

The BADMINTON Magazine

VOL. 4, NO. 1

MARCH 1989



The IBF
is Watching !

THE QUIET
BEFORE
THE STORM

INSIDE

Interview...
Emile Ter Metz

SCBA's
"Shuttle Scuttle"

National Team
Trials Review

Profile Sketch...
Dean Schoppe

FUNDamentals
By TBM

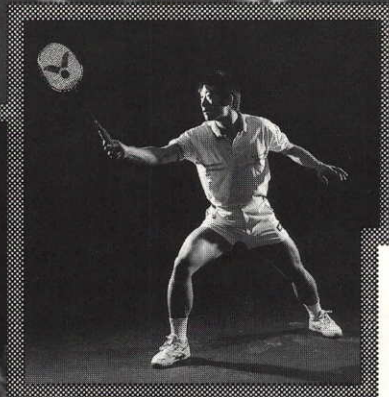
and more...

IBF Vice President Emile Ter Metz

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The BADMINTON Magazine

VOL. 4, NO. 1

MARCH 1989

PUBLISHERS:

David H. Levin, W. Guy Chadwick

EDITOR: Guy Chadwick

LOGO DESIGN: Charles Elay

ISSN NUMBER: 0747-9069

Advertising/Subscriptions/News:

THE BADMINTON MAGAZINE

c/o Guy Chadwick, Editor

5873 E. Paradise Lane/Scottsdale/AZ/85254

(602) 494-9464



We have badminton personality sketches of Dean Schoppe of Southern California (page 9), and of Bob Sands of the Chicago area (page 15), each of whom have been working incredibly hard at helping badminton for over a decade.

A pictorial review of this year's National Team trials displays many of the contenders for up-coming tournament highlights (page 16).

Many other news items will become more definitive, but I can mention the increasing corporate sponsorship interest. HL Corporation has just agreed to sponsor the U.S. Junior Nationals. A new 3-year \$100,000+ contract for the U.S. OPEN by Carlton Sports Company is the largest yet for U.S. badminton next to U.S.O.C. funding. This may help to secure the OPEN as a genuine media event.

U.S.O.C. grant funding will go toward USBA administration, the hiring of National Coaches Tariq Wadood and Sombat Dhammabusaya, and scheduling junior and adult training camps and international trips.

We are now seeing the unfolding of our sport - the forces are gathering - it is the quiet before the storm.

FROM THE EDITOR...

This issue represents the quiet before the storm...

Most high school badminton is just getting underway. Various regional tournaments, the U.S. Junior, Adult, and Senior Nationals, the Collegiate Nationals, and many internat'l events will all be held this month and next.

Because the May issue will be jammed full of season culminating action and events, I have focused on badminton personalities in this issue.

The IBF has expressed an interest in directly helping U.S. badminton, therefore we have an exclusive interview with IBF Vice President Emile ter Metz (page 4).

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An Exclusive Interview with...

I.B.F. Vice President EMILE TER METZ

The International Badminton Federation's
Development Committee Chairman

A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY...

Anton Emile ter Metz has lived in Haarlem, The Netherlands since his birth in 1921. He is married with two daughters, each of whom are married and have two boys. In 1973, Mr. ter Metz was elected Honorable Secretary of the European Badminton Union (E.B.U.) and appointed Continental Representative for the E.B.U. on the Council of the I.B.F. In 1984, he was elected Vice President of the I.B.F. and became Chairman of the newly established Development Committee. Mr. ter Metz recently visited the U.S. to gain a better understanding of U.S. Badminton as a representative for the I.B.F.



TBM: How did you become involved in badminton?

EMILE: My wife and daughters played badminton. Standing along the sidelines, I was asked to assist with a tournament (in 1960). That resulted in a seat on the committee of my club - the famous 'Duinwijk' Badminton Club - and was followed by regional and national activities. Never played the game myself.

TBM: Why does the I.B.F. have an interest in U.S. badminton?

EMILE: The I.B.F. feels it has a duty to promote or introduce the game all over the world. Special attention is now being paid to the development in the USA. Not only is the USA a big and powerful nation, but it also speaks to the imagination especially of younger countries and is copied in many ways.

Also, the USA is a nation which could realize the staging of important

events, which are now mainly consigned to major countries in Asia. By inclusion of such events in the USA, there would be a better distribution of badminton over the world.

The fact of badminton's being well developed in the USA would strongly support the status and activities of the newly re-activated Pan American Badminton Confederation, and thereby contribute to development on the whole American continent.

TBM: Is the I.B.F. planning financial support of the U.S.?

EMILE: In principle, the I.B.F. does not make financial contributions to development in a country. It organizes coaching courses, players' exchanges, video-tapes, instructional booklets and other similar things.

TBM: In what ways would the I.B.F. like to see U.S. badminton improve?

EMILE: We would very much like to

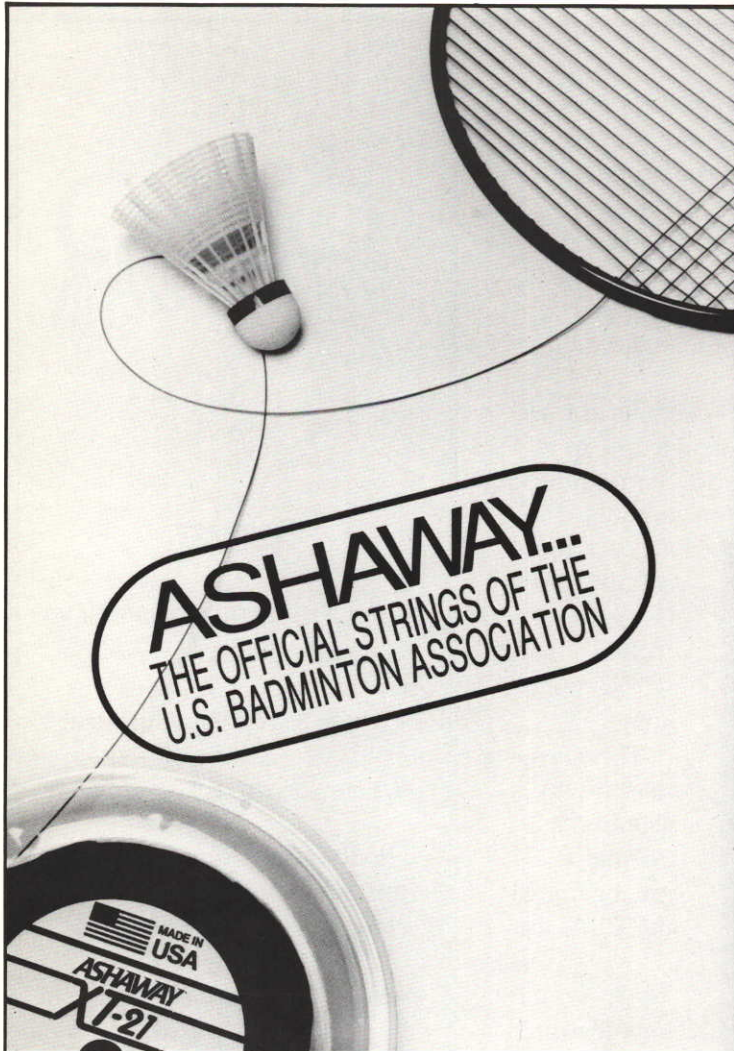
see an important growth of the membership of the U.S.B.A. in order to make a large strong body and thereby obtain sufficient interest from governmental bodies, press, television, the National Olympic Committee, sponsors, etc.

A large association could employ professional staff and coaches and thereby increase the playing level. In order to really come into the picture, i.e. to attract sponsors and television coverage, international results are a necessity. This will take time, but the larger the actual number of players, the better chance to have talented ones.

TBM: What is the I.B.F.'s initial plans for U.S. development?

EMILE: For the time being, it is felt that badminton in California is maybe more developed than in other states, and that this region may therefore be

... continued on page 6



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A LETTER TO THE EDITOR...

I enjoyed reading your recent issue of "The Badminton Magazine"...

As a badminton player in Alaska, much removed from the mainstream of the sport, it is heartening to know that progress is being made to legitimize badminton as a competitive sport in the rest of the nation.

Although the level of play in this state is not very high, the participants indulge in the activity with much enthusiasm, if not fervor. We also have a few young players with potential to develop dramatically. Perhaps not long from now we will send a contingent to compete nationally.

Again, thank you for your magazine. I look forward to receiving future issues.

-- Sen Tan
(Anchorage, Alaska)

{Editor's Note: It's fantastic to hear from our Northernmost and largest state. I would love to receive more news and perhaps even photos of badminton action in Alaska. And we all look forward to an Alaskan contingent visiting our mainland tournaments.}

IMPORTANT:

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the most suitable for a pilot project. Further studies of the situation may, however, lead to other possibilities.

It should be kept in mind that any undertaking from the I.B.F. in the jurisdiction of the U.S.B.A. should first be discussed and approved by the U.S.B.A., which might have quite different ideas and/or better suggestions.

Only after the approval of the U.S.B.A. can a start be made. It is very clear that here, too - the sooner the better.

TBM: How important is the new Olympic status of badminton?

EMILE: The Olympic status is of enormous importance. Badminton will now be recognized as an important game all over the world. Beside the direct

contributions of the Olympic movement (media coverage, etc.), many more sources of support become available from governments, national sports bodies, national Olympic committees, etc.

TBM: How does badminton fit into the world of sports?

EMILE: The present world cannot be thought of without sports. Sport has become a very substantial part of our lives with more positive than negative aspects.

Interesting discussions could be held on the value of top sport, but one thing is for sure, that it has inspired many, many people to also be active in sports and, in that way, to lead a better and

healthier life.

A great variety of sports is essential in order that everyone can practice the sport which comes most naturally to him or her.

Badminton has some important advantages over other sports. It is fast, exciting, rather compact and needs much less space than, for instance, tennis.

In Asia, badminton attracts at least as much attention as tennis does in other parts of the world. Badminton is

organized in at least 100 countries and is therefore truly a world-wide game.

There is no reason why it should not become a great game in the USA, too!

TBM: We all look forward to the day when badminton is recognized

and accepted by the general American public. So many people, young and old, are currently missing out on a great sport for healthy recreational and competitive play.

Thank you Mr. ter Metz for your interest in helping to bring badminton to more of the American people.

Editor's Note: We will be sure to report any new developments in the I.B.F. plans for the U.S. as they become more specific. You may contact the I.B.F. at:

International Badminton Federation
24 Winchcombe House
Winchcombe St.
Cheltenham, Glos., GL52 2NA
ENGLAND

Q U E S T I O N S



???????

DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION ABOUT...

- where to play in your area?
- where you can get equipment?
- who to call for more coaching or general badminton advice for your school or club program?
- when tournaments in your area are scheduled?
- who else plays in your area?
- where you can publicize your badminton news, upcoming tournaments, and local badminton heroes, etc.?
- how you can help bring our new Olympic sport to your friends on a local, state, regional, or even national level?
- who to talk to about any skill you might wish to offer?

CONTACT...

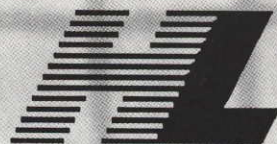
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Badminton FUNdamentals...

RACKET PREPARATION

By Dean Schoppe

[Dean Schoppe of Manhattan Beach, Calif., is easily the nation's most prolific badminton clinician. He has organized thousands of school and club badminton clinics, camps, and exhibitions in recent years, and he works closely with National Coach Tariq Wadood -- see page 9.]

Racket preparation is essential for improving the quick and proper response to your opponents' shots.

Proper racket preparation includes complete body alignment (knees slightly bent, on the balls of your feet, squared off perpendicular to your opponent) and...

YOUR RACKET SHOULD BE HELD UP AND WELL OUT IN FRONT OF YOU, MUCH LIKE A BOXER.

Even in tennis where the rallies stay consistently lower to the ground, this racket preparation is used. How often have you seen the tennis star poised, ready to receive service, using their opposite hand to help hold the tennis racket out in front.

In badminton, the racket is very light, so you don't need the help of your opposite hand, but your racket preparation is equally important. You must be ready to respond to many quick, above eye-level shots as well as the ground level play.

IN SINGLES PLAY racket preparation with the racket held up and out in front allows several advantages:

1- You can quickly respond to smashes to either side of your body with a

quick turn of your upper body. Your racket is already in position to lead your upper body directly to the shuttle.

2- You can immediately turn and step to the back court in response to clears over your head. Your racket is again ready to lead you into action just a split second away from your overhead cocked position. You are prepared to cut off low or short clears with a quick smash or other attacking shot.

3- Against drop shots to the net, proper racket preparation allows you to immediately step forward and lunge with your racket to catch your opponent's shot as high as possible. When you hold your racket low you will be slower to respond to net shots and forced to play much more defensively.

IN DOUBLES PLAY many of the same principles apply with the added importance that there is even less time to react to the various doubles shots.

It is particularly important to be



ready to respond to smashes to both sides of your body. Good teams will soon exploit weaknesses in your smash defense if your racket preparation is to one side of your body or the other.

In addition, the doubles service return relies completely on racket preparation. You will never be able to attack your opponent's short serve unless you hold your racket way up and out in front toward the net.

IN GENERAL racket preparation also indicates mental readiness and concentration. Slack racket preparation often shows lack of readiness. If you get in the habit of proper racket preparation before every shot, it will automatically bring your attention to the shuttle. You will react quicker and your rhythm of play will improve.

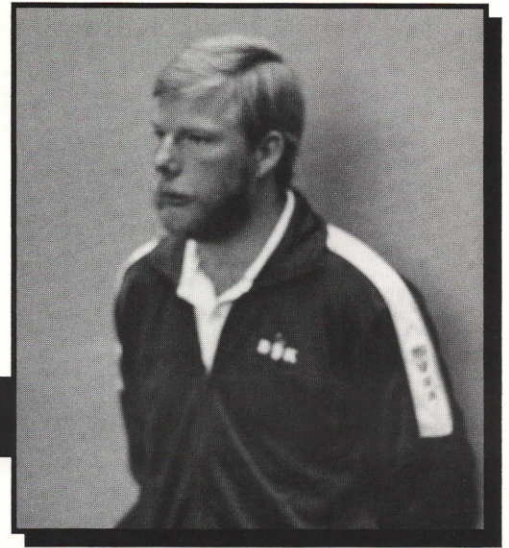
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DEAN SCHOPPE

A Badminton Personality Sketch



"If I could make a statement to anyone who would like to take advantage of the great opportunities badminton has to offer, it would be to make a commitment to consistently try very hard and be receptive to coaching. You may well exceed others' and even your own expectations."

Dean Schoppe is an instrumental part of U.S. badminton. Now 32, he has already conducted an estimated 3000 clinics and exhibitions promoting badminton at schools and clubs. He has worked steadily for badminton since he was 20.

Among his many accomplishments, Dean founded the ongoing annual "Challenge Cup" between Mexico and the U.S. He is currently the U.S. Representative and Treasurer for the Pan American Badminton Confederation. He is also the Centers' Director and Exhibitions' Director for the Amateur Athletic Foundation badminton program in the Los Angeles area under Ginny Hales. This is all in addition to his full-time position with HL Corporation.

"Badminton gives you an arena - a microcosm of life - to identify your own character traits. It inspires you to train and exercise. And, it is great to play your best. Badminton has given me and many others the opportunity to

make good friends and travel to many parts of the world. I hope that badminton continues to grow so that the general public will gain much more respect for the sport."

As a player, Dean had "stagnated" for a decade at the middle "A" tournament ranking level. He could never seem to improve and grab those "big wins." Considering that Dean is legally blind in one eye he had plenty of excuse, but he never gave up.

"When Tariq Wadood became the Pro at the Manhattan Beach Badminton Club I made up my mind to try real hard and be very receptive to his coaching. With that commitment I improved more in the last 2 years than in all my previous years of badminton."

"If I could make any statement to anyone who would like to take advantage of the great opportunities badminton has to offer, it would be that: Make a commitment to

consistently try very hard and be receptive to coaching. You may well exceed others' and even your own expectations."

"I did experience disappointments while improving, though. For example, when I was trying out for the U.S. Thomas Cup team last time, which was at that time my greatest ambition, I was told by a U.S.B.A. executive that even if I managed to make the team I would not play. Apparently he refused to accept the possibility that I could improve."

Dean has exceeded expectations. He won his first major doubles tournament in October last year. Just recently at the new National Team Trials, he qualified with Tariq as the #2 U.S. Men's Doubles team.

Dean's ultimate goal as a player is to win a U.S. National Title. And as a result of his commitment, he and Tariq will be top contenders at this year's U.S. Nationals coming up in April.

SCBA's "Shuttle Scuttle"



Kelly and Paisan awaiting surgery.

MEDITORIAL...

Although I have heard such things as volcano eruptions and earthquakes blamed on the bomb... I am searching for a culprit that could have caused the outbreak of surgeries that the badminton community has had lately.


Wes Schoppe began it all with spinal surgery (that he should have had decades ago). He made up his mind to put an end to the discomfort and his inability to play badminton. He was back on his feet later the day of the operation, and went home within 2 days, rather surprising the doctor.

About this time, Horacio Hanson went in for a check up and got himself a quadruple bypass. He too was out of the hospital in rather speedy time.

Then, our President Paisan made his appointment for spinal micro-surgery. He was delayed a week so that he ended up in the very same doctor's office at the very same time as I was in for hip surgery. So, November went by with both of us a bit groggy.

A few weeks later, Wes decided he wanted arthroscopic knee surgery. He was in for half a day and walked out a couple hours after the work was done.

Vol. 32, Issue #4, Surgery-Season 88-89



SCBA SHUTTLE-SCUTTLE

The "Shuttle Scuttle" insert is an independent publication of the Southern California Badminton Association.

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Wes Schoppe
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Horacio then had another bad time and spent the New Years and more in the hospital for further heart repair, but has been taken care of.

Meanwhile, Judianne Kelly who has had to give up competitive play, decided it was her turn. While playing golf her knee objected, so she went in for arthroscopic knee surgery again. Judi left on crutches, but she no longer needed them the next day.

I can tell you that all the above "victims" are well recovered by now. I am still on crutches because no matter how well I am doing I am not allowed to put weight on the new hip for 3 months. Visualize yourself trying to do things like vacuuming, shopping, and the wash while both your hands are busy with crutches. I could now write a book about being a clutz. I'm looking forward to March when the doctor will turn me loose.

I still haven't made any decisions about my badminton future, but I still think I have one. If it is just recreational - so be it. If it is competitive - it sounds a lot more probable and a lot more Tibbettsish.



Directors Lee Calvert, Richard Lira, Cass S-Metz, and Liz Florez join their waiter on the left and the restaurant manager on the right at the "meeting."

SCBA WENT GREEK...

SCBA had a holiday meeting and party at a Greek restaurant in January. A few of the directors really got into the spirit and were dancing with our waiter and the manager.

Before we ate the great Greek food, we did have a brief business meeting. The most important decision made at that time was that a Fronton will be scheduled in late April or May. These Frontons are so much fun, don't ever miss one. As soon as we clear a date at the MBBC we will let you know. Plan to be there and bring your non-badminton friends. EVERYONE is enthusiastic about badminton after seeing a Fronton!

SCBA's "Shuttle Scuttle"

NEW DATE FOR LEISURE...

All you seniors and masters who have the Leisure World tournament on your calendar for June - please change the date to May 27-29. We had to do some quick shuffling when we found that the former All England Champion, Borge Fredericksen of the Leisure World Club, could not even be there at the previous date.

This is a holiday weekend, so there should not be any problems. If the draw is large enough we can play through Monday if necessary. Hotel rooms will be available within a few blocks of the gym. There will be a big party with dinner and dancing on Saturday evening. It's a full fledged event on this year's senior circuit, so don't miss it. Watch for fliers and entries soon to be distributed.

SCBA CALENDAR...

MAR 3-4 (& following weekends):
Various high school tournaments
Vicki Toutz (213) 598-1561
Dean Schoppe (213) 546-3652

MAR 11-12:
CA St. Champs, Sunnyvale
Parker (408) 735-8484

MAR 23-26:
US Sr Closed Nat'l's, Midwest, OK
Len Williams (402) 592-7309

APR 1-2:
Beach Tournament, Long Beach
Paisan (213) 439-9433

APR 2-5: US Jr Nat'l's, OTC, Colorado
APR 5-9: US Adult Nat'l's, OTC
USBA (402) 592-7309

APR 21-23:
Valley 'A' GP, LA Valley
Cass S-Metz (818) 343-8316

1988 YONEX BETTER WAY BREAD B-C GRAND PRIX FINALS...

The Manhattan Beach Badminton Club was the sight of the 1988 B-C Grand Prix Finals in January. There were many new champions, including a surprise 'B' Women's Doubles team.

Michelle Tafoya and Eileen Tang, having never played together before, were the upset team of the tournament. All of their matches went 3 games. In the finals they beat the #1 seeds Stacey Murty and Sanne Simonsen.

Simonsen, a high school exchange student from Denmark, did win the 'B' Women's Singles and Mixed Doubles. She defeated Diane Hales in the singles, 11-7, 12-9, and teamed with Marc Padre for the mixed title.

Nathan Bonaparte was crowned the 1988 'B' Men's Singles champion with a win over Quyen Nguyen in two games. #2 seeded Ed Rivas and Tracey Tom beat unseeded Nguyen and Siew Ko handily for the 'B' Doubles title.

In the 'C' events, Wenn Yi Ting beat Karen Ko for the Ladies Singles title. Ting teamed with Ko to defeat Linda Joe and Akiko Tamano in the Ladies Doubles, and she teamed with Looh Ting for the Mixed trophy by beating Wayne Spears and Ko in the Mixed.

Looh Ting and Spears survived a 3 game struggle in the Men's Doubles finals against Hartono Go and Idris Handaja to win. And finally, Muchlis Wibowo upset the #1 seeded Alvin Wong in the semis, and then went on to defeat Looh Ting in the Singles final.

A great lunch was provided by the SCBA and BETTER WAY BREADS.

SCBA B & C SINGLES RANKINGS...

Below are the new 'B' and 'C' Singles rankings by Dave Anderson following the completion of the B-C Grand Prix Circuit. 'B' and 'C' Doubles and Mixed rankings are not yet completed. The 'A' rankings will be done after the Valley 'A' Grand Prix tournament rescheduled for April 21-23.

BMS: 1. Bonaparte
2. Nguyen
3. Zuniga
4. Tang
5. Puchalski
6. Cook
7. Flores
8. Ko
9. Tan
10. Cervantes

BWS: 1. Simonsen
2. Hales
3. Murty
4. Tafoya
5. O'Campo
6. Ayson

CMS: 1. Wibowo
2. Wong
3. Ting
4. Go
5. Bolle
6. Chan
7. Doughty
8. Strickland
9. Spears
10. Kan

CWS: 1. Ting
2. Ng
3. Ko
4. Tamano

Season 7/1/88
thru 1/31/89

SCBA's "Shuttle Scuttle"



Chevy took the Sr. Singles & Doubles

SCBA REPRESENTED WELL IN MIAMI...

Ten Californians, 24 Canadians and a wide assortment from all over the country attended the Sr./Master U.S. Open International in Miami Lakes, making it a most successful tournament. Nine players from Nigeria did not show up, but with his usual adaptability Len Williams managed last minute changes that worked well.

Californians did well. The talent of "Chevy" Ruktoume and Dave Anderson brought a new look. Chevy won the Sr. Singles with Dave giving him a hard 3-game match in the finals. Chevy and Dave paired together to beat a Canadian team for the Sr. Men's Doubles title.

A "ringer" in the tournament was Hsi Peng - a 71 year old Californian, a native of Taiwan, who surprised everyone with his stamina and great shot selection. He didn't speak English, but he certainly spoke the language of badminton.

The topper for this great 4 days was the video that was taped during the tournament. Dave Gergely of the host Athletic Club cleverly edited and put together with music and effects a very entertaining tape which made everybody "stars" - a lot of humor added.

NEW SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!!!...

There is a new Glendale Federal Savings and Loan Scholarship Fund (\$100,000) for athletes 12 to 18 years old. Applicants must show potential for excellence in an Olympic sport including badminton AND financial need. 15 recipients will be chosen from Southern California.

The scholarships are for 4 years and the amounts range from \$750 - \$1000 a year. The fund is being administered by the Amateur Athletic Foundation of Los Angeles.

The deadline for application is April 30, 1989. For more information contact Ginny Hales at (213) 454-6965. For apps, call the AAF at (213) 730-9600.

VARSITY COACH NEEDED...

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Contact Barbara Mirud
(818) 337-0342

JR VARSITY COACH NEEDED...

Kennedy High School

2-5 pm M-F, February - May 1.

Contact Shirley Smith
(818) 962-0887

THE GINNY HALES SCHOLASTIC / AAF REPORT...

The SCBA Youth Development Centers have completed a very successful semester at six Community College locations. 147 students signed up in the Fall, and 100 played in the YDC New Year tournament held at Citrus College (see results to the right). The program, funded by the Amateur Athletic Foundation of Los Angeles, provided T-shirts and Gatorade for all the participants.

Our thanks go to all of the center teachers who came, some of whom drove students, and to Dean and Maria Schoppe for chairing the tournament. Everyone had a great time!

Santa Monica College is also now opening an introductory session from February until April 30th which is free to all 10 - 18 year olds. The class will be taught by Pam Kersey and Matt Armendariz on Sundays, 3-5pm.

18 BS: Silaphet d. Ly
18 BScons: Miller d. Ernst
18 GS: Tahara d. Cheng
18 GScons: Sonesy d. Lee
18 BD: Ta/Ly d. Chow/Silaphet
18 BDcons: Phan/Nguyen d. Marks/Parks
18 GD: Cheng/Tahara d. Sonesy/Pinon

15 BS: Meksavanh d. Inthavong
15 BScons: Yeh d. Godoy
15 GS: Harrison d. Meksavanh
15 GScons: Ling d. Santhianathan
15 BD: Meksavanh/Inthavong d. Marks/Ko
15 BDcons: Yeh/Liaw d. Dinh/Godoy
15 GD: 1st: Chen/Santhianathan
2nd: Ling/Harrison

13 BS: Hales d. Ibrahim
13 BScons: Liaw d. Meksavanh
13 GS: Chen d. Lee
13 GScons: Charuorn d. Goon
13 BD: Thung/Ibrahim d. Meksavanh/Liaw
13 GD: Chen/Lee d. Charuorn/Fung

11 BS: Liaw d. Chih
11 BScons: Phan d. Thai
11 GS: Charuorn d. Lee
11 GScons: Schoppe d. Shin
11 BD: Lin/Liaw d. Bunnel/Phan
11 BDcons: Lin/Lin
11 GD: Schoppe/Charuorn d. Lee/Yee

SCBA's "Shuttle Scuttle"

BADMINTON ON TV...

By Kelly Tibbetts

Junior player Chris Hales, son of former National Champions Stan and Diane Hales, was on "Sunkist Super Kids" to display his talent for the game. He was playing some on the show with Stan and Diane and he showed some of his trophies. Badminton history was discussed as well and it was a great 10 minute segment. Nice going Chris.

Also on an evening show that was featuring a look at Korean culture, badminton was mentioned and shown.

It has been many years since I have spent any time at home during the week. I am not a soap fan, but I love to watch quiz shows.

On "Scrabble" a contestant was to identify a nine letter word whose description was "it's a racket." The first person did not get it until 8 letters were uncovered. But, I was proud of the second contestant who got it after 4 letters were showing in various positions.

But the best of my quiz thrills was on "Tic Tac Dough." A contestant named Kit, who has already won over \$135,000, was faced with the question: "Name a game that was once called Poonah and got it's present name from an estate in Southwestern England." Just ahead of the buzzer he popped out "BADMINTON!"

What a relief for Kit, for me, and for badminton. In case you don't know about that estate in England, see the photo to the right for a look at the "Badminton House" which is the site of the first badminton played in modern times. The estate is the home of the Duke of Beaufort.

THE PASADENA CLUB WILL BE REBORN...

After years of fighting, bluffing, backstabbing and bitterness the City of Pasadena and the Pasadena Badminton Club have reached an historic agreement.

Last year at this time the Badminton Club and the City were embroiled in a bitter fight over the use of the National Guard Armory, which has been home for the Club since 1933. After a losing court battle the Club was finally forcibly evicted in June. After breaking back into the building they rescued their equipment and 55 years of historical files and photos.

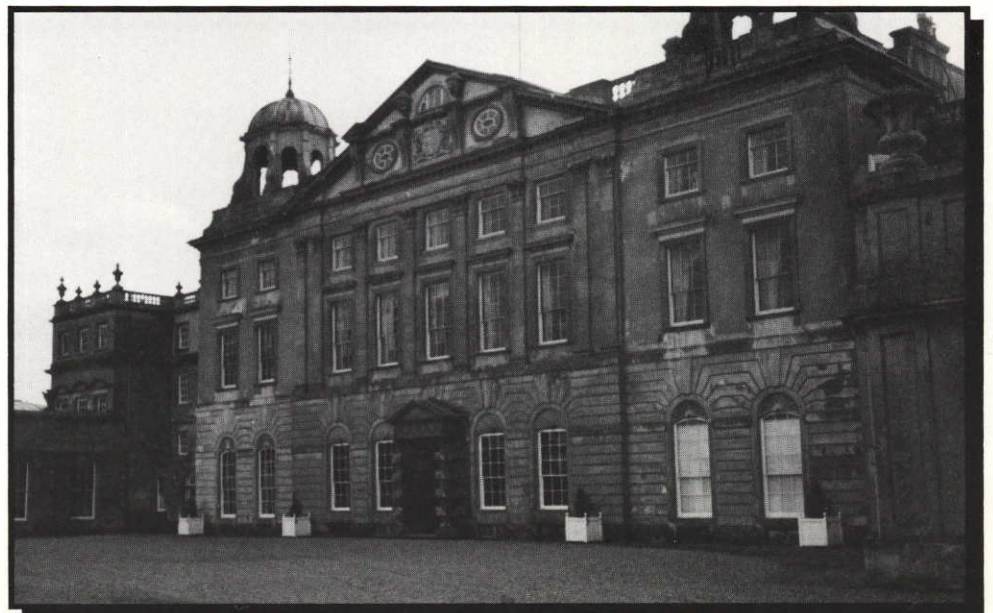
Arrangements were made to have regular play at Occidental College. During the summer resurfacing of the gymnasium, the athletic director decided not to put badminton lines back down on the floor. Evidently the sudden popularity of badminton was just not appropriate for a basketball gymnasium. Badminton was relegated from the 8 court gym to a 1 court room. The badminton program folded, the college team disbanded, and the Badminton Club left.

Now in a complete turnaround the City and the Club have reached an agreement to build the finest 4 court facility in the United States.

Costing close to a half a million dollars the facility will be located at Brookside Park next to the Rose Bowl. The cost will be split by both parties. The Club has made an initial payment of \$150,000. Construction would begin in the 2nd or 3rd quarter of 1989 and take about 6 months to complete.

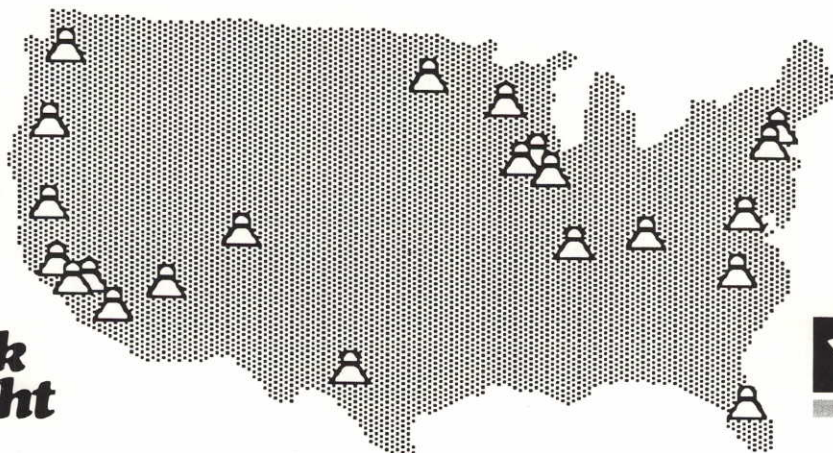
Additionally, the City and the Club will co-sponsor badminton programs for the community in an attempt to reestablish Pasadena as the primary center for badminton. The Pasadena area produced most of the national champions from 1950 to the late 1970's.

Further plans call for the renovation of an adjacent horticultural building to house a badminton museum and two championship courts with a 400 to 500 seating capacity. A magnificent garden area will be restored next to the new facility and used also by the Club.



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The Best SANDS is in Chicago!



By Monica Pontow

We've been very fortunate in the southwest suburbs of Chicago where we have the best Sands.

We have a very hard working behind-the-scenes kind of guy who's been promoting badminton and helping it develop and grow especially at the high school level. Bob Sands is a super selfless individual who coaches the high school girls' badminton team at Shepard High School in Palos Heights where he also teaches government.

As some of you are aware, badminton has been suffering in the Chicago area. However, thanks to Bob and Kampol Surapiboonchai the all new "Chi-Town Open" has successfully been reinstated. With 170 entrants, some 70% of which were nearby Chicago area residents, badminton returns to our great city. Bob's outstanding high school facility hosted the event.

Bob has been hard at work for badminton for many years. He has been coaching his girl's team for 13 years and has had many individuals advance to the Illinois State Championship. Bob runs a camp every summer for high schoolers interested in improving their badminton skills and knowledge. Bob does most of this

on a volunteer no-pay basis. It's nice to know there are still a few like him around.

We southsiders have also benefitted by Bob's love of badminton. He has started an open gym for badminton on Monday nights at his high school. On any given night you will see 50 badminton players of every different level using the 9 court facility.

Actually there are 12 courts, but Bob allows the additional 3 court space to be used for basketball. In reality Bob hopes that some of the basketball players will pick up a racket to try our fast paced sport -- and it's already happened. One day maybe the basketballs will be left in the corner and the tall men will set up the 3 remaining courts.

We are thankful to Bob Sands, and we know that for the hard working badminton promoters like him the rewards are few. These are just special people in the world and I'm glad they are also badminton people.

To Bob; I personally want to thank you and let you know that there are many others who thank you, too. We appreciate all you've done and we are grateful.

*EDITOR'S NOTE: Thank you Monica for recognizing Bob Sands as one of our unsung heroes. We know that you and your husband Bruce also work hard to promote badminton, and it certainly was a measure of your selflessness to bring to our attention "the best Sands in Chicago."

I hope others from other badminton areas of the U.S. will come forward and write about those in your area that deserve recognition - they serve as an inspiration for us all.



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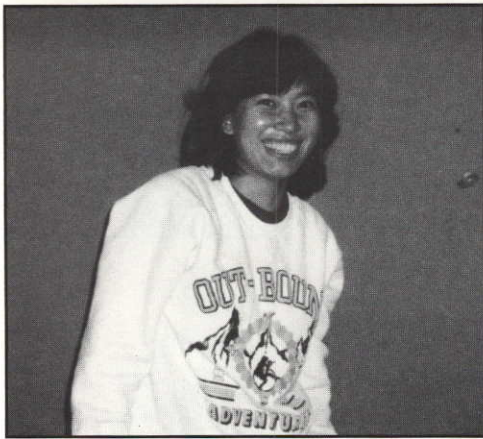
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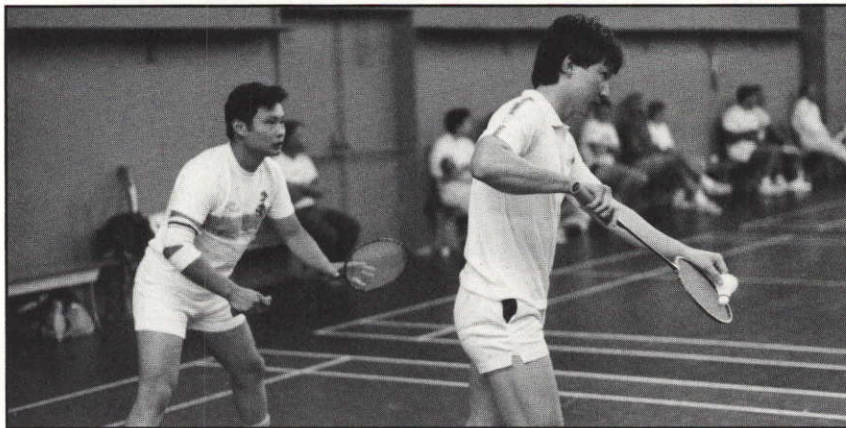
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Elaine Teoh (SW)



Carolyn Mott (NE)



Bo Ning and Solaiman Jonatan (SW)

THE 1989 U.S. NATIONAL TEAM TRIALS

The National Team Trials were held at the Manhattan Beach Badminton Club the first weekend in February. The Trials brought together all of the top qualifiers from the 5 regional trials held recently. It was a very tough weekend of competition.

The women's draw was particularly full, while there were some significant absences from the ranks of the men. The trial system does not call for a complete tournament format, but rather attempts to determine which players are at which level relative to each other.

Of the women, Liz Aronsohn continued to demonstrate her top form, and along with Meiling Okuno they emerged as the top two women singles players. Ann French and defending U.S. Singles Champion Joy Kitzmiller were next in line. Unfortunately, #3 ranked Linda Safarik-Tong was defaulted due to a

late arriving plane.

In the men's singles, four of last year's top 5 contenders did not participate. National Coach Tariq Wadood did not need to play singles. Top players Benny Lee and Tom Reidy were knocked out of the qualifying trials by injury. (Although, Lee has since come back to win Chicago's "Chi-Town Open" and Reidy held on to take top honors with John Britton in doubles.) Finally, Yao Ximing is being kept out of the U.S. until his new Visa comes through.

This left Chris Jogis as the clearly dominant player. Kevin Hussey also moved up to share the limelight with Jogis. Tom Carmichael and Peter Baum survived the murderous sequence of round robin and play-off matches to share the 3/4 spots.

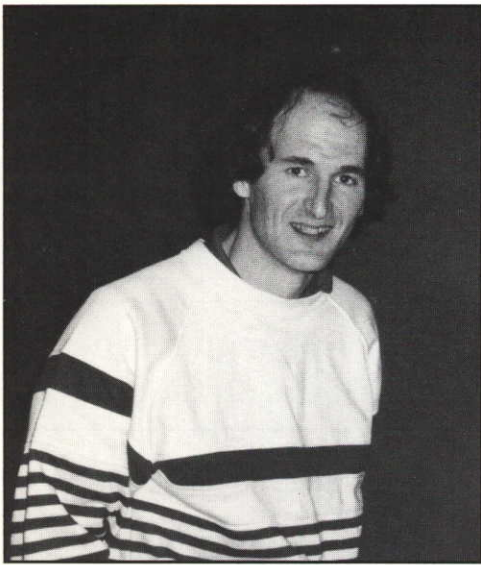
In Women's doubles, each of the top 8

places was determined with Ann French and Joy Kitzmiller taking top honors. Terry Lira and Nancy Narcowich, a last minute entry, finished a surprising 2nd place.

For the men, Britton and Reidy played superbly for first place. Wadood and Dean Schoppe took second. Only the absence of Benny Lee (which knocked out defending Champions Jogis and Lee) diminished the outstanding doubles competition between several tough teams.

In the Mixed Doubles draw, Solaiman Jonatan and Ann French surprised the favored Britton and Safarik-Tong combination to claim the #1 position.

The Trials set the stage for determining the U.S. National Team and the sequence for inviting the top U.S. players to travel internationally (photos continued next page).



Imre Bereknyei (SW)



Paul McAdam (NE)



Nadine Stocking, Nancy Rittmann, Liza Young (MW)

NATIONAL TRIAL RESULTS:

Players are listed in order of finish with the region they represented abbreviated in parentheses.

MEN'S SINGLES:

- 1/2 Chris Jogis (SW)
- 1/2 Kevin Hussey (MW)
- 3/4 Peter Baum (SW)
- 3/4 Tom Carmichael (SW)
- 5 Marc Padre (SW)
- 6 Karl Knudsen (SW)
- 7 Paul McAdam (NE)
- 8 Imre Bereknyei (SW)

WOMEN'S SINGLES:

- 1/2 Liz Aronsohn
- 1/2 Meiling Okuno
- 3/4 Joy Kitzmiller
- 3/4 Ann French
- 5/6 Charlotte Ackerman
- 5/6 Katie Skole
- 7 Erika Von Heiland
- 8 Linda French

MEN'S DOUBLES:

- 1 Britton/Reidy (SW)
- 2 Schoppe/Wadood (SW)
- 3 Jonatan/Ning (SW)
- 4 Chadwick/Higgins (SW)
- 5 Buck/Bereknyei (SW)
- 6 Baum/Knudsen (SW)
- 7 Cutcliffe/Goldstein (NW, MW)
- 8 Hussey/Hussey (MW)

WOMEN'S DOUBLES:

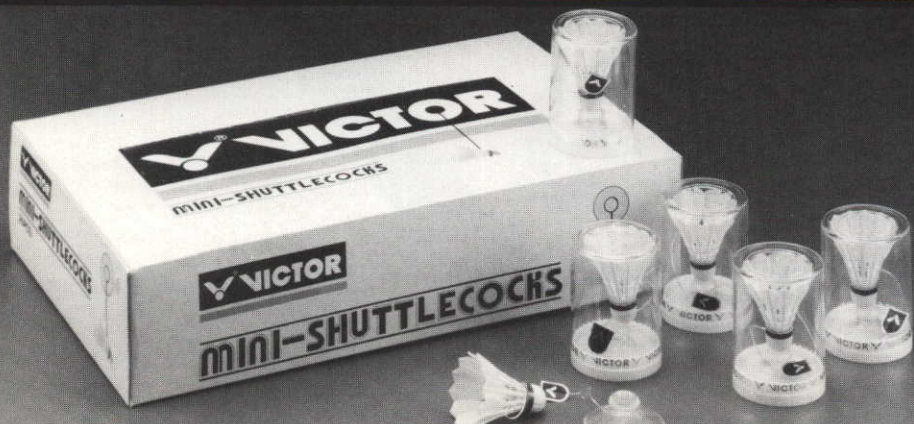
- 1 French/Kitzmiller (SW)
- 2 Lira/Narcowich (SW)
- 3 Owens/Teoh (SW)
- 4 Aronsohn/Von Heiland (SW)
- 5 Ackerman/Wilson (NE)
- 6 Pontow/Rittmann (MW)
- 7 Reilly/Weber (MW)
- 8 Mott/Skole (NE)

MIXED DOUBLES:

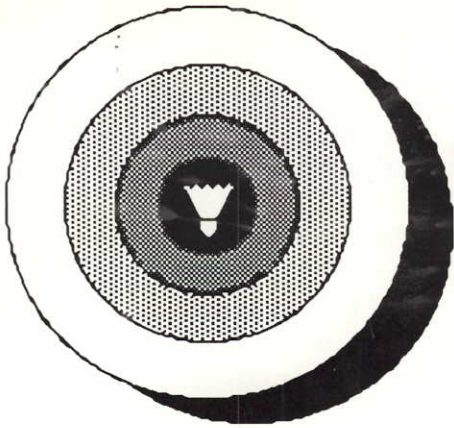
- 1 Jonatan/French (SW)
- 2/3 Britton/S-Tong (SW)
- 2/3 Baum/Okuno (SW)

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CONCENTRATION

Smooth and effective play in badminton requires intense concentration and an undistracted focus on the shuttle.

In badminton there is less than one and a half seconds between shots. The speed of the game requires quick thinking and a sharp attention to the shuttle's movement. There is not much time to come up with complex strategies during a rally. There is not much time between rallies, either.

To ensure your best concentration during rallies, it is best to "pre-set" a basic game plan before you begin your match. Have an idea about your opponent's weaknesses and strengths and patterns of play. "Pre-program" yourself to know the shots that you can safely hit and those that you must avoid hitting.

And, of course, it is important to know your own strengths and limitations as well. Develop key check points for simple mistakes you may have a tendency to make.

If you are miss-hitting the shuttle, you are probably not watching it well.

When you find yourself desperately scrambling after your opponent's shots, you probably have been hitting short clears and inaccurate shots back to your opponent without making them move. And so on...

Between rallies is a good time to quickly access what is working and what is not. When you find you must make some adjustments, keep them as simple as possible.

Remember, a game is made of many, many rallies and hundreds of shots. If something doesn't work once you may still try it again. (But, don't keep making the same mistake over and over in the hope it will finally work.)

It is important, then, to mentally prepare for your matches so that you have less need to distract yourself from simply watching the shuttle.

The key to your very best performance during play is to remember to...

FOCUS ON THE SHUTTLE.

Your ability to see the shuttle travel from your racket to your opponent's, back and forth without distraction, is critical.

As an extra tool to focusing well on the shuttle it is helpful to visually follow the cork, and even the green tape around the cork!

You'll be amazed at how well you play if you shake your mind free of desperate strategies and replace your thoughts with a good vision of THE SHUTTLE. Your practice and training will surface spontaneously.

Good concentration and execution depend on simplicity of thought. Emotional outbursts, self-criticism, and over-analysis all introduce distractions to a clear view of the shuttle. Your mind can work amazingly well, especially when you don't throw a lot of garbage into it.

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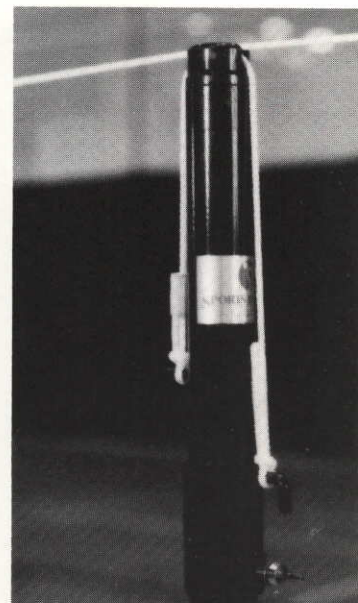
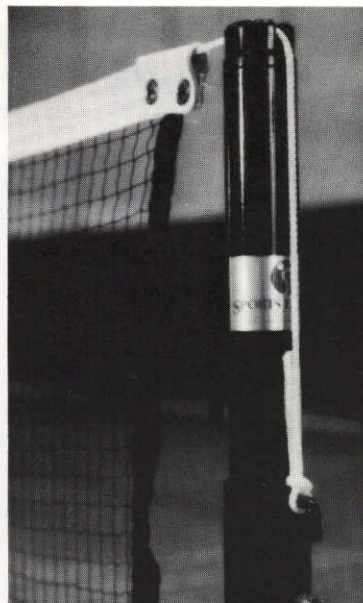
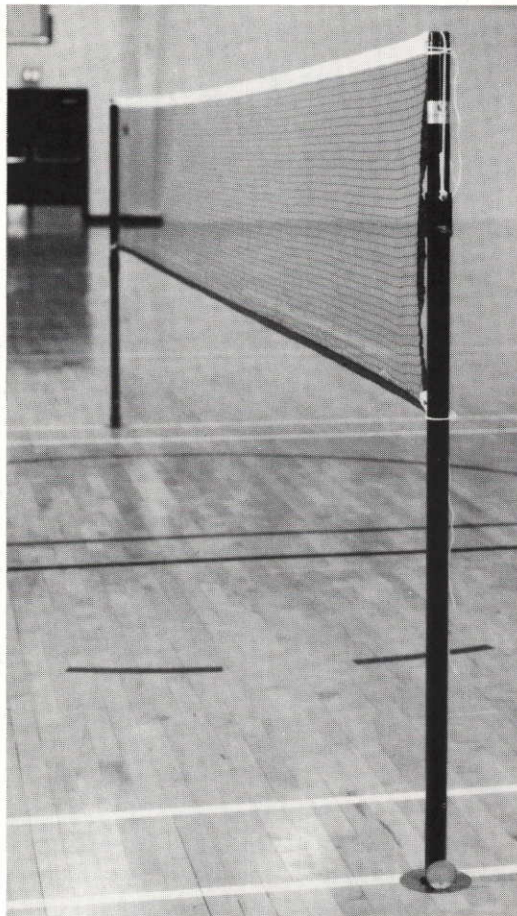
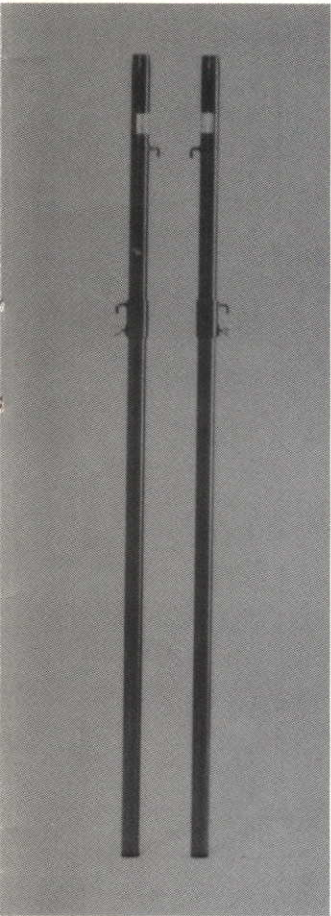
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