champion.

for your opponent's shot, then, just before your opponent hits their shot, stop and set yourself in a ready position where you are.

OVERUSE OF THE SMASH

When inexperienced players are told to play faster, they often tend to smash more. When a coach tells a player to play fast, they are speaking of increasing the player's footspeed. Footspeed allows you to get in position faster and out-manuever your opponent. In singles, the smash is used as an attacking and finishing shot against weak returns when you are on balance to hit accurately and recover your base position.

Drops and clears are generally used to maneuver your opponent away from their base position to cause an off-balanced return. Then the smash comes into play. Usually the smash is directed toward the sidelines. If the opponent is not set or their defense is weak, then the smash may be effective when directed at the opponent's body.

Remember, if you smash when you are off balance or out of position you are usually giving the advantage to your opponent. Almost any return they hit allows you less time to recover than if you had hit a drop or a clear.

RETURN OF SMASHES

The most often used return of the smash in singles is the block return to the net. The most effective smash return is the cross court block to the net (see fig. A). This return forces your opponent to run the maximum distance.

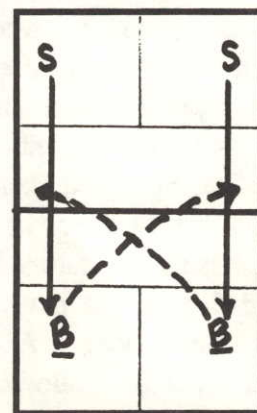


Fig. A: Block return (B) of Smashes (S)

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MORE FUNDAMENTALS

continued...

Return of cross court smashes, however, should be blocked straight (see fig. B), since this is also the furthest distance your opponent must run.

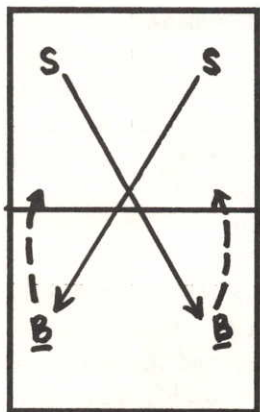


Fig. B: Block of Cross Court Smash

In general, smashes should not be returned back up high to the smasher. However, if the smasher moves quickly to the net after each smash, then one or two high returns will make your opponent less confident about rushing in.

CONTACT THE SHUTTLE HIGH AND QUICKLY

A singles player should move quickly to contact the shuttle at the highest possible point for every stroke. Always move toward the shuttle rather than wait for it to come to you. The sooner you hit your shot, the less chance your opponent has to get to his center position.

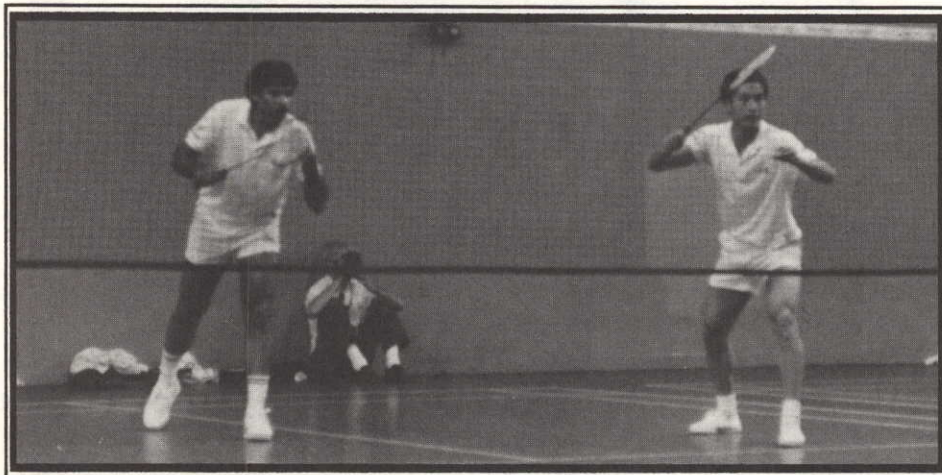
When you contact the shuttle high, you can hit stronger clears and steeper and quicker drops and smashes to move your opponent to all corners of the court.

SUMMARY

Direct your shots away from your opponent's center position while you quickly move to and from your base position. When you have out-maneuvered your opponent, then attack to win the point. It may seem difficult at first to always get set in a base position, even if it is a "false base," but that fundamental technique will give you a big advantage in playing winning singles.

BADMINTON ACROSS AMERICA

USA NATIONAL TEAM TRIALS RECAP



Tariq Wadood and Yao Ximing, National Team Coaches and top trial finishers

A furious series of matches between the top qualifying players from all of the regions of the U.S. were held over the 4 days of the Thanksgiving holidays at the Manhattan Beach Badminton Club. Vicki Toutz administered the fairest national trial system in years, where players were competing for spots on the men's and women's U.S. National squads.

The primary objective was to determine the 1988 U.S. Thomas Cup team (men's competition) and Uber Cup team (women's competition) for the events to be held in late February in San Jose, California. World-wide, some 35 countries will be participating in what most serious enthusiasts consider to be the premier competitions of badminton.

The trials began with a round-robin pool system, where the top two finishers in each of four pools graduated to a regular draw of eight players or teams in each event. These top eight players then played a full consolation draw system with all places played off.

The top 6 finishers in singles were named

to the national squad, and next, the highest placing doubles players were named to fill out the team. Eventually, national squads of 12 men and 13 women were determined.

Most eventual qualifiers did about as expected in earning their team positions, although many players had to contend with the flu. All but 3 men and 1 woman (of the 25 that finally qualified) were from the Southwestern region, but all regions were well represented, and there was some surprises, too.

A young new-comer originally from Ireland and now representing the Eastern region, Tom Reidy, proved himself a top singles player by finishing fourth. Katie Skole, also of the East, made her mark by reaching the finals in the ladies' singles. Among Southwesterners, Sanjay Malde upset highly touted Benny Lee to place high in singles.

1986 Thomas Cup heroes, Bruce Pontow and Matt Fogarty, of the Mid-Western and Southern regions respectively, came out of "retirement" to earn doubles positions.

The ladies' doubles had many close matches, including the very last match which saw Laura Warner and Julie Stephan come from behind to grab the last two women's squad positions.

MEN'S NATIONAL TEAM -- Singles spots (in order of finish): Tariq Wadood, Chris Jogis, Sanjay Malde, Tom Reidy, Benny Lee, Guy Chadwick. Remaining spots based on Doubles results: Yao Ximing, Bruce Pontow, Matt Fogarty, John Britton, Curt Stephan, Solaiman Jonatan.

WOMEN'S NATIONAL TEAM -- Singles spots (in order of finish): Joy Kitzmiller, Katarina Skole, Meiling Okuno, Linda French, Linda Safarik-Tong, Ann French. Remaining spots based on Doubles results: Liz Aronsohn, Traci Britton, Pam Owens, Judi Kelly, Nina Lolk, Julie Stephan, Laura Warner.

The final U.S. Thomas Cup and Uber Cup teams, headed up by coaches Tariq Wadood and Yao Ximing, will be paired down to 9 men and 9 women by early February. A grant from U.S. Olympic funds of approximately \$50,000.00 has been awarded to support training sessions of these U.S. squads.

The 1988 American Thomas Cup zone has as entrants Korea for its top-seeded team, Hong Kong, Canada, Guatemala, Pakistan, Mexico, Peru, Chinese-Taipei, and the USA.

The American Uber Cup zone has entries from Canada, Chinese-Taipei, Korea, Hong Kong, and the USA. Only one country will qualify from each of these groups to advance to the final rounds of these international competitions.

BADMINTON ACROSS AMERICA

PANAM GAMES

The 1987 Pan American Games were hosted by Lima, Peru, and more than 10 countries participated in individual and team badminton competitions. Chris Jogis, Benny Lee, Joy Kitzmiller, Linda French, and team captain Dean Schoppe represented the USA. The team played well to finish tied with Peru behind a Champion Canadian team.

Unfortunately, cancelled flights, money exchange and hotel problems, umpiring inconsistencies, nearby terrorist attacks, power failure, and inconvenient scheduling, all interfered with the success of the trip for the visiting participants.

ARIZONA H. S. CHAMPIONSHIPS

The AAA Arizona State Badminton Championships were held this past November which decided the individual and team results for the 1987 Arizona High School season. Currently Arizona plays badminton as an all-girl sport.

Moon Valley High School, coached by Bill Berech, earned the coveted team championship. They edged out second place Corona del Sol by 2 points, and third place Xavier by 4 points.

Xavier's Ellie Stark grabbed the singles' title, and Moon Valley's Alycia Klein and Dawn Robinson took the doubles' honor.

TEAM POINT TOTALS: Moon Valley- 12, Corona del Sol- 10, Xavier- 8, McClintock- 6.5, South Mountain- 6, Sunnyslope- 5, Dobson- 4, Prescott- 3.5, Trevor Browne- 3, Tempe- 1.5, Carl Hayden- 1, Saguaro- 1, Agua Fria- .5

INDIVIDUAL FINISHERS: Singles: 1st- Stark (Xav.) 2nd- Mikel Springer (S. Mtn) 3rd- Michele Pezold (Mn.Vly) 4th- Kelley Belmas (Cor. d. Sol) Doubles: 1st- Klein & Robinson (Mn. Vly.) 2nd- Paula Forner & Kim Starkey (Sunslp) 3rd- Susan Donz & Jennifer Rogers (Cor. d. Sol) 4th- Kathy Perez & Kelly Jacobsen (McClntk)

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BADMINTON ACROSS AMERICA

CHALLENGE CUP



Erica Von Heiland in action for the USA

Dean Schoppe's "Challenge Cup - Mexico vs. USA," was reestablished after its cancellation due to the Mexico City earthquake last year. It was held the evening prior to the U.S. OPEN at the Manhattan Beach Badminton Club. The winning country would break a 3-3 tie in Challenge Cup match-ups to date.

In the early going it looked like Mexico would be sure winners after they took the first two matches, including an upset in the men's doubles. But, excellent play by Marty French and Southern California High School player Eileen Tang in the mixed doubles, followed by Benny Lee's big win in singles over the Mexican Champion, evened up the score.

The odds were still in Mexico's favor though, as they had their seasoned veteran women's doubles team matched against an inexperienced USA pair. But, Julie Stephan and Laura Warner played tough and upset the Mexicans in three games to give the Challenge Cup to the USA.

"OFFICIALLY" SPEAKING

At each of the Thomas and Uber Cup venues, the IBF has invited individuals nominated and approved by their national organizations to become certified and accredited officials for international badminton events. The USBA has nominated Dennis Metz and Paisan Rangsitkpho, both of Southern California, to undergo the final testing for certification.

In San Jose, Dennis and Paisan will be taking written and practical examinations throughout the Thomas/Uber week. If successful, they will be part of a very select group of about 30 internationally qualified officials. At present, USBA President Stan Hales is the only certified umpire from the U.S.

Speaking of umpires, below is pictured just some of the crew of officials and linesmen that oversaw the U.S. OPEN.

U.S. NATIONAL DATES SET

The USBA office has recently announced the dates for the up-coming 1988 U.S. National Closed Championship tournaments.

In a continuing effort to bring the sport of badminton in line with other Olympic sports, the U.S. Closed National tournaments will be held at a large USA Olympic Training site in Colorado Springs, Colorado. It will be interesting to see how the high elevation and weather conditions effect the competition.

The Senior Adult Nationals will be played February 28-29. The Adult Championships will be held February 29 - March 3, just a day or two following Thomas and Uber Cup play in Northern California - this may keep some top players from participating in the Nationals. The Junior Nationals will be held April 3-5.



Some of the "crew" of officials and linesmen at the 1987 U.S. OPEN

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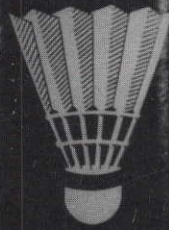
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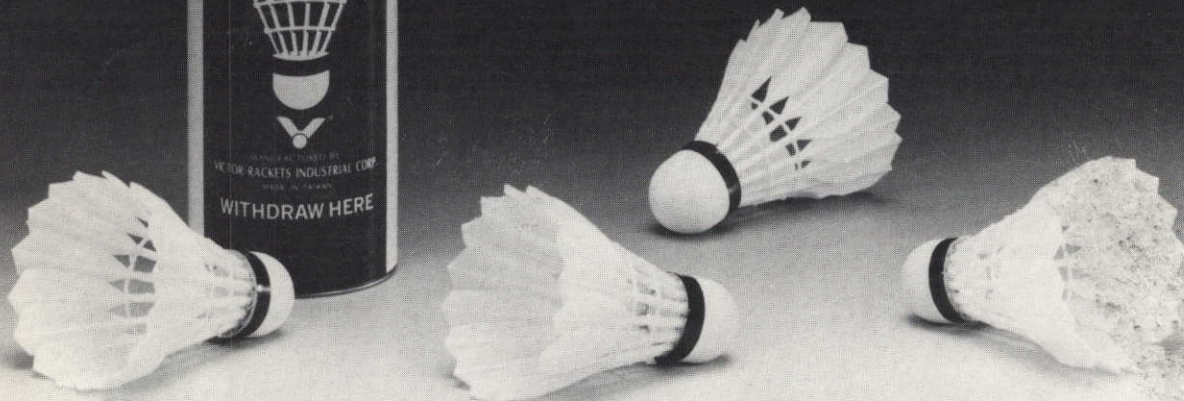
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