

In This Issue:

2006 Junior Nationals by Jane Wang

The 2006 US Jr National Badminton Championships were held at OCBC, Orange County, California July 5-9. Over 900 matches were held on eight courts (thanks to the new rally scoring system; otherwise the tournament would not have finished on time). 270 Jr players, age 6 to 21, competed in this event. The MBA was well represented by 20 junior players ranging in age from 9 to 20. Sixteen players were from Illinois, two from Missouri, one from Ohio, and one from Indiana.

The great results are :

Michael Huang – U11 XD 2nd Place,
U11 BS and BD 6th place MO
James Huang – U13 BD 3rd Place MO
Raunda Kollipara –U13 BS and XD 4th Place IL
Karishma Kollipara –U17 GD 4th place IL
HanLin Wan – U19 BS and BD 3rd place OH
Tiffania Kimura - U22 GS 3rd place IL

Congratulations to all the Midwest juniors who competed in 2006 Jr National! Thanks to all the Midwest juniors, their coaches, and their parents for their hard work, dedication, and support.

- ♦ **Page 1** 2006 Senior Nationals
- ♦ **Page 2** Tournament Calendar
- ♦ **Page 3** Walk of Fame Reflections
- ♦ **Page 3** My Serve
- ♦ **Page 4/5** Cornhusker State Games
- ♦ **Page 5** Badminton Bucks
- ♦ **Page 5** MBA Membership Form
- ♦ **Page 6** Senior Games in MBA
- ♦ **Page 6** MBA Rankings
- ♦ **Page 7** A True Gentleman
- ♦ **Page 8** Junior Nationals

Thanks to our MBA Patrons:

Tony Artman
Russ & Mary Ann Bowles
George Daley
Bob & Kris Ericson
Chris Lawrence
Bharat & Dawn Patel
Don Ross
Norma Trusler
The Wan Family

(continued from page 7)

time you get a chance. This will be an ongoing project.

After some discussion at the last MBA Board of Director's meeting, it was decided to offer a Senior award in the name of Don Ross at the annual Midwest Senior Championships. The criteria considered for the award would include age 35+, sportsmanship, participation in regional events, and badminton service. Nominations would be taken at the Senior

MBA Championships, and the recipient must be participating in that Senior tournament. A laser trophy would be presented to the player selected by the committee, and the player would be awarded plane fare to the U. S. Senior Nationals in the current season, receipt for the plane fare to be submitted for reimbursement. The award could be presented to one player, two players, or no players dependent upon nominations and the discretion of the MBA Board. ❖

Things To Consider:

Nominations are open for the MBA board of directors. Contact Dawn Patel.

Funding Applications: Need money for club grass roots activities, new projects, training? Contact the board for an application.

FIRST CLASS MAIL
Address Correction Requested

7202 Omaha Trace Omaha, NE 68122



Midwest Seniors Bag Medals at 2006 Senior Nationals

by Mary Ann Bowles

Westborough, Massachusetts was the site for the 2006 U.S. Senior National Championships where 144 players vied for medals in thirty-nine events. The tournament was held at Westborough High School June 28-July 2 on nine hot courts. Co-hosts were Beth Sopka and Dr. Batool Tauseef of the Massachusetts Badminton Association. Luckily the hallways and hospitality room were air-conditioned so players could cool off between matches.

Five Midwesterners participated in the tournament. Jeannine Bohn of Cincinnati, Ohio, played in five events. In 55 Women's Doubles,



Ohio players: (L) Jeanine Bohn, (R) Peggy Meacham playing with partner Peggy Meacham, they took the bronze medal in a round robin. Bohn and Connie Lee of Virginia won the silver medal in the 60 Women's Doubles in a round robin, and took the bronze medal in the 65 Women's Doubles in a round robin. In 65 Mixed Doubles, Bohn teamed with Bill McKaig (OH), and won the bronze medal, defeating Kamal Chaudhari (FL)/Vivian Acosta (MA), 8-15, 15-9, 15-4. Bohn/McKaig also took the silver medal in the 70 Mixed

Doubles round robin. Mary Ann Bowles of St. Louis, MO, brought home the gold in three events. She and partner Sue Dommeyer of



55 WD Champions
 (L) Sue Dommeyer, CA; (R) Mary Ann Bowles, MO

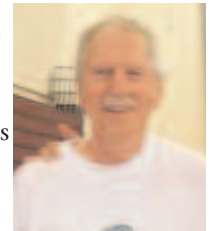
Hermosa Beach, CA, won the 55 Women's Doubles round robin. In 55 Mixed Doubles, Bowles and David Anderson (CA) won the gold in the round robin, and in 50 Mixed Doubles teamed with Curt Dommeyer (CA) to defeat David Anderson/Sue Dommeyer in the finals, 17-15, 15-10.

Peggy Meacham of Cincinnati, Ohio, took a bronze medal in 55 Women's Doubles with Jeannine Bohn, on her first trip to the Senior Nationals.

Bill McKaig took the silver medal with Jeannine Bohn in the 70 Mixed Doubles round robin, and won the bronze medal with Bohn in the 65 Mixed Doubles. He teamed with Judson Mills of Maryland in the 70 Men's Doubles where they took a bronze in a round robin. McKaig/Don Gardner (MA) were the consolation finalists in the 65 Men's Doubles.

Harry Orr of Kalamazoo, Michigan, won the gold with Manny Armendariz of CA in the 70 Men's Doubles, and lost in the semifinals of the 65 Men's Doubles.

He won the bronze in 70 Men's Singles, and took the bronze in 70 Mixed Doubles with Anne Bullis (MA) in a round robin.



Harry Orr, MI

The tournament dinner was held on Saturday evening at the host Doubletree Hotel. A moment of silence was held for the passing of two longtime badminton devotees, Juanita Costello (MA) and John Obara (FL). Recipients of special awards were: Charles & Ada Wurst Award for Service and Sportsmanship – Paul Knechtel (NC); Ray Scott Memorial Trophy – David Carton (CA); Senior Hall of Fame – Anne Bullis (MA) and Bill Tom (CA); Meritorious Service Award – Mary Ann Bowles (MO) and Jack Harvey (WA); and the Gold Medal for 80+ Platinum Overall – Jack Harvey (WA).

We missed many of the Midwest Senior players at the tournament. Get healthy and fit—make plans to attend in 2007! ❖



By the numbers

5 MBA participants in the Senior Nationals

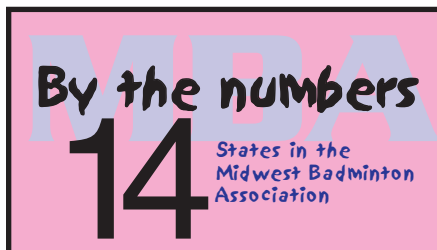
Tournament Calendar

Chicago Badminton Tournament
9/23/2006 - 9/24/2006
 Hinsdale South High School Fieldhouse, Darien IL
 Contact: Barb Zander barbelz@sbcglobal.net 847-217-5274
 DEADLINE: 9/1/2006

Ray Scott Memorial Tournament
10/21/2006 - 10/22/2006
 Papillion HS, Papillion NE
 Contact: Bob Ericson-ericson@brownell.edu 402-571-6933
 DEADLINE: 10/14/2006

Kalamazoo Open & Midwest Seniors Closed Championships
11/16/2006 - 11/18/2006
 Kalamazoo Valley Community College, Kalamazoo, MI
 Contact: Harrison Orr-Harrisingorr@aol.com
 DEADLINE: 11/1/2006

2007 Jerry Toms U.S. Senior International Badminton Championships
1/8/2007 - 1/13/2007
 Don Shula's Hotel and Golf Club, Miami Lakes, FL
 Contact: Paisan Rangsitkpho PaisanR@gmail.com 562-858-2011
 DEADLINE: 12/10/2006



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:

Full Page: \$55 (\$40 if 6 or more issues)
 Half Page: \$35 (\$25 if 6 or more issues)
 Quarter Page: \$20 if 6 or more)

Payment:

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

Editor:

Bob Ericson
 7202 Omaha Trace
 Omaha, NE 68122
ericson@brownell.edu



Officers & Directors

President

Dawn Patel
 5390 State Rd. 37 North
 Martinsville, IN 46151
 765-349-0662(H)
 FAX 765-349-0662
 Email: dbpatel@rnetinc.net
 Term: 05-2008

Vice-President

Lilly Feng
 40542 Delta Drive
 Northville, MI 48167
 248-347-0007 (H)
 E-mail: lillyfeng10@hotmail.com
 Term: 05-2008

Secretary

Mary Ann Bowles
 4514 Pegasus Drive
 St. Louis, MO 63129
 314-487-7187(H)
 FAX: 360-285-2256
 E-mail: Mabowles@worldnet.att.net
 Term: 06-2009

Treasurer

Alice Wunderlich
 316 S. Hi Lusi Ave.
 Mt. Prospect, IL 60056-3029
 847-392-3537 (H)
 E-mail: awunderlich@deloitte.com
 Term: 04-2007

Editor

Bob Ericson
 7202 Omaha Trace
 Omaha, NE 68122
 402-571-6933 (H)
 E-mail: ericson@brownell.edu
 Term: 06-2009

Hanlin Wan
 6902 Lantern Lane
 Cleveland, OH 44130
 440-886-0307 (H)
 E-mail: [wanhanlin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wanhlanlin@sbcglobal.net)
 Term: 05-2008

Jane Wang
 919 Crown Pointe Estate Dr.
 Wildwood, MO 63021
 636-527-5037 (H)
 E-mail: jane.l.wang@pfizer.com
 Term: 06-2009

(continued from Page 5)

The 132 page, lime-green commemorative program entices the reader to “come out and play.” It further describes the Cornhusker State Games “as a multi-sport festival for all ages and abilities that allows Nebraskans to experience the Olympic spirit. Novices as well as elite athletes can find their niche in the Cornhusker State Games. And there are non-competitive events for those who just wish to participate.

Besides offering good, wholesome, family-oriented activities, with an emphasis on the fun of it, the underlying mission of the CSG is education, exposing thousands of Nebraskans to the benefits of a healthy life style.”

Olympic-style Opening Ceremonies kick off the week end of competition. The ceremony includes sky divers who land directly on the 50-yard line, a Sports Fest for Athletes, interactive displays, inflatable games, mascots, prize drawings, and the Parade of Athletes. Following the featured entertainment, provided by X-Games Moto-Cross Giants Jeff “Full-tilt” Tilton and Tommy “Tomcat” Clowers in the center of the football field, the cauldron flame was lit by a mystery torch bearer, USA Olympic bobsledder and native Nebraskan, Curt Tomasevicz.



Badminton in Opening Ceremonies Parade of Athletes

One of the features of the Opening Ceremonies is the Parade of Athletes. All the sports march into the stadium, in alphabetical order. Parading athletes wave to the dignitaries and spectators while the dignitaries and spectators wave at the athletes marching by on the field. Every sport and sport director is introduced by the PA announcer. Each sport has a banner that is carried by two of the sport’s participants and precedes the athletes of that sport. After circling the field all the athletes sit in the bleachers and watch the official ceremonies.

Next, from the 50-yard line of the green stadium artificial turf, Major General Roger Lemke, Nebraska National Guard Adjutant General, and General Chairman of the 2006 Cornhusker State Games, addressed the captive audience. He concluded his remarks with, “I now declare the 2006 Games officially open.”

Fireworks put the finishing touch to the opening festivities for over 5,600 spectators.

All the pageantry must work because 12,066 athletes participated in this year’s Games, an increase of 600 from 2005. The youngest participant was 159 days (volkswalk) while the oldest was 88 (Track & Field). Over 700 medals were handed out to winners in over 50 sports. In badminton, 17 Gold medals, 17 Silver medals, and 16 Bronze medals were presented. Unlike other sports, in badminton we take photos of the winners and send a copy to each. Also, every athlete entrant receives a Cornhusker State Games t-shirt, a commemorative program, tickets to the SportsFest and the Opening Ceremonies.

Now, if I could only figure out a way to harness this enthusiasm and double the badminton participation I’d be a genius. Time to start working on the 19th edition. July 2007 and 6 A.M. will be here before I know it. Fun. Fun. Fun. ❖

Results:
Open Men’s Singles: Herman Batelaan, Lincoln def. Gopinath Raju Seetharaman, Lincoln 15-2, 15-9
Senior Men’s Singles: Round Robin won by Bob McFarland, Grand Island
Open Women’s Singles: Wadee Thiansri, Lincoln def. Carolyn Foster, St. Paul 11-7, 11-0
Recreational Men’s Singles: Narayan Cheruvu, Omaha def. Kurinji Singaravelu, Omaha, 15-9, 15-13
Boy’s Singles: Alexander Batelaan
Girl’s Singles: Elvira Batelaan
Recreational Women’s Singles: Grace Jaworsky, St. Paul def Faith Schell, Lincoln 11-7, 11-0
Open Men’s Doubles: Herman Batelaan/Martin Liphardt, Lincoln def Kun Deng/Gopinath Raju Seetharaman, Lincoln 11-15, 15-12, 15-4
Open Women’s Doubles: Round Robin won by Becky Martin/Wadee Thiansri, Lincoln
Recreational Men’s Doubles: Round Robin won by Narayan Cheruvu/Kurinji Singaravelu, Omaha.
Recreational Mixed Doubles: Rod Rieke/Grace Jaworsky, St. Paul def Cameron Shum, Lincoln/Carol Toris, Omaha 15-8, 15-7
Open Mixed Doubles: Gopinath Raju Seetharaman/Kazima Saira, Lincoln def Peng Xiao/Ying-Jie Zhou, Omaha 15-10, 15-6

Don Ross, a true gentleman
by Dawn Patel

Don Ross spent much of his lifetime enjoying badminton and gallivanting around the world. He had the opportunity to combine his work and vacation plans to include playing badminton. He often sat in his favorite seats at the All-England Tourney and watched many other competitive events with his badminton friends. As much as Don loved his work and the people from work, he knew what living a quality life was all about and lived a very full life. He was a member of the Indianapolis Badminton Club for approximately 10 years. He retired from Rolls

Royce when he was 55 and passed away at the age of 56 due to complications with cancer.

Don had many hobbies that he enjoyed on a regular basis, besides drinking his New Castle Brown Ale. He played tennis weekly, ran and did weight training to help him stay in shape. Don looked forward to running the annual Peach Tree in Atlanta with friends from badminton and work. He snow skied regularly and enjoyed being a spectator at car races. Most recently he added golfing to the list. He had decided that at this point in his life he was not interested in adding new experiences that would

put him at a greater risk for injury.

When it came time for cooking and entertaining Don was an artist. He was very meticulous about every detail, but very easy going. If you have not had one of Don’s trifles you have really missed something. You talk about a work of art and details. His recipe looks like a work order with schematics. He lists; Ingredients, Operations 1-4, Sub-Task 01-03, Quality Acceptance Standard, along with Figure 1. It seems a daunting task that should only be attempted by the bravest of souls. He loved eating out just as much, especially with good friends.

So many people really knew Don Ross because he was always down to earth and lived his life with no pretense. It is rare to find a person as caring and giving as he was on and off the court. He treated everyone like an equal. He was a true gentleman with a very energetic smile and spirit, always giving his best effort and epitomizing sportsmanship. Don was instantly liked by everyone he met and the longer you knew him the better you liked him. As a club mate he will be sorely missed. Don was a man who quietly influenced everyone’s manner because his manner was one to be admired.

The Midwest Badminton Association is extremely grateful to be the proud recipient of a large portion of Don Ross’s estate. It was his wish that these funds be spent on adult clinics and tournaments, so an adult camp and a memorial tournament are being planned at this time. We hope to run the camp and the tournament annually. Look for more information in the near future.

A special album of memorabilia is being put together by Dawn and Bharat Patel to have available at the Don Ross events. Please send photos, comments and/or stories you would like to have included to them any

(continued on Page 8)

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

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

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

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



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

MBA Rankings

Rankings for the 2005-2006 season are based upon points accumulated for competing in quarter-finals, semi-finals, or final matches in the "A" division. Head-to-head, play against common opponents, and strength of tournaments is also considered.

To be eligible for an Open division ranking, a player or doubles team must have competed in that event in three Midwest tournaments and be an MBA member.

Tournaments from the 2005-06 season used for ranking are: Indiana University Open, Ray Scott Memorial Open, Kalamazoo Open, Senior Midwest Closed Championships, and the Indiana Open/Region 2 Classic, Midwest Closed Championships.

Direct appeals of rankings to Dawn Patel before October 1, 2006. For more information about point standing, results, or other factors used to determine the rankings, please contact Hanlin Wan, Ranking Committee chair.

Points are based on how far you get in the A Bracket. You get 1 point for making the quarterfinals, 3 points for making the semifinals, 6 points for 2nd place, and 10 points for 1st place. Points for a Midwest Championship are tripled.



By the numbers
4 Net standards available for loan.
 Contact the Editor

Open Men's Singles

1. Ben Hussey	39/3 IU, C, MC
2. Bertrand Tay	18/1 MC
3. Gediminas Andrikonis	9/1 MC
Matt Wrobel	9/1 MC
5. Hanlin Wan	7/3 IU, C, MC
6. Victor Lu	3/1 MC
7. Serge Pensik	3/1 MC

Open Men's Doubles

1. S. Pensik/M. Wrobel	31/2 M, MC
2. B. Hussey/P. Sidorczuk	28/2 IU, MC
3. G. Andrikonis/S. Shigley	9/1 MC
4. I. Dharma/T. Winawan	9/1 MC
5. A. Chionh/H. Wan	3/1 MC
6. V. Lu/B. Tay	3/1 MC

Open Mixed Doubles

1. M. Wrobel/S. Pohl	30/1 MC
2. G. Andrikonis/E. Hois	18/1 MC
3. B. Hussey/T. Kimura	9/1 MC
4. T. Winawan/K. Chin	9/2 IU, MC
5. S. Pensik/C. Thum	6/2 IU, MC
6. H. Wu/J. Milne	3/1 IU

Open Women's Singles

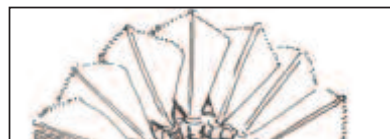
1. Erin Hois	30/1 MC
2. Jurate Sidlauskaitė	9/1 MC
3. Shannon Pohl	9/1 MC
4. Tiffanie Kimura	9/2 IU, MC
5. Linda Tsai	3/1 IU
6. Celine Thum	3/1 MC
7. Jennifer Coleman	3/1 M

Open Women's Doubles

1. E. Hois/S. Pohl	18/1 MC
2. T. Kimura/K. Prax	9/1 MC
3. K. Chin/C. Thum	6/1 IU
4. K. Kollipara/J. Sudlauskaitė	6/1 M
5. J. Milne/S. Wong	3/1 IU
6. K. Chin/M. Smifobol	3/1 MC
7. H.J. Fu/J. Milne	3/1 MC

Adult ranking tournament abbreviations:

IU-Indiana University Open-2005
 C-Midwest Closed 2006
 MC-Midwest Championships-2006



Senior Men's Singles

1. Xianhua	10/1 K
------------	--------

Master Men's Singles

1. John Mohr	6/1 P
--------------	-------

Grand Master Men's Singles

1. Bob McFarland	10/1 R
------------------	--------

Junior/Senior Men's Doubles

1. P. Kerber/C. Gianetti	10/1 K
2. T. Artman/J. Seal	6/1 M

Senior Men's Doubles

1. B. Patel/H. Zang	6/1 U
2. S. Kimura/T. Powell	3/1 M

Master Men's Doubles

1. L. Williams/R. Bowles	10/1 R
2. T. Artman/J. Mohr	6/1 P
3. B. Ericson/T. Artman	6/1 R
4. T. Artman/T. Powell	6/1 M

Grand Master Men's Doubles

1. B. Ericson/B. McFarland	6/1 R
----------------------------	-------

Senior Women's Singles

1. Erin Hois	30/1 MC
2. Jurate Sidlauskaitė	9/1 MC

Senior Women's Doubles

1. L. Downey/A. Wunderlich	10/1 M
2. L. Downey/N. Trusler	10/1 15
3. M.A. Bowles/D. Patel	6/1 M

Junior/Senior Mixed Doubles

1. J. Seal/M.A. Bowles	10/1 M
2. T. Artman/L. Downey	6/1 M
3. T. Downey/L. Downey	6/1 K
4. T. Downey/R. Livingston	3/1 M

Senior Mixed Doubles

1. B. Patel/D. Patel	16/2 15, M
2. T. Artman/C. Toris	6/1 R
3. T. Powell/A. Wunderlich	9/2 P, M
4. T. Downey/L. Downey	7/3 14, 15, M
5. H. Wu/S. Wong	3/1 M
2. B. McFarland/C. Foster	3/1 R

Master Mixed Doubles

1. J. Mohr/A. Mohr	6/1 P
--------------------	-------

Senior ranking tournament abbreviations:

K-Kalamazoo Open-2004
 R-Ray Scott Memorial Open-2004
 P-Prairie State Badminton Blast-2004
 14-Indiana University Open-2004
 15-Indiana University Open-2005
 M-Midwest Championships-2005

My Serve:

I've really been "on the road again" since last issue: Lincoln, Nebraska; Chicago, Illinois; Atlanta, Georgia; and Kearney, Nebraska.

In Lincoln I was badminton Sport Director in the Cornhusker State Games (see story on pp 4-5). There were 38 entries, 12 shy of my goal of 50.

On the jaunt to Chicago, a 972-mile round trip, I attended my first MBA board meeting which was conducted on Alice's back porch. (Thanks, Alice). While there I even made it to the top of Mt. Prospect, courtesy of my guide, Tony Powell.

For my next sojourn I flew to Atlanta and participated in the Don Ross Memorial tournament (ooooee was it hot there—and no AC in the Decatur Rec Center where the tournament was held). I bunked at my brother's humble abode on Janice Circle in Chamblee. While there I wasn't allowed to sleep in. Early Friday morning he hauled me off to fish at his secret lake; score for catching fish: my brother 6, me 0! The bass and bream that he caught provided a tasty dinner that evening.

At the awards party Saturday night, hosted by Phil Roger's at his house situated deep in the sprawling and dense woods around Decatur, I tasted Don Ross's famous 'trifle' recipe along with a variety of Indian cuisine—a gourmet treasure, once found, to end a day of hot and sweaty competition.

Most recently, I participated in the Nebraska Senior Games. They are held in Kearney, 2 1/2 hrs at 75 mph and 180 miles west of Omaha via I-80.

OK, MBA seniors, let's get with it. Sign up for Kalamazoo in November.



Time for you to return my serve.

Love All, Play!

Bob Editor

Bob, Editor



L to R: John Britton, M.A. Bowles, Mike Walker

Reflections on the Walk of Fame Plaza

by Mary Ann Bowles

First, it was a trip to the 1996 Olympics as a line-judge. Wow! Seeing the famous international world-class players and the fans I had read about was more than I could imagine. The first day of the competition, who should walk in the door but Princess Anne of Great Britain to watch the British team play. There was Mia Audina and Susie Sauti from Indonesia along with Ricky and Rexy, the awesome men's doubles team who went on to win Olympic gold. There was Park Joo Bong of Korea who was about to retire playing against a young Korean team, Kim Dong Moon and Ra Min Kyung, who won the gold in mixed doubles over the retiree and his partner. Now Park Joo Bong is coaching the Japanese team, and Kim Dong Moon has retired.

Then last summer, the 2005 IBF World Championships were held in Anaheim, and Russ and I were there for every minute of play. Again, you could watch all the current world stars—Peter Gade, Lin Dan, Zhang Ning, Xie Xingfang, Mia Audina (not yet retired), Nathan Robertson, Gail Emms, and Tony Gunawan and Howard Bach who won Worlds' gold, and wonder in amazement at the shots, footwork, agility, and power of these famous stars.

But when I heard that I had been elected to the USA Badminton Walk of Fame Plaza, that I would be brushing shoulders with the likes of Joe & Lois Alston, Dave Freeman, Ken Davidson, Don Paup, Jim Poole, Judianne Kelly, Tom Carmichael, Bruce Pontow, Pam Brady, and Dottie O'Neil, I could not believe my good fortune. The minute I picked up a racket and began to enjoy this sport in 1968, I knew this was the love of my life. I might find the man of my life, and I did, but the other love of my life had been determined by that little white shuttlecock flying around the court. And being inducted into the Walk on my service career is like winning a gold medal for pushing an ink pen for twenty years. It's been a lot of minutes taken, a lot

of letters written, and tons of e-mails sent.

Badminton has been very good to me, and I am not one of those wonderful U.S. elite athletes whose



USAB Executive Director Dan Cloppas presents Meritorious Service Award to Mary Ann Bowles at the Senior Nationals.

shots we admire, whose footwork we envy, and whose strategy on court is to be admired. Nor have I have traveled the U.S. and the world watching the amazing play of all the famous world-class players. I'm not sure how I would explain the attraction to this inspiring sport, but it's there, it's always been there, and I've enjoyed every minute of being on court, and almost every minute of the administrative side of the sport.

Thanks have to go to all the opponents I've encountered on the other side of the net, because if it hadn't been fun on court, I would have never been interested in working off court for this sport. There are mentors who pointed me in the right direction like my first coach, Betty Markham, who sparked my first interest in the sport when she took me to my first real badminton tournament. Russ Bowles, my husband, has spent many of his years as a coach, and seeing all the work he has his players go through to become better players has always kept me trying new shots and working harder in the strength-training gym. Tom Carmody, the mentor of the Shreveport (LA) Badminton Club, would let me in to play when I was such a poor beginning player—he, too,

encouraged me to keep playing.

Thanks to all the wonderful partners with whom I've enjoyed sharing the court: Harold Thomas, the sharp St. Louis lawyer, who first taught me to play mixed doubles; Len Williams, my first left-handed partner, with whom I've won many Senior and Master mixed doubles titles in the Midwest; Jim Meier, another brilliant left-handed player who would always outsmart the opponents like Andy

Chong—we defeated him twice!; Charlotte Ackerman of Connecticut, a wonderful women's doubles partner at the Senior Nationals; Curt Dommeyer and his wife Sue from California who are great partners and opponents at the Senior Nationals; and David Anderson of California, a great mixed doubles partner.

The work ethic of Midwest players like Dick Witte, Ray Scott, and Gloria Eli has inspired me to continue to push the ink pen for badminton. They have devoted many years to pushing the sport on paper, running tournaments, and coaching players. Thanks to Vicki Toutz, the person solely responsible for dreaming of the Walk of Fame Plaza and finding a place to put it. She coached high school badminton in California for three plus decades, and was a wonderful player herself. And thanks to Don Chew who provided a sidewalk for the Walk of Fame Plaza in front of the Orange County Badminton Club, and continues to dream of gold medals for this country in the badminton history books.

Thanks also are due to Jack Harvey who nominated me for the Walk of Fame. He has spent most of his life working for badminton in Washington State at the local, regional, and

national level, as well as being a superb player. I also tip my hat to Dan Cloppas, the Executive Director of USA Badminton who was kind enough to be my presenter at the induction ceremony. An LSU graduate (myself a native Louisianian), he has always impressed me with his love for our sport, and he has worked selflessly to promote the sport in his tenure.

There are still many minutes to take, many e-mails to be sent, many letters to be written. And I shall continue to enjoy playing this wonderful sport, and watching these amazing athletes in this country and the world as they show us their well-practiced games. Isn't it awesome to be a badminton player? We just wait for the Olympic gold medal earned by a U.S. player, the hours of U.S. TV time showing this fabulous sport, and the education of the American sports audience and sponsors to realize that this is the fastest racket sport in the world. Want some chills going up and down your spine? You can find them at the Olympic badminton competitions, the World Championships, the U.S. Open, the Adult Nationals, the Junior Nationals, the Senior Nationals, your local tournaments, your local clubs. When I hear the squeaking of the shoes on that wooden floor and the thwacking of the shuttle with a racket, I know I'm in the right place. Now I get those same chills on the USA Walk of Fame Plaza. Those little shuttles are running in my blood-stream—how about yours? ❖



Cornhusker State Games

State Games 06 -Fun In the Sun?

by Bob Ericson, Sport Director

Planning's over, Sport director meetings are completed. I'm back in Lincoln for the 18th edition of badminton in the Cornhusker State Games. I've been up since 6 A.M., visited the Games HQs and helped unload boxes of unclaimed participant packets .

I arrived at the badminton venue to find, as requested, several hundred used shuttles occupying the sidewalk—from the parking lot, up to and through the Goodrich Middle School entrance doors and down the hallway to the gym entrance. I overheard one participant comment, “now that’s a novel idea.”

What a day to uncork a novel idea—a badminton tournament! Over 95 degrees outside; scorching sun; blistering heat; no wind, and shuttles ‘cooking’ on the sidewalk. Ooooooooooooo! Yeaahhh!



Parade of shuttles leading players to the gym

And there we were, thankfully, in an air-conditioned gym watching birdies take unexpected flight detours due to the air currents near the ceiling. One player approached me and asked, “can you shut off the air conditioning so the shuttle will fly better?” I said to him, “if I did that, and I wasn’t going to, that his tongue’d be hanging out before ten o’clock.” Well, he accepted my reply and went back to playing. No more queries the rest of the day.

It’s hard to believe that a year has passed. Seems like only yesterday that 46 badminton enthusiasts were here in the same gym doing the same thing a year ago July. My how time flies when you’re having fun. This year my arm is not in a sling. My shoulder has recovered from rotator cuff surgery and I can play.

It’s 8 A.M., time to launch ‘operation badminton, 2006.’ We whistled everyone to gather round. I welcomed all, introduced my assistants, and discussed how things were to proceed. Also said that since there were only 38 players (far short of my goal of 50), Al “clickety clack” Toris, one of my assistants, projected that we’d be done around 3:30 P.M. Called the first match shortly thereafter. The 18th edition of badminton in the Cornhusker State Games was underway.

Scheduled events were Open Men’s Singles, Open Men’s Doubles, Open Women’s Singles, Open Women’s Doubles, and Open Mixed Doubles; Senior Men’s Singles; Recreational Men’s Singles, Recreational Men’s Doubles and Mixed Doubles; Recreational Women’s Singles, and finally, Boy’s and Girl’s Under 14 Singles.

Forty two matches were programmed by Al on his trusty computer; 77 games were played; 1,616 points were scored between 8 A.M. and the last match around 4 P.M. Open Mixed Doubles tallied the most total points, 222 in 10 games. Open Women’s Doubles, with only 9 games, slipped into second with 212 points. Open Men’s Singles, with 10 games, squeezed into third with 207 points.

In a tournament first, the sequence of events was altered from the traditional singles, doubles, mixed to singles, mixed, and then doubles.

Open Men’s Doubles was a loud affair, a friendly shouting match, as the team of Martin Liphardt and Herman Batelaan of Lincoln defeated fellow Lincolmites Kun Deng and Gopinath Raju Seetharaman in a three game match 11-15, 15-12, 15-4. Martin was quite vocal throughout the match, belting loudly so that everyone in the gym heard his emphatic “yesssss” when either he or Herman made a good shot or when their opponents committed an error to give them a point. Herman, very quick and athletic on the court, and not usually prone to outbursts of enthusiasm, shouted “yeahhhhh” when they won a point. Vocalist’s Martin and Herman prevailed in three tense games. After match point Martin just stood there staring at the floor; that he’d won hadn’t



sunk in yet. Finally, the trademark “yesssss!” erupted to confirm the victory.

There was superb play during the course of the competition but the play of the day, witnessed by very few spectators, was executed by Pawat (Joke) Pakthanabodee during the Bronze medal game between he and his partner, Peng Xiao, against Rod Rieke, Kearney and Bob McFarland, Grand Island.

Rieke hit a sharp, downward smash toward Pawat. Pawat returned Rieke’s smash rather nonchalantly with a quick stroke behind his back and between his legs! Al and I were intently watching the match and witnessed Pawat’s fantastic return. Al remarked, with a twinge of disbelief, “did you see that?!” I said, “yep, sure did; but it happened so fast I don’t think anyone else saw it, not even Rod or Bob.” The match ended quickly, 15-1, 15-1, because Rob and Bob were outclassed; however, they were gracious in defeat. As he walked off the court at the end of the match Rieke commented, “is it over yet, I need a time out.”

Participation and fun, that’s what the Games are all about. Rob’s enthusiasm, sportsmanship, and graciousness earned him my selection as outstanding adult participant nominee. Each director of the 57 sports, nominates a male, female, and senior athlete to the Games staff and board of directors. Karen Harned was my female nominee and Dave Waggoner was my senior nominee. From the nominees, an outstanding athlete is chosen in each category. Badminton has been the recipient of two such awards: several years ago Ray Scott was the Outstanding Male Athlete. Two years ago Herman Batelaan was selected as the Outstanding Male Athlete. Just a picnic sport, huh?

Competition in the Under 14 age group of Boy’s and Girls Singles received special attention. With so few entries, and in order to make the event challenging as well as entertaining, we departed from tradition again.

The contestants were very young and hand-eye coordination is very difficult for 5- and 7- year olds. So we devised 3 new events: Shuttle Bounce, Hit The Tub, and Shuttle Tag. Points were awarded for each event and then tabulated to determine the Gold, Silver, and Bronze medal winners.



Cicely Liphardt playing Shuttle Tag

Seemed to me, from the other end of the gym, that participants, helpers, and spectators were having fun 'cause there was a lot of enthusiastic screaming, jumping up and down, and yelling going on as they competed against each other. Individual success came beaming through with big smiles on faces later at the medal presentation and photo taking.



Line up of medal winners

Open Women's Doubles was a Round Robin event. Interestingly, every match was a 3-gamer. Don't know how the ladies did it. Guess they were evenly matched. In the last match of the day, for example, after a game apiece, a set third game was needed by the team of Becky Martin/Lincoln and Wadee Thiansri/Lincoln to claim the Gold Medal as they defeated the team of Grace Jaworsky and Carolyn Foster, both from St. Paul, 15-7, 9-15, 17-15.

It was fun. We're done. At last we're done.

For those of you out there in the MBA not familiar with our State Games a little background follows.

(continued on Page 7)

"Badminton Bucks" for Midwest Tournament Directors by Dawn Patel

"Get your badminton bucks here!" I was trying to come up with an idea that would encourage and reward the Midwest badminton tournament directors that sanction their tournaments with the USAB and turn in their drawsheets to the MBA within two weeks of their tournament.

It takes so much energy to run a tournament that sometimes good intentions are just not enough. Many times the results are never mailed to the MBA. This greatly affects the MBA rankings. Players get upset because the rankings may not include their time, money and efforts. Even after several attempts to communicate the MBA still never receives the tournament results in a timely manner, if at all.

There is a need to offer more USAB sanctioned events in our region. After our board members discussed this idea it was decided that we would offer a refund to tournament directors that run a USAB sanctioned badminton tournament and get the results to the MBA within two weeks of their tournament. The fee in the past has been \$75 for posting the entry form on the MBA website and in *The Flick*.

The best advice we can give you is to be sure and get results to the MBA the same time you are getting results to the USAB! We want to support your effort as a MBA tournament director. It is also our hope to be able to offer more complete MBA rankings.

Not many things are free these days, but you can think of this as free posting on the MBA website and in *The Flick*. This will give you \$75 more "Badminton Bucks" to spend wisely. I hope this encourages more of you to run a USAB sanctioned badminton tournament in our region.

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 63129

