

The flick

Newsletter of the Midwest Badminton Association JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2006

M I D W E S T



B A D M I N T O N

A S S O C I A T I O N

2006 USAB Region 2 Classic

& 15th Annual Indiana Badminton Open

by Dawn & Bharat Patel

What a Team Effort!
There are always so many individuals that have to do their part well for our tournaments to be pulled off each year. This year presented a few more challenges than normal, especially with Pam Bailey opting to support the COLTS at home in Indy since she is a season ticket holder. We missed her for the weekend, but the COLTS needed her more than us that weekend. We also were experiencing a transition without Kent Wright assisting with the facility at Indiana State University. We hoped all would go well with the "changing of the guards" and it did.

John Lenz and his staff did an incredible job, again in setting up the facility and taking care of our every need. They also managed to get a camera crew from a local station on Friday to tape some of the excitement on the courts. We are looking forward to more of this next year with support from ISU. We understand there is a new athletic director at Indiana State University this year from the Los Angeles area. He loves badminton and is looking forward to watching sometime in the near future.

YONEX is to be commended for supplying high quality shuttles. It is always a pleasure to use shuttles liked by all the players. They also provided several very desirable racquets, bags and grips to be raffled at the tourney. It was an honor to display the YONEX banners and have their support at the 2006 event.

Every year the finalists in the annual Indiana Badminton Open B, C, D, E drop flight division receive t-shirts. This year they also received seven hundred and fifty dollars in prize money. The dark chocolate tees went to the winners for 2006 and sky blue tees for the runner-ups. The Midwest Badminton Association provided a total of one thousand dollars prize money for the A and the A Consolation finalists.

Charles and Bobbie Norton of Louisville Badminton Supply have supported our event for the past 15 years as stringers. They always provide professional service for the players and the badminton enthusiasts. Their time, energy and great attitudes are always appreciated.

Norma Trusler. Thanks for all the countless hours given to the sport of badminton.

Chris Lawrence assisted with the draws and the tournament desk, as well as functioning as the Referee coordinating the other officials. All praise and kudos to Chris for his tireless energy. We would still love to see more of him playing again in Indy in the near future. Tony Artman from St. Louis stepped right up again assisting with running the desk for the entire weekend along with Norma Trusler. Norma assists with the desk every year. This year in honor of their hard work and dedication we are paying for Chris, Tony and Norma to be patrons of the Midwest Badminton Association.



Thanks to all the officials:
Liping Zhu, Hui-Ju Su, Hui-Jung Fu, Beth Sopka, Mary Ann Bowles, Qin (Arthur) Zhu, Philip Troke, Xianhua Wan and Kimberly Kramer. It makes the entire event more professional having them perform their duties.

continued on Page 4

Umpires/Officials

Front row L to R:
Xianhua Wan,
Mary Ann Bowles,
Hui-Jung Fu,
Hui-Ju Su,
Beth Sopka

Back row L to R:
Chris Lawrence,
Philip Troke,
Qin (Arthur) Zhu,
Liping Zhu,
Kimberly Kramer

The Indianapolis Badminton Club is the supporting club allowing all the USAB connections and communications to make this event happen each year. The IBC support crew is primarily Dawn and Bharat Patel along with

Tournament Calendar

Midwest Badminton Association Closed Championships
3/10/2006 - 3/12/2006
 Indiana State University, Health and Human Performance Bldg, North Gym, Terre Haute IN
 Contact: DAWN PATEL DBPATEL@RNETINC.NET 765-349-0662
DEADLINE: 2/17/2006

Rufus Tilden Memorial 2006 Wisconsin Open
4/1/2006 & 4/2/2006
 Nathan Hale High School, West Allis, WI
 Contact: Russ Janowski, 414-328-0176, e-mail: russlitza-wiopen06@yahoo.com
 Deadline: 3/24/2006

2006 K&D Graphics United States Adult National Championships
4/7/2006 - 4/9/2006
 Orange County Badminton Club, Orange, CA
 Contact: Gus Chew gus@kdgpp.com 714-639-8900
 [OCBC website - entry form posted when ready.]

2006 National Collegiate Championships
4/22/2006 - 4/23/2006
 Payne Whitney Gymnasium, New Haven, CT
 Contact: Lily Lai lilylai@comcast.net 508-785-8075

2006 Senior Nationals
6/29/2006 - 7/2/2006
 Westborough High School, Westborough, MA
 Contact: Beth Sopka shearsopka@comcast.net 781-631-4879

11th Annual Junior BADMINTON CAMP
6/21-24/2006 (20 campers) & **7/25-29/2006** (110 campers)
 Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, IL
 Contact: Kevin or Kathy Hussey: 217-345-7757
 E-mail: cbmqsh@consolidated.net
 OnLine Brochure at: <http://www.badmintonclub.eiu.edu/eiubadminton/Camps.html>
DEADLINE: Contact Kevin or Kathy

2006 INDIANA BADMINTON CAMP/CLINIC
7/9/2006 - 7/23/2006
 IU SCHOOL OF HPER, GYM 163, BLOOMINGTON, IN
 Contact: ARTHUR ZHU QIZHU@INDIANA.EDU 812-325-6159
DEADLINE: 7/3/2006



For updates regarding tournaments, check out the Events Calendar page on the MBA website:

www.midwestbadminton.com

As soon as your tournament/camp has been scheduled, please send dates, location and contact person to *The Flick* and it will be listed here at no charge to you. Entry forms and event information will be distributed with *The Flick* for a \$75 fee. NOTE: Fee must be received with submitted information. Forms and information will also be made available on the MBA website (<http://www.midwestbadminton.com>) at no additional cost, unless you specify that you do not want it to be published on the website.

The FLICK

is published by the Midwest Badminton Association bimonthly, Jan-Feb, Mar-Apr, May-Jun, Jul-Aug, Sep-Oct, Nov-Dec.

Submitting Information:

Tournament entry forms will be printed and distributed with *The Flick* for a \$75 fee. **NOTE:** Fee must be received prior to printing. Website publishing is included in this fee. Please submit forms to the Editor at least eight weeks before your entry deadline. Tournament results and drawsheets should include full names of participants and match scores. An article would be nice, too. Send material, with no formatting, to the address or e-mail below. Please include your phone number or e-mail address.

Deadlines:

Articles, entries and other material may be submitted at any time. But to guarantee that your submission will be in the next issue, it should get to the editor by the 20th of the month prior (e.g. to be in the Mar-Apr issue, send by Feb 20th). Otherwise, it will be printed at the editor's discretion.

Advertising Rates per issue:

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Payment:

Make checks payable to the Midwest Badminton Association and mail to the address below.

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My Serve:

What have you done for badminton lately?

Lead story this issue is the Classic tournament in Indiana. Sounds like I missed another good one. Story of my life.

You'll also see a couple new things in this issue including a challenge to the readership.

New this issue are calendars for State Games and Senior Games in the MBA. It's my idea. I've searched websites and requested info from each state. Some responses are quick, others not so quick. If you don't see info from your state it's probably because no one has responded ... yet. If you know anyone in your state, bug 'em and help me fill out the calendar.

In Senior Games, for instance, 2006 is a qualifying year for 2007 in Louisville. If Seniors can't qualify in their home state they can travel to a bordering state and qualify. Hopefully, individuals who see the calendar will be motivated to sign up and get their cronies to sign up and play in their respective Senior Games. My research thus far indicates 13 out of 15 MBA states offer badminton.

In State Games, only five states, that I'm aware of, have badminton. State Games are different from Senior Games: individuals have to be a resident of their respective state to compete. Perhaps the calendar will motivate individuals to participate. Most state games competition is just for fun; however, contests can be very competitive among participants if what I see in Nebraska holds true in the other states. Sign up now.

Grass roots is my other soap box this issue. I've been on the road doing demos at three middle schools and two high schools. How about you? Your club? My experiences are in this issue; however, I'd like to incorporate your/your club's grass roots efforts in upcoming issues. Therefore, I challenge each MBA club to let *The Flick* know what's happen-



ing grass roots in your bailiwick of the MBA. It'd be nice to feature one club each issue. How about it? Let's go clubs.

Lastly, myself and three club members had the distinctive opportunity to play

badminton with the University of Nebraska women's volleyball team, runner up in the recent NCAA championships. 'Twas a neat experience. Read about it.

Well, that's enough for you digest. And, as Top Flight Badminton Club founder, Ray Scott used to say, "Press On." Time for you to return my serve.

Love All, Play!

Bob

WHERE ARE THEY TODAY?

by Mary Ann Bowles

Pam Brady began playing badminton in a small gym in Flint, Michigan, at the young age of three, under the watchful eyes of the local coach, Lynn Stockton. Lynn had two daughters, Pam and Polly, who soon emerged as two prominent juniors from the Michigan area. Lynn Stockton, Pam's mother, was a successful junior coach, who coached many promising junior players in the Flint area. During the early training years her mother began designing tougher drills and increasing the training schedule. Within a short time, Lynn realized Pam had a great deal of potential and was a rising star. In a few short years Pam was winning junior national titles. During her high school years she entered US Adult Nationals and immediately became a competitive player with the more experienced adults. It did not take her long to make her mark upon the US National scene, and at the early age of 19, she was selected to her first Uber Cup Team. She played both singles and doubles against Canada in 1972, in Toronto, Canada. She later appeared on two other Uber Cup Teams.

Pam thrived on competition. Her power and aggressive play became her trademark and she soon rose to national prominence. Pam usually entered three events and often played in all three final events. She loved playing doubles, and was a dominant doubles player for twelve years, winning 11 national women's doubles titles. In 1972, at the young age of 19, she won a Triple Crown, sweeping all three events. She won 20 US national titles over the span of her career.

Pam presently resides in Grand Blanc, Michigan. She is the mother of four children, Cory, Shelley, Eddy, and Jaimie. Since her retirement from badminton, she keeps busy working out at the local gym, joining spinning classes, a form of biking. For the past 15 years plus she has been a soccer mom. As the mother of four, she spends a great deal of time watching and transporting the children to and from various sport practices, games and activities. She has been married to Danny Brady for 24 years.



Pam Bristol Brady

POTPOURRI:

Grass Roots:

What is your club doing to promote grass roots badminton in your area? I'd like to know, so would the Board, so would the rest of the membership. As editor, I challenge each MBA club to submit a story, article or photo to *The Flick* for the next issue.

NCAA Women's Volleyball Final Four

Four members of the Top Flight Badminton Club played badminton with the University of Nebraska women's volleyball team recently on their home court. One member of the Cornhuskers, Sarah Pavan, credits playing badminton in Canada for helping her to be successful in volleyball. Unfortunately, NU lost to the University of Washington Huskies in the finals in San Antonio.

Anybody else out there in the MBA who has done something unique lately that relates to badminton? Let *The Flick* know.

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Players are the main reason we do what we do with the passion we have for this sport. There were 115 players combined for the 2 tournaments. Besides the Midwest players the draws included players from California, Massachusetts, Texas, and Alaska. Players and spectators of this sport know that many countries are well represented in the competition at all levels of play.

We whole heartedly agree with Arthur Zhu's new mixed doubles strategy for this season. Marry a great partner preferably one that can carry you. This was only the second time Arthur and Ruilin played mixed together. Ruilin Chen, Arthur's wife, won the "A" women's singles event.

It was great to get to watch Piotr Mazur in all 3 finals of the tourney. He is from Poland and living in Alaska. He won the "A" men's singles, mixed doubles with Jennifer Coleman and was a finalist in the men's doubles with Bhaskar Neogi.

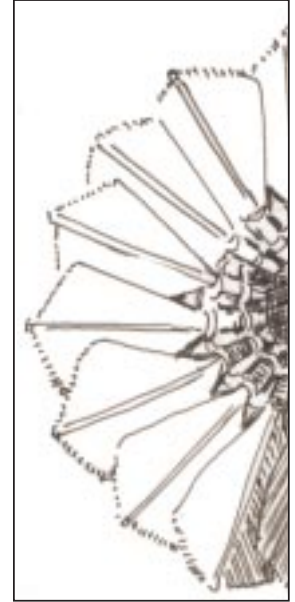
match. It was Davies and Troke that finally prevailed after three very long games.

We usually get permission to run the same event the same time each year, so mark your calendars for Jan. 12-14, 2007 for the USAB Region 2 Classic and 16th Annual Indiana Badminton Open. We hope you decide to be a part of the big event next year.



*'A' Draw Women's Singles:
L: Winner: Ruilin Chen, Finalist: R: Ruth Menchaca*

Whether it was the A level or the B, C, D, E level match on the courts the clusters of supporting family and friends could be heard throughout the facility cheering for their favorite players or a superbly played shot or rally.



*'A' Draw Men's Singles:
L: Piotr Mazur, Winner R: Philip Troke, Finalist*

We will always have a special place in our hearts for Jennifer Coleman since she is from the Midwest. She won the "A" women's doubles with Daphne Chang and the "A" mixed doubles with Piotr Mazur.

One of the most exciting matches of the weekend was the men's double final between Neil Davies - Philip Troke (MA) and Piotr Mazur - Bhaskar Neogi (AK). They battled back and forth in a very closely fought



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*'A' Draw Women's Doubles: L to R:
Winners: Jennifer Coleman, Daphne Chang,
Finalists: Jurate Sidlauskaitė, Karishma Kollipara*

| | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| “A” Draw | | | |
| Men’s Singles | Piotr Mazur | Philip Troke | 15-4, 15-2 |
| Women’s Singles | Ruilin Chen | Ruth Menchaca | 11-9, 11-1 |
| Men’s Doubles | Neil Davies | Piotr Mazur | 12-15, 15-13, 15-12 |
| | Philip Troke | Bhasker Neogi | |
| Women’s Doubles | Jennifer Coleman | Jurate Sidlauskaitė | 15-6, 15-7 |
| | Daphne Chang | Karishma Kollipara | |
| Mixed Doubles | Piotr Mazur | Qin Zhu | 15-12, 15-6 |
| | Jennifer Coleman | Ruilin Chen | |
| “A” Consolation | | | |
| Men’s Singles | Tao Yuan | Sameera Gunatileka | 15-3, 15-3 |
| Women’s Singles | Tiffanie Kimura | Leah Witkov | 11-5, 11-4 |
| Men’s Doubles | Ben Hussey | Ta-Chieh Huang | 15-12, 15-8 |
| | Peter Sidorczuk | Tarwin Winawan | |
| Women’s Doubles | Gena Fite | Mary Ann Bowles | 15-8, 15-5 |
| | Tiffanie Kimura | Alice Wunderlich | |
| Mixed Doubles | Matt Wrobel | Peter Sidorczuk | 15-5, 15-11 |
| | Gena Fite | Ruth Menchaca | |
| “B” Draw | | | |
| Men’s Singles | Bertrand Tay | Thomas Chen | 8-15, 15-8, 15-6 |
| Women’s Singles | Karishma Kollipara | Celine Thum | 7-11, 11-6, 11-1 |
| Men’s Doubles | Wei Huang | Peipei Chen | 15-7, 8-15, 15-6 |
| | Wei Liu | Bertrand Tay | |
| Women’s Doubles | Marena Smitobol | Jennifer Milne | 17-14, 15-3 |
| | Karen Chin | Serena Wong | |
| Mixed Doubles | Tarwin Winawan | Hanlin Wan | 15-10, 15-12 |
| | Karen Chin | Karishma Kollipara | |
| “C” Draw | | | |
| Men’s Singles | Parag Patwardhan | Srikar Vadlamani | 17-15, 15-3 |
| Women’s Singles | Karin Hung | Jingyi Zhang | 11-5, 11-8 |
| Men’s Doubles | James Seal | Iwanto Teng | 15-2, 15-7 |
| | Sathis Yanamandra | Jimmy Ye | |
| Women’s Doubles | Wu Jian | Charlene Ng | 15-9, 15-8 |
| | Yun Wang | Samantha Peng | |
| Mixed Doubles | James Seal | Xiaoming Zhang | 12-15, 15-8, 15-10 |
| | Mary Ann Bowles | Hua Zhang | |
| “D” Draw | | | |
| Men’s Singles | Angumei Maram | Joulien Tatar | 15-3, 15-9 |
| Men’s Doubles | Jimmy Khaw | John Burnett | 15-2, 15-7 |
| | Hanlin Wan | Thomas Chen | |
| Mixed Doubles | Bertrand Tay | Iwanto Teng | 15-0, 15-3 |
| | Linda Tsai | Xiadan (Lisa) Chen | |
| “E” Draw | | | |
| Men’s Singles | Zhanli Sun | Nackil Sung | 15-4, 15-6 |
| Men’s Doubles | David Wang | Sean Hussey | 15-5, 15-6 |
| | Matthew Liu | Sawyer Newell | |
| Mixed Doubles | Srikar Vadlamani | Nackil Sung | 15-2, 15-5 |
| | Serena Wong | Jan Sung | |



*'A' Draw
Men's Doubles
L to R:*

*Winners:
Philip Troke,
Neil Davies*

*Finalists:
Piotr Maur,
Bhasker Neogi*

Region 2 Classic Results



'A' Draw
MxD Doubles
L to R:

Finalists:
Qin Zhu,
Ruilin Chen,

Winners:
Jennifer Coleman,
Piotr Mazur

MBA Membership allows you to participate in **MBA Closed Championship** tournaments (if you meet residency requirement) and to be eligible for **MBA rankings** (if a USAB member also). You will receive a subscription to this **MBA** newsletter, *The Flick*. You have a choice to receive this online or via postal service. Check the box next to your email address to receive *The Flick* online.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Birthday _____ Home Club _____

Email _____

I want to (check one):

____ Join the MBA as an individual member (\$15.00 for yearly membership, July-June)

____ Get my Flick. Please verify membership and correct info above.

____ Be a patron for the year (\$30.00, \$50.00, \$100.00 ... or more! It's tax deductible!)

____ Make a tax deductible donation to _____

____ Register an MBA Club. Please send me forms and information.

Make check payable to Midwest Badminton Association **and send to:**
MBA c/o Mary Ann Bowles
4514 Pegasus Dr.
St. Louis, MO 68129



Senior Games Badminton in the MBA

Illinois Senior Olympics

Competition Date(s): September 14
Time of Competition: 8:00 A.M.
City of Competition: Springfield
Venue: YMCA, 704 South 4th Street
Entry Fee: \$30 for all events
Deadline: September 1
Contact: Selvarine Jones, 217-753-0700
e-mail: selvarine@springfieldparks.org

Indiana

Competition Date(s):
Time of Competition:
City of Competition:
Venue:
Entry Fee:
Deadline:
Contact:
e-mail:

Iowa Senior Olympics

Competition Date(s): June 8-11
Time of Competition: 9:30 A.M.
City of Competition: Des Moines
Venue: Valley Southwoods High School
Entry Fee: \$25 for unlimited events
Deadline:
Contact: Dan Lake, Exec. Dir. , 515-633-5011
e-mail: laked@wdmcs.org

Kansas Senior Olympics

Competition Date(s): Sept. 22
Time of Competition: 9:00 A.M.
City of Competition: Topeka
Venue: First Baptist Church, 3033 SW MacVicar
Entry Fee: \$35 before Aug.11, \$45 by Aug. 25
Deadline: Aug 11 or 25th
Contact: Becky Sewell, 785-368-3798;
e-mail: bsewell@topeka.org

Editor's Note: If certain information is missing, it's not because I haven't tried to get it. I just haven't received anything back from my requests to the appropriate Senior Games office(s).

Go to: www.nsga for more information

Kentucky

Competition Date(s): September 21
Time of Competition: 9:00 A.M.
City of Competition: Lexington
Venue: Information
Entry Fee: available
Deadline: 1st week of July
Contact: Kristy Stambaugh, 859-288-2928
e-mail: kstanbaugh@1fucg.com
web site: www.kentuckyseniorgames.com

Michigan

Competition Date(s):
Time of Competition:
City of Competition:
Venue:
Entry Fee:
Deadline:
Contact:
e-mail:

Minnesota • No Badminton

Missouri State Senior Games

Competition Date(s): June 25
Time of Competition: 9:00 A.M.
City of Competition: Columbia
Venue: MU Student Rec Center
Entry Fee: \$30
Deadline: June 1
Contact: Max Warner, 573-882-1462;
e-mail: warner@missouri.edu

Nebraska Senior Games

Competition Date(s): Aug. 13
Time of Competition: 9:00 A.M.
City of Competition: Kearney
Venue: Horizon Middle School
Entry Fee: \$15 early, \$20 late
Deadline: July 14(early) or July 26(late)
Contact: Michael Fearnley, 308-237-4644;
e-mail: MFearnley@kearneygov.org

North Dakota • No Badminton

Ohio Senior Games

Competition Date(s): July 29
Time of Competition: 9:00 A.M.
City of Competition: Youngstown
Venue: Youngstown State University
Entry Fee: \$20 by June 2, \$30 by June 16
Deadline: June 2/16
Contact: Deanna Clifford, 330-746-2938
e-mail: info@ohioseniolympics.org

South Dakota

Competition Date(s): September 8
Time of Competition: 8:00 A.M.
City of Competition: Madison
Venue:
Entry Fee:
Deadline:
Contact: Al Weisbecker
e-mail: letsplay@iw.net

Wisconsin Senior Olympics

Competition Date(s): September 8
Time of Competition: 6:30 P.M.
City of Competition: West Allis
Venue: Nathan Hale High School,
11601 West Lincoln Ave.
Entry Fee: \$30 out-of-state; \$25 Wisconsin resident
Deadline: August 11
Contact: George Dahlem, Games Coordinator
e-mail: Dahlemmgk@aol.com

West Virginia Senior Sports Classic

Competition Date(s): June 24
Time of Competition: 9:00 A.M.
City of Competition: Charleston
Venue: University of Charleston
Entry Fee: \$15
Deadline:
Contact: Lowell Witters, 304-342-6287
e-mail: lhwit981120@aol.com

Remember: 2006 is a qualifying year for the 2007 competition in Louisville, KY.
For more information: www.nsga

Wilson Juniors: Camille Todd and James Huang of St. Louis competed as the Wilson Junior Mixed Team at the Midwest Classic in Terre Haute, Indiana. The Midwest Classic was the first time for the junior team to compete in a mixed doubles event. Camille Todd is age twelve and the daughter of Jay and Gina Todd of St. Louis. James Huang is age eleven and the son of Wei and Jane Huang of St. Louis.



State Games Badminton in the MBA

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|---|
| Illinois Prairie State Games |
| Competition Date(s): June 25 |
| Time of Competition: 8:00 A.M. |
| City of Competition: |
| Venue: |
| Entry Fee: \$23 |
| Deadline: June 2 |
| Contact: www.prairiestategames.org |
| Iowa State Games |
| Competition Date(s): July 15 |
| Time of Competition: 9:00 A.M. |
| City of Competition: Ames |
| Venue: Ames Area Gym |
| Entry Fee: \$15 |
| Deadline: June 28 (mail) July 3 (Online) |
| Contact: Dawn McDonald |
| e-mail: dmcDonald35@qwest.net |
| Nebraska Cornhusker State Games |
| Competition Date(s): July 15 |
| Time of Competition: 7:30 A.M. |
| City of Competition: Lincoln |
| Venue: Goodrich Middle School, 4600 Lewis Ave. |
| Entry Fee: \$20 1st event; \$10 each addit'l event |
| Deadline: June 14 |
| Contact: Bob Ericson, 402-571-6933; |
| e-mail: ericson@brownell.edu |
| Kansas Sunflower State Games |
| Competition Date(s): July 22 |
| Time of Competition: 8:30 A.M. |
| City of Competition: Topeka |
| Venue: First Baptist Church, 3033 SW MacVicar |
| Entry Fee: \$20 for 1st event; \$5 each addit'l event |
| Deadline: July 14 |
| Contact: Erin Aldridge, 888-774-7721; |
| e-mail: sunflowergames@sbcglobal.net |
| Wisconsin Badger State Games |
| Competition Date(s): June 18 & 25 |
| Time of Competition: 9:00 A.M. |
| City of Competition: Monona |
| Venue: Monona Grove HS, 4400 Monona Drive |
| Entry Fee: \$22; \$19 HS; Add'l Event: \$6 |
| Deadline: June 3 & 10 |
| Contact: Wisconsin Sports Dev. Corp. |
| Phone: 608-226-4780 |
| Badminton is in the State Games of America competition for 2007 in Colorado Springs, CO. Any athlete who wins a medal in their local State Games is eligible to compete. Go to www.stategames.org for more information. |



Celebrity Challenge

by Bob Ericson, President,
Top Flight Badminton Club

On January 11th I was invited to play in the Park Middle School 7th Annual Celebrity Challenge. Park is located at 855 S. 8th Street in Lincoln, Nebraska, not far from the state capitol building. It's a 60 mile, 50 minute drive from my home in Omaha to the school in Lincoln. All for a good cause.

The Celebrity Challenge was started by two Park Middle School PE teachers, Becky Martin and Sherri Reeder in 2000. Looking for a way to finish the semester with a flourish and have fun at the same time, they finally decided to have outsiders come in and play with the students. That first year, since it was new, they had only Park Middle School teachers come in and play with the students. Result— a hit with everyone.

Since that inaugural version it's been held every year in January. "It's always been known as the Celebrity Challenge," Becky Martin said, "but since Sherri passed away in 2004 from breast cancer, it's been known as the Sherri Reeder Celebrity Challenge."

This year I was one of the "celebrities" along with a state legislator, Lincoln Public Schools PE administrators, a Lincoln minor league baseball team official, parents of Park Middle School students, the Park Middle School principal, a Lincoln mayor's aide, a Lincoln Journal-Star newspaper columnist, a YMCA director, a Grand Island retired PE teacher, and a former University of Nebraska Cornhusker football player who also played for the Washington Redskins and Green Bay Packers professional football teams.

During the event, PE teacher's Becky Martin and Amy Applegate circulated throughout the gym. Every 15 minutes they'd blow a whistle and students would rotate to the next court. That way the students were able to play with several different celebrities during their class time.

Six courts were in constant operation over the eight periods in two days. Figure the math. Six courts with one or two celebrities

on the two challenge days. That's grass roots on each court and over 20 kids per class. Multiply that by eight periods and you have some idea how many students passed thru badminton in its purest form. Never mind that the nets weren't regulation height, the front service line was too short, there was no back line for the doubles serve, and worst of all, the length of the court was too short. When you're the PE teacher, you have to make do with what you have. For sure, Becky and Amy were getting all they could out of what they had to work with.

If any of the celebrities were thirsty or hungry, Becky and Amy had food and refreshments in another room adjacent to the gym. She didn't want anyone to leave the event hungry.

Students and celebrities had a good time. •



More Grass Roots Activity in Nebraska

by Bob Ericson

“This game is awesome”

Recently, I conducted demos and did instruction at Papillion High School PE classes. Over two days and five classes, I promoted badminton to over 125 students. All were invited to play with our club on Sunday evenings. Long-range goals include their participation in the Cornhusker State Games and even the Ray Scott Memorial Tournament. One girl stayed for a half hour after class to play with me. "This game is awesome" she commented. HMMMMMMMM.

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