

31st Ray Scott Memorial

by Bob Ericson, President Top Flight Badminton Club

International Picnic in Papillion. Tables arranged. Table cloths spread. Get out the paper cups, plates and the plasticware. The pop's on ice. Desserts are hidden. Hope the ants and flies stay away. Look at all that food! Let's eat!

Wait! Hold on! It's play time before picnic, isn't it? Let's get our priorities straight, right? Yeah. All the planning, logistics and brain-numbing scheduling shouldn't be for naught. Let's go back a few months.

It all began about two months ago by mailing out 85+ entry forms (with personal notes attached) to prospective RSM entries. Tournament details were discussed at several Top Flight club meetings. All the preparation culminated at 9 A.M. on Saturday, the 1st of October—on seven courts at the Papillion High School gym on 84th Street with 62 entrants—the most in several years.

Players were checked in and fees collected at the administrative table in the lobby by Carol Toris and Jim Ronni. Len Williams and I welcomed the attentive and eager group of players from nine states: Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Arizona and Nebraska. After the administrative announcements and a moment of silence to remember tournament namesake and badminton guru, Ray Scott, Len Williams called the first of 120 matches in 11 events. It promised to be a long day... and it was. This year's tournament incorporated different entry fees and featured an ABCD format for Open Men's Singles and Open Men's Doubles. Such a configuration probably accounted for the 22 entries in OMS and 19 entries in OMD. The increase in entries also

posed an intricate, deeply engaging and enigmatic scheduling dilemma for Len and Al. Both missed a lot of sleep preparing the draw for 9 A.M. Saturday morning. I've never seen Al so stressed out before a tournament. That's because, as far as I know, no one has ever programmed an ABCD event for the computer—especially in one week!. Many hours of phone calls and discussions between Len and Al constructed a workable format. Although the program was not finalized in the computer, Al still manually constructed the draw and placed the multi-color draw sheets on the tables. All a player had to do was glance at the sheets to know what was happening on the courts.

OMS & OMD scheduling was complicated and resulted in extended time required for singles matches to be completed. Comments and suggestions received from players will be evaluated/critiqued and incorporated, if possible, into the mix for next year.

In OMS, number one seed Qin Zhu, breezed through the top half of his bracket dispatching Top Flight's Gunnit Khurana in the quarter final 15-3, 15-2. After the match Gunnit commented, "I had fun...that's the whole reason I'm here—to play against the future champion ... he didn't have to move too much against me." Fun? It's just a picnic after all, right?

In the semi finals Qin's effortless court coverage and low, cross court drops from his forehand/right back court easily got the better of Amit Agrawal 15-3, 15-3, to reach the finals. Meanwhile, Teong Ong, Kuok (Wisconsin) advanced to the finals by defeating Jaeduck Park (Indiana) 15-11, 15-13.

In the OMS finals Qin Zhu didn't have to use all his court skills to defeat Kuok easily 15-4, 15-6. "I go with what works and try not to make mistakes," Qin said afterwards. "I learned my footwork in China; the US needs to work on their footwork." Match observers were impressed by Zhu's court coverage, effortless movement from front to back (oooh, the footwork), left to right,



L to R: Qin Zhu (G), Bob Ericson, Teong Ong, Kuok(S)

to return Kuok's shots. I don't recall Zhu smashing once. His cross court drops, both backhand and forehand, kept Kouk off balance and one step too late the entire match. Applause greeted both players at the conclusion of the match. Afterwards, Kuok said, "he's good!"

Not bad for a picnic sport.

continued on Page 9

Tournament Calendar

2006 Kentucky Open
1/7/2006 - 1/8/2006
University of Louisville
Contact: Bobbie/Charlie Norton-(O)502-426-3219 (H)502-426-5518
DEADLINE: 12/30/2005

USA Badminton Region 2 Classic/Indiana Badminton Open
1/13/2006 - 1/15/2006
Indiana State Health & Human Performance Bldg. North Gym, Terre Haute, IN
Contact: Dawn & Bharat Patel dbpatel@rnetinc.net 765-349-0662
DEADLINE: 12/23/2005

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

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

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. 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. 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 317-788-3472
Email: dpatel@rnetinc.net

Vice-President

Xianhua Wan
6902 Lantern Lane
Cleveland, OH 44130
440-886-0307 (H)
E-mail: xwan99@hotmail.com

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

Treasurer

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

Editor

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

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

Elke Haefke
488 Windham Cove Dr.
Crystal Lake, IL 60014
815-477-8367 (H)
E-mail: Wingr66@aol.com

Dan Kosierowski
3733 S. Hermitage Ave.
Chicago, IL 60609-2004
773-523-5579 (H)
E-mail: kosierow@msn.com

Hanlin Wan
6902 Lantern Lane
Cleveland, OH 44130
440-886-0307 (H)
E-mail: wanhanlin@sbcglobal.net

My Serve:

Someone told me that I should let *The Flick* readers know a little about me. So here goes.

I was born and raised in Pennsylvania and graduated from Penn State (won't say what year). Courtesy of the US Air Force I went around the world to get to Nebraska. Assignments included Massachusetts, California, Saigon, Vietnam and Wiesbaden, Germany. Twenty eight years later I'm retired. Most recently, I completed nearly 11 years as Supervisor of Graphics at the Omaha Zoo.

I've been a free-lance illustrator & designer, Lecturer in Advertising Design at Creighton University, instructor of layout, illustration, typography and portfolio at Metro Community College. I was the first paid public relations director of the USBA, press officer for badminton at the 1989 Olympic Festival in Oklahoma City and the 1990 Olympic Festival in Minneapolis.

Badminton has been part of my life since 1964 when I began playing at Westover Air Force Base in Massachusetts. I also played five years in Germany with the Wiesbadener Badminton Club. I've been an Offutt Top Flight Badminton Club member since 1975, the last four years as president.

I have been sport director of badminton in the Cornhusker State Games for 16 years -10 in the Summer Games and 6 in the Winter Games.

In 1999 I was voted Sport Director of the Year by the Cornhusker State Games. That same year the Omaha Boy's and Girl's Clubs selected me Volunteer of the Year for the badminton program at the three clubs.

I've played in many MBA open and senior tournaments plus the Cornhusker State Games and the Nebraska, Kansas and Iowa Senior Games. This past June I competed in 60-64 Mixed Doubles and 60-64 Men's Doubles at the National Senior Olympics in Pittsburgh & placed 6th out of 15 teams in MD.



Without giving away all my secrets you now have some idea how I got to this point in my badminton life.

My wife and I live on five acres north of Omaha with 10 Columbia sheep and a Morgan horse. If you need any fertilizer for your garden, let me know—it's free!

So, as the founder of the Top Flight Badminton Club, Ray Scott used to say, "Press On." It's-my serve.

Love All, Play!

Bob

WHERE ARE THEY TODAY?

by Mary Ann Bowles

Ever wonder what happened to the Midwest stars of yesteryear? Well, we have news on several of them, and we hope you will enjoy reading about them in the next several Flicks. Thanks to the USAB Walk of Fame website for the current information and photo.

Bruce Pontow was born in Chicago in 1952. He attended Chicago public schools, and played a variety of sports including football, swimming, and track. He graduated with honors from Steinmetz High School and then attended Carroll College in Waukesha, Wisconsin. Bruce has a Master's Degree in literature and has been teaching high school English for over thirty years. Bruce married Monica Malone in 1980 when he was 28 years old. He presently has three children, Brendan, Jessica, and Eric, and lives in Orland Park, Illinois, where he teaches at Oak Forest High School.

His parents introduced him to badminton at a young age because of a common illness that struck many young people in the early 50's, tuberculosis. Fortunately, antibiotics had just been discovered. After an operation to remove infected saliva glands and two years of "streptomycin," Bruce began to recover and catch up in school. Doctors advised Bruce's parents to keep him active since tuberculosis is not curable and has the ability to become active again in individuals with weak immune systems. Across the street from his Westside Chicago home was a park that had a badminton club. At six years old Bruce and his mother both began to play.

There were several active badminton clubs in Chicago and a strong contingent of local players. When it was clear that Bruce had talent for the game of badminton, the adults took notice. He was twelve years old when he raised fifty dollars to give to his mother so he could attend the Junior Nationals in Houston, Texas.

Many junior nationals followed. Bruce won the doubles and mixed doubles at every age division foreshadowing his future success in American badminton as a doubles specialist. He won the U.S. National Men's Doubles title four times and twice won the National Mixed



Doubles title. His partners in the men's event were Don Paup and Matt Fogarty; in mixed, Pam Stockton Brady.

Bruce also was a four-time member of the U.S. Thomas Cup Team, and twice was a member of the Pam American Team. His first Thomas Cup was a dual match against Peru in 1967 and he was just 16 years old. Bruce also participated in a Thomas Cup in 1986, nearly twenty years later.

Bruce was most proud of his record in international play. He and Matt Fogarty, his partner in most of the Thomas Cup events, maintained a very high winning percentage—unusual for any American singles player or doubles team through the period of the 70's and 80's. His proudest moment was in 1984 when he played a Korean team, ranked number one in the world. They rested one of the members of the team, however, and replaced him with the number one mixed doubles player in the world, still a formidable combination. It took Bruce and Matt only two games to defeat them and shock the Koreans who expected the Americans to be walk-overs.

Bruce is a member of the USA Badminton Hall of Fame. He continues to play recreationally in the Midwest and assists with teaching badminton at the Eastern Illinois Badminton Camp. Bruce was just inducted into the USA Badminton Walk of Fame during the IBF World Championships held in Anaheim, California, August 20, 2006. His granite plaque may be viewed in the sidewalk at the Orange County Badminton Club.

Big Island Badminton

by Tony Powell

Every year, when Alice and I take our vacation we try to go somewhere that is interesting and warm, at least warmer than Chicago in November. One of our favorite spots is the Big Island of Hawaii.

What we like about Hawaii is that it has everything. The daytime temperatures range from cold days at 82 degrees to warm days at 87 degrees. The sky is always blue somewhere on the island and it is probably always raining somewhere on the island. There are beautiful sand beaches with sand choices of white, black or green. Hawaii boasts what they consider to be the worlds tallest mountain (Mauna Kea), an active volcano that is erupting most of the time, tropical rain forests, barren lava deserts, a cattle ranch that would make a Texan proud, Kona coffee and macadamia nuts. But what really rounds it out is the Hilo Badminton Club, headed by Richard Nagano.

The Hilo Badminton Club plays Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Thursday nights plus a couple of days at two gyms located in Hilo. We judge there to be 20-30 members, plus an occasional visitor from the outside world. The club supplies feathered shuttles and great competition.

This year, we spent our days touring the Island and arranged our schedule to be sure to wind up in Hilo on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday night. We walked in to the gym and were immediately greeted by Lorna, Floyd, Clyde, Lance and all of the other players present. Richard, who normally plays with a daytime group made special trips to greet us and visit.

Everyone on Hawaii is sort of laid back. There are no real crowds there and people take their time. The club members do an excellent job of seeing that everyone gets to play. There are no court hogs. You play two games and sit down so that the next group can play.

Everyone is willing to play with everyone. There are no temper tantrums. Alice got to play some great Women's Doubles matches and also Mixed Doubles with a variety of partners. I played Men's Doubles with the senior men and with the younger crowd. It was a lot of fun!

Members of the Hilo Badminton Club are also an excellent source of information on Big Island sights, attractions and events. Their suggestions have gotten us to see lava flowing, close up, saved me from trying to climb a mountain for no good reason and lead us to the best beaches.

Upon leaving, the club presented each of us with club T-shirts and a food package of cookies, crackers and pies, all products of the Big Island. Richard chipped in a bag of tangerines from his yard. They really made us feel special!

When we travel Alice and I try to find out, ahead of time, if badminton is played. If so, we take our shoes and racquets. We have found that badminton clubs love to have visitors. Likewise, when we are aware of visitors at Park Ridge, we try to reciprocate. We strongly recommend anyone visiting the Big Island to plan to visit and play with the Hilo Club! You'll love it!

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



2006 BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION INFO

USA Badminton will conduct an election for three (3) Directors at Large and two (2) Regional Directors (Region 1-Northeast & Region 3-South) in early 2006. For the regional elections, the regional associations shall submit a minimum of two candidates to the USAB Executive Director at least 90 days prior to the spring USAB Board meeting, to be held at Orange, CA, April 8, 2006, in conjunction with the 2006 Adult National Championships. Members running for Regional Director and/or voting for such must be residents of the region.

If you are interested in serving in either category, please mail your candidate statement (200 words or less) before December 31, 2005, to:

USA Badminton
Attn: Mary Ann Bowles
One Olympic Plaza
Colorado Springs, CO 80909

or e-mail your candidate statement to
Mabowles@att.net

Please note the following excerpts from the USAB Bylaws:

Section C. Each director shall be at least 18 years of age and shall be an individual member of the USAB during the period that he or she is a candidate for and serves on the Board. No director of the USAB shall be an employee of the USAB receiving salary or fees for services. No director shall serve until he or she has signed a Statement of Principles, Ethical Behavior and Conflict of Interest for each year of his or her term of office. Any director faced, in the opinion of a two-thirds majority of Board members, with a conflict of interest or perceived conflict of interest with regard to any issue before the Board shall recuse himself or herself from all discussion and any voting on the issue.

Section D. The terms of office of newly elected directors shall commence on the first day of the Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board first following their election, and shall end three (3) years later on the day preceding that year's Annual Organizational Meeting.

Section E. The Directors shall be elected in accordance with the following procedures:

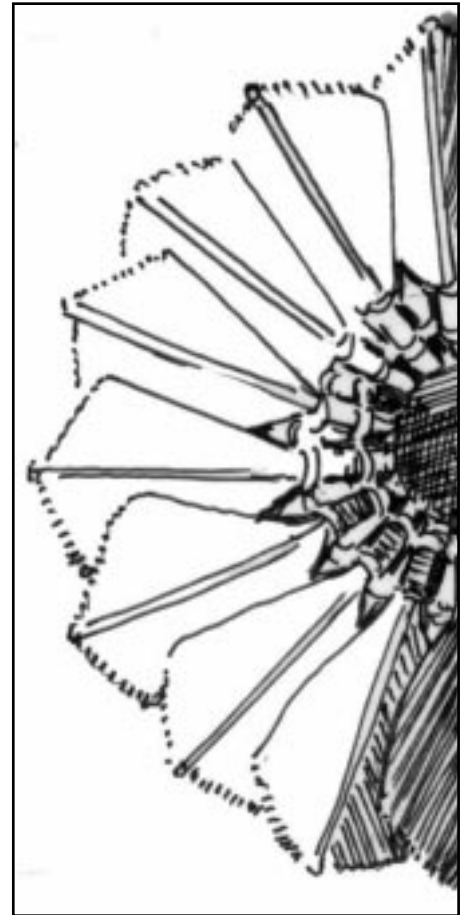
a. For Directors at large: no later than 90 days before the Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board, the Nominating Committee shall submit a list of candidates containing a minimum of one candidate more than the number of open Director at large position(s) to the Executive Director.



This slate of nominees may be increased by any names submitted by way of petition signed by fifty (50) or more members nominating one or more other nominees, which petition shall be furnished to the Executive Director no later than 80 days before the Annual Organization Meeting of the Board.

b. For Regional Directors: a minimum of two nominations for each open regional director position shall be submitted to the Executive Director by the association recognized by the USAB as representing the appropriate region at least 90 days before the Annual Organizational Meeting. This slate of nominees may be increased by any names submitted by way of petition signed by twenty (20) or more members of the regional association conducting the election, which petition must be furnished to the Executive Director no later than 80 days before the Annual Organizational Meeting. If no regional organization has been officially recognized by the USAB to represent a designated region, the President of the USAB may, subject to the approval of the Board, appoint a USAB member residing in that region to serve as a non-voting member of the Board for a one-year term.

Season's Greetings



POTPOURRI:

Did ja see:

The December 6, 2005 issue of the *Wall Street Journal* and the article written by Brooks Barnes and Joe Flint? It's about Katie Couric and mentions her playing, you guessed it, badminton. Check it out. Image. Image. We're still fighting that image!

Oxymorons:

Apparently nobody out there in the MBA knows of any. One more time...

Thanks to Tony Powell, Mary Ann Bowles and Russ Bowles for submitting articles for this issue. Aren't there any other MBA members willing to submit articles? It's your newsletter. Let's hear about those other tournaments and events going on in the Midwest Badminton Association.

The 2005-06 Wilson Midwest Junior Team

Wilson Indoor Racquet Sports has announced their sponsorship of select juniors from the Midwest region for 2005-06. The Wilson Midwest Junior Team members receive Wilson Team badminton equipment and apparel. Wilson will award one or more team members with airfare to the 2006 USAB Junior Nationals in Orange, California. Each Wilson Junior Team member agrees to exclusively represent Wilson Indoor Racquet Sports. The following juniors (in random sequence) are members of the 2005-06 Wilson Midwest Junior Team.



Hanlin Wan:

- **Achievements:** 3rd place in Under-17 Boy's Singles at the 2005 US Junior Nationals in Spokane, WA. 2004 US Junior Nationals in Marblehead, MA. Under-17 Boy's Singles, Second Place, and Under-17 Boy's Doubles, Fourth Place. • Attended a badminton training academy in China during the summer of 2005. • Selected 2005 Midwest Junior of the Year. • Selected for the Pan American Junior Academy at the Orange County Badminton Club, 2002.
- **Age:** 16
- Member and a Director of the Midwest Badminton Association. His job is calculating regional rankings for members of the MBA.
- **Badminton goal:** to win a Junior and Adult Nationals Singles Title. Career target is an Olympic Medal for the USA.
- **School:** Junior at Valley Forge High School, Parma Heights, Ohio. Favorite subject is Mathematics. Has earned straight A's in all subjects since elementary school. Hopes to attend Yale, Stanford or Washington University.
- **Home club coaches:** Stan and Diane Hales of Wooster, Ohio.
- **Parents:** Xianhua and Xiaoping Wan of Parma Heights, Ohio.



Wilson, the Official Sponsor of the Midwest Junior Badminton Team



James Huang:

- **Achievements:** 2005 US Junior National Championships: Under-13 Boy's Doubles, 2nd Place; 2004 US Junior National Championships: Under-11 Boy's Doubles, 5th Place. • Member of the MBA.
- **Age:** 11
- **School:** 6th grade at LaSalle Springs Middle School in Wildwood, MO. Taking challenge classes; especially likes the seventh grade's challenge Math class.
- **Favorite sport(s):** badminton, tennis and soccer.
- **Musical pursuits:** piano and violin. In his leisure time, he likes to read books and play computer games.
- **Parents:** Jane and Wei Huang of Wildwood, MO.



Phoebe Thompson:

- **Accomplishments:** attended the 2005 EIU Badminton Camp. • She plays badminton and is also a dancer and performs in a recital each year. • Phoebe is a member of the MBA.
- **Age:** 11
- **School:** 5th grade.
- **Favorite subject:** math.
- **Goal:** to win a junior girl's tournament.
- **Parents:** Sue and Ken Thompson of St. Louis, MO.



Kyle Wargo:

- **Achievements:** Played badminton for five years now. • Participated in the EIU Badminton Camp. • This year he is also a member of the badminton club that meets in Gibson City. • A member of the MBA. • Lives in Colfax, IL.
- **Age:** 16
- **School:** sophomore at Ridgeview High School. Member of Captain's, which is a school service organization that stages small shows for elementary students.
- **Parent:** Kathy Wargo of Illinois



Sean Hussey:

- **Achievements:** 1st Place in Under-11 Boy's Doubles at the 2005 US Junior National Championships, along with a 5th Place in Under-11 Boy's Singles. • 1st Place in Under-11 Boy's Doubles and 2nd place in Boy's Singles at the 2005 NEJO. • 2004 US Junior National Championships Sean Under-11 Boy's Doubles, Champion and Under-11 Boy's Singles, 3rd Place. • 1st Place in Boy's Singles and Boy's Doubles in the 2004 St. Louis Junior Scramble. Sean is a member of the MBA.
- **Goal:** top five in all three events at the 2006 US Jr. Nationals.
- **School:** honor student in the fifth grade at Jefferson Elementary School Charleston, IL. • Favorite academics include P.E. and Math.
- **Favorite Movie:** "The Incredibles," best book, Harry Potter.
- **Parents:** Kevin and Kathy Hussey of Charleston, IL.



Joel Thompson

- **Achievements:** attended the 2005 EIU Badminton Camp. • Played in the St. Louis Junior Badminton Scramble. • Joel is a member of the MBA.
- **Age:** 15, has been hitting for two years.
- **School:** sophomore in high school in St. Louis, MO. and is taking honors classes.
- **Statement:** "Badminton is fun to play," and he likes it because it is a fun sport and because of the people he meets.
- **Parents:** Sue and Ken Thompson, St. Louis, MO



The 2005-06 Wilson Midwest Junior Team



Camille Todd

- **Achievements:** Recently won 1st Place in a Young Writers and Illustrators contest and a 1st Place in the DAR Essay Competition. • Camille is a member of the MBA.
- **Age:** 12
- **School:** Attends Little Flower School and is a 7th grade Honor roll student. She likes English and Science.
- **Favorite sports:** badminton and soccer. Camille wants to become a lawyer when she grows up.
- **Parents:** Gina and Jay Todd, St. Louis, MO.



Raunak Kollipara

- **Achievements:** Raunak earned the Champion's title in both the Under-11 Boy's Singles and Under-11 Boy's Doubles at the 2005 US Junior National Championships. At the 2004 US Junior National Championship, Under-11 Boy's Doubles Champion, and Under-11 Boy's Singles, Fifth Place. • He recently earned a second place in the Chicago White Sox father's essay contest. • He is a member of the MBA.
- **Age:** 10
- **School:** 6th grade at the Andrew Jackson Language Academy in Chicago.
- **Best subjects:** Math and Science. His favorite books are Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix.
- **Favorite sport:** badminton, but he also plays hockey.
- **Parents:** Syam and Susmita Kollipara of Chicago, IL.



Matthew Liu

- **Achievements:** His badminton events include Under-15 Boy's Singles and doubles. • 2nd Place, Men's Singles at the 2005 SIU (Southern Illinois University) Intramural Tournament. • Member of the MBA.
- **School:** freshman at Carbondale Community High School in Carbondale, IL.
- **Favorite subjects:** science and math.
- **Favorite sport:** badminton.
- **Favorite book:** The Genesis Code, by John Case.
- **Favorite movie:** "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King."
- **Parents:** Chunhua Zhao and Wei Liu of Carbondale, IL.



Darin Wargo

- **Achievements:** This summer he made his second trip to the 2005 EIU Badminton Camp • Darin is a member of the badminton club in Gibson City and the MBA. • He has played badminton for three years now, joining his cousins Sean and Quinn Hussey at tournaments. • He played baseball for Ridgeview Junior High School this fall.
- **Age:** 13
- **Parent:** Kathy Wargo of Illinois



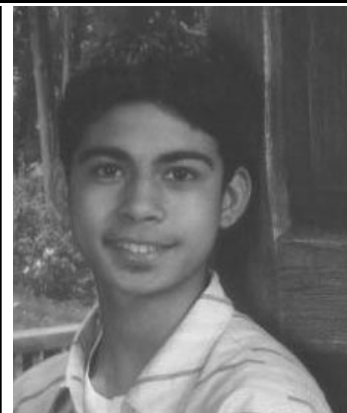
Michael Huang

- **Achievement(s):** 2004 and 2005 US Junior National Championships: Under-9 Boy's Singles Champion; Under-9 Boy's Doubles Champion.
- **Age:** 8 and a member of the MBA.
- **School:** 3rd grade at Ridge Meadows Elementary in Ellisville, MO. He's been in the gifted program since 1st grade.
- **Favorite sports:** badminton and taekwon do.
- **Musical pursuit:** piano.
- **Parents:** Jane and Wei Huang of Wildwood, MO.



Jennifer Kan

- **Achievements:** Played in the St. Louis Junior Scramble • Active player at the St. Louis Chinese School Badminton Club. • Member of MBA.
- **Age:** 12
- **School:** honor roll student in the seventh grade at Parkway Central Middle School, Chesterfield, MO.
- **Favorite sports:** badminton and tennis.
- **Parents:** Steve Kan and Amy Que of Chesterfield, MO.



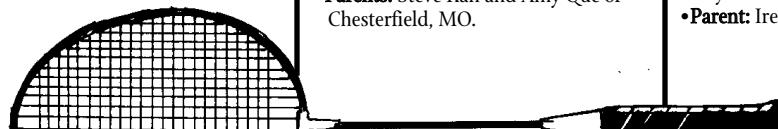
Noel Uttam

- **Achievements:** a Gold Medal in Junior Olympic Trampoline in 2005
- **Age:** 14
- **School:** freshman at Bishop DuBourg High School, St. Louis, MO.
- **Favorite subjects:** French and Science.
- **Favorite sports:** badminton and running cross-country.
- **Favorite music:** soft rock.
- **Parent:** Yolanda Uttam of St. Louis



Mark Phillips

- **Achievements:** a Gold Medal at Junior Olympics in Synchronized Trampoline.
- **Age:** 13
- **School:** 9th grade at Hancock Place High School, St. Louis, MO. He is a third year badminton junior and also a freshman wrestler.
- **Favorite subject:** PE.
- **Favorite movie:** "Sacra Movie 2."
- **Favorite motto:** "Those who think they can, succeed; those who think they cannot, fail."
- **Parent:** Irene Phillips of St. Louis



The purpose of the Midwest Junior Committee is to promote, organize and develop junior badminton within the region. Committee members are: Xianhua Wan of Ohio; Wei Huang of Missouri; Kevin Hussey of Illinois and Russ Bowles of Missouri, Committee Chair.

STRANGER THAN FICTION?

By Mary Ann Bowles & Bob Ericson

The photo you are viewing may be the strangest photo yet to be found in the Flickr. You may ask—what is it? What does it look like? A medal won by a player? A watch hanging from a watch chain? A pendulum? A golf ball hanging from the bottom of a badminton net? If you guessed the golf ball, you are exactly right!

A golf ball? Yep, this strange sight was seen in the Papillion/La Vista High School gym during the recent October Ray Scott Memorial Badminton Tournament.

Now there are many ways to secure the bottom of a badminton net to a standard, but this was a unique way to hold the nets that this writer had not seen before. And it worked perfectly well for the tournament play—the nets stayed right where they were supposed to! Because the standards were in between the badminton courts by some feet, this was a great way to secure the nets, and really worked much better than using rope or cord to attach the nets to the standards.

I've given you the perspective of the visiting player to the tournament, but let's hear from the tournament director, Bob Ericson. Who's the genius from Omaha who devised this unique way to hold the nets?



Well, to continue Mary Ann's narrative and answer her question, the "genius" is Top Flight's own computer guru, Mr. "clickety click" himself, Al Toris.

How the solution came about is another narrative.

In the beginning Mr. "CC" was dissatisfied with the method of keeping the nets stretched out and down. Like everybody else, Top Flight tied the ends to the posts.



"CC's" first attempt was attaching weighted pewter fishing lures to the bottoms of the nets. However, after doing this for a few weeks, he decided to try something else

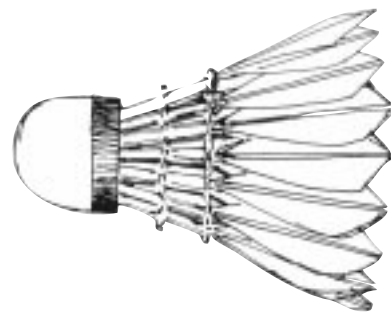
because the weighted metal lures were constantly getting tangled in the netting and required a half hour of painstaking, frustrating finger manipulation to untangle the metal lures from the netting.

Sooooooo, he was off to the deep, dark recesses of 1175 S. 97th Street to, heh heh, "make this puppy work." He asked me about the golf ball and I said I had never seen it used but try it. His dilemma was how best to drill a hole in a golf ball. "Use a drill," I told him.

Not long thereafter Al emerged from his work shop with the new design. It does work. It's been in use for 3-4 months now. —the nets don't go anywhere.



When stringing up the nets all you hear is the staccato da,da-da,da-da, da-da-da of the balls bouncing off the gym floor. At least they don't get lost and they are easier to untangle from the nets. Wonder which tournament this idea will show up at next.



STATE GAMES LIAISON SOUGHT

Needed: USA Badminton State Games Liaison

Job Description: Interface with National Congress of State Games organization to establish badminton in 35 states. Contact with State Games personnel needed via e-mail, letter, or phone call. Badminton contact in each state needed to assist with creation of State Games tournament. May need to assist badminton contact with completion of badminton proposal to establish badminton in State Games.

States with Existing Badminton in State Games: Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Louisiana, Maryland, Montana, Nebraska, Oregon, Rhode Island, Virginia, Wisconsin

Salary: No monetary compensation, but opportunity to spread badminton throughout the US and make many new national contacts

Contact: Mary Ann Bowles (Mabowles@att.net, 314-629-9489, 4514 Pegasus Drive, St. Louis MO 63129)



continued from Page 1

Nick Schafer (Wisconsin) won the B Men's Singles by defeating Top Flight member Sarfraz Chandio in two games 15-4, 15-7. Nick was responsible for drafting the Wisconsin team and arranging for their attendance. In fact, they stayed at his parent's place here in Omaha. Talking with his parents on Sunday when they came to my house to pick up an algebra book Nick left behind at the tournament, they said they were at the tournament on Saturday. They'd "come to learn the rules and see what it's all about. Now they can talk intelligently about the sport," they said.



Todd Villotta, another Top Flight member, competing in his first sanctioned tournament, dropped to C level and lost out. Even in defeat he said, "this is neat...it's fun." A picnic, hmmm?

C Men's Singles saw Top Flighter Ron Wu defeat Prashanth Prabhakar (Minnesota) 15-11, 15-14.

In D Men's Singles Mahesh Srinivasan (Wisconsin) secured the gold medal by besting Ravi Billa (Nebraska) 15-11, 15-12.

Next up, Women's Singles. Spectators arranged their chairs in anticipation of an interesting match-up for the Open Women's Singles between Mingzi Zhang (Wisconsin) and Jura Sidlauskaitė (Illinois) Mary Ann Bowles stood by to umpire for them. Mingzi was in charge from the first serve. Although there were several long rallies, and some good shots by both players, it was obvious that Jura's many unforced errors allowed Mingzi to construct the win without too much effort 11-8, 11-5.

During the match Jura said out loud, and rather emphatically, primarily to herself, "you know it's going to go there, c'mon!"

After missing another shot, Jura chastised herself by saying "stupid." The serve jumped back and forth a few times at 10-5 with Mingzi ahead. Neither player could seem to get an advantage. Finally, Mingzi dropped to Jura's extreme forehand to secure the victory, 11-5. When queried later Jura said, "Glad I came. Really happy—just lost." Just a picnic sport.

Senior and Masters events also saw some enthusiastic competition. Who says the older guys are slow? In the match between Arkady Zigelboym and Buck Wood they chased each other all over the court. It wasn't classic badminton, but the gusto of their movements was energizing. During one long rally, which he lost, Buck dove on the court to return an almost impossible shot from Arkady only to be laying there to watch the shuttle come back for an easy point for Arkady. Considerable applause followed. Just a picnic game, right?

When he signed up for the tournament, Buck said, "put me in everything you can; I love to play this game; it's fun. People don't understand." Where've we heard that before? As a grass roots player, if he ever combines his athletic ability and speed with court skills, he'll be tough to beat.

In the SMS final Arizona was pitted against Kansas. Doug Towne dispatched Buck's nemesis, Arkady Zigelboym, easily, 15-1, 15-2. But in MMS, Minnesota won out over Kansas. Samuel Prabhakar beat Vladimir Gruzman by identical scores of 15-8, 15-8.

Recreational Men's Singles ended the singles events as two Nebraskans Buck (Gung ho) Wood and Dave "the plumber" Waggoner squared off against each other. Buck got the best of Dave 15-5, 15-4. These guys compete just as hard and enthusiastically at the picnic just like the Open contestants.

Somewhere along the way, Len sneaked in the start of the doubles competition. Gee whiz! He had to. No picnic should be without doubles. Competition once again was enthusiastic, shuttles were heard being "thwacked" everywhere on seven courts simultaneously.

OMD featured Qin "Smoothie" Zhu teamed with fellow Indianan Jaeduck Park (a former Top Flight member) to win the top half of the 19-team bracket over Minnesotans Phinat & Phiphat Phruksararojanaku 15-5, 15-3. In the bottom half of the bracket, the Arizona "old guys" Doug Towne and Naren Koka got the upper hand after two grueling games 15-8, 17-14 over James Seal (Missouri) and Amit Agrawal (Nebraska). It was the first time James and Amit had played doubles together. Age, strategy and determination seemed to win out over youth and speed.

Doug and Naren packed up in suitcases their previous success and went to the finals as OMD bracket bottom half winners. There, they squared off against the top half winners, Zhu/Park. After the feathers stopped flying, and the Seniors had worked up a good sweat and pulled all their tricks out of their



OWS L to R B. Ericson; Br: W. Thiansri; Gold: M. Zhang; Silver: J. Sidlauskaitė

suitcases, the young and speedy duo of Zhu/Park prevailed over the seniors 15-8, 15-11.



Iowa State dinner participants

Season's Greetings

continued from Page 9

OK Len. Time for a dinner break. Everybody was getting hungry, and this is a picnic, right? Where's the food? On the tables with the table cloths, cups and paper plates. Remember? Let's eat!

Deli trays of cold cuts, vegetables and fruit. Chips, dip, bread, dressings and the home-made international cuisine supplied by Top Flight members made up the remainder of the menu. There was German plum cake made by Martin Liphardt; Indian garbonzo beans, "Spicy Chole" from Gunnit Khurana; Chinese Fried Dumplings from Haifeng Guo; Spicy Thai breaded fish called Todmon



Malli, Rob, Doug and Oleg puttin' on the feed bag.



Amit showing off his picnic form!



It's a picnic, right?

in Thai or Fish Pancakes in English from Wade Thiansri; and two huge pans of Pakistani rice called Sindhi Biryani from Sarfraz Chandio. Yeah, Sarfraz, what are those big brown-bean-looking things that I just bit into? Ah hah, cardamon you say? Whooooo! Spiceeeee! But "they're just spices, you're not supposed to eat them," Sarfraz said. Now ya tell me. Nevertheless the rice dish tasted good. As a group the players made 100 cans of pop disappear, two deli trays and several desserts. Now that's a picnic.

After the dinner break it was back to the courts for more doubles and mixed doubles.

Mary Ann Bowles (St. Louis) teamed with Jura Sidlauskaitė to win Open Women's Doubles over the team of Malli Allam (Kansas) and Mingzi Zhang (Wisconsin) 15-6, 15-5.

With only four teams in JrSr Men's Doubles, newcomer James Burnett (Chicago) and old favorite James Seal (St. Louis) defeated the Iowa State duo of Ching-Yuan Huang and Chu Lin cheng in of the 19 three game matches 8-15, 15-2, 15-6.

Doug Towne (Arizona) and fellow Arizonian partner Rob Waters won the Senior Men's Doubles Round-Robin event.

Master Men's Doubles was also a Round Robin Event. Who won that? Who else but the omnipresent Doug Towne with partner Rob Waters.

Mixed Doubles was interesting as always. In the 10-team Open event Teong Ong Kuok and Mingzi Zhang (Wisconsin) bested the team of Amit Agrawal (Nebraska)/Malli Allam (Kansas) 15-3, 15-6 for the Gold medal.

JrSr Mixed Doubles had only two teams but served up some of the best play of the evening. At one spot during the match James Seal looked like a missile during

a sensational diving return from the back line. Spectators rewarded his actions with loud applause. His heroics earned he and Mary Ann the Gold Medal.

Senior Mixed Doubles, another Round Robin event, saw tournament newcomer Rajeev Trehan (Kansas) and perennial competitor Mary Ann Bowles win the Gold Medal.

Why is everyone yawning? Thought this was a picnic? Oh! Maybe it has something to do with the time. Anyone check a chronometer lately? Al Toris says, "we're closing in on midnight." At 0037 hours Len Williams says, "let's put this one to bed." And we did. Phew. It's over. Done.

120 matches. 249 games. 4,946 points. 19 3-game matches. 73 medals presented in 11 events. It was almost an hour later that I finally turned out the lights and locked the doors. The picnic's over!

And I had to watch it all from the sidelines! By next year I will have recovered from rotator cuff surgery.

Complete results follow.

Open Men's Singles

A-Gold-Qin Zhu, IN

Silver-Teong-Ong Kuok, WI.

B-Gold-Nick Schafer, WI.

Silver- Sarfraz Chandio, NE

C-Gold-Ron Wu, NE

Silver-Prashanth Prabhakar, MN

D-Gold-Mahesh Srinivasan, IA

Silver-Ravi Billa, NE

Open Women's Singles

Gold-Mingzi Zhang, WI

Silver-Jura Sidlauskaitė, IL

Bronze-Wadee Thiansri, NE

continued on Page 11





Mingzi serving to Jura during their OWS match.

Senior Men's Singles

Gold-Doug Towne, AZ
 Silver-Arkady Zigelboym, KS
 Bronze-Buck Wood, NE

Master Men's Singles

Gold-Sam Prabhakar, MN
 Silver-Vladimir Gruzman, KS
 Bronze-Rajeev Trehan, KS

Rec Men's Singles

Gold-Buck Wood, NE
 Silver-Dave Waggoner, NE
 Bronze-None Awarded

Open Men's Doubles

A-Gold-Qin Zhu/Jaeduck Park, IN
 Silver-Doug Towne/Naren Koka, AZ
 B-Gold-Kun Song, IA/
 Mahesh Srinivasan, IA
 Silver-None Awarded

Open Women's Doubles

Gold-Mary Ann Bowles, MO/
 Jura Sidlauskaitė, IL
 Silver-Mingzi Shang, WI/
 Malli Allam, KS
 Bronze-Wadee Thiansri, NE/
 Asha Jayaprakash, NE

Jr/Sr Men's Doubles

Gold-James Seal, MO/
 John Burnett, IL
 Silver-Ching-Yuan Huang, IA/
 Chu Lin Cheng, IA

Senior Men's Doubles

Gold-Doug Towne/Rob Waters
 Silver-Tony Artman, MO/John Burnett
 Bronze-None Awarded

Master Men's Doubles

Gold-Doug Towne/Rob Waters
 Silver-Samuel Prabhakar, MN/
 Andy Tanabe, MN
 Bronze-Rajeev Trehan/Tony Artman

Rec Women's Doubles

Gold-Ken Yee Chia, IA/
 Chei Huey Te, IA
 Silver-Carol Toris, NE/
 Karen Harned, NE
 Bronze-None Awarded

Open Mixed Doubles

Gold-Teong Ong Kuok/Mingzi Zhang
 Silver-Amit Agrawal, NE/Malli Allam
 Bronze-Gunnit Khurana, NE/
 Wadee Thiansri

JrSr Mixed Doubles

Gold-James Seal/Mary Ann Bowles
 Silver-Naren Koka/Malli Allam
 Bronze-None Awarded

Senior Mixed Doubles

Gold-Mary Ann Bowles/Rajeev Trehan
 Silver-Carol Toris/Rob Waters
 Bronze-Karen Harned/Tony Artman



OMxD LtoR: Silver-Malli Allam/Amit Agrawal; Gold-Mingzi Zhang/Teong Ong Kuok



Jr/SrMxD LtoR: Sil-Naren Koka/Malli Allam; Gld-M.A. Bowles/James Seal

C-Gold-Ravi Billa, NE/
 Massa Takahashi, NE
 Silver-Martin
 Liphardt, NE/
 Rob Waters, AZ
 D-Gold-Pi Remli,
 Mohamad
 Aisamud/IA
 Mohd Yusoff,
 Muhammad Azi, IA
 Silver-Peng Xiao, NE/
 Buck Wood, NE



In This Issue:

- ◆ Page 1 Ray Scott Memorial
- ◆ Page 2 Tournament Calendar
- ◆ Page 3 Where Are They Now?
- ◆ Page 3 My Serve
- ◆ Page 4 Big Island Badminton
- ◆ Page 5 Board of Directors Info
- ◆ Page 6/7 Wilson Juniors
- ◆ Page 8 Stranger Than Fiction
- ◆ Page 8 State Games Liaison

Season's

Greetings

Thanks to our MBA Patrons:

The Wan Family
Russ & Mary Ann Bowles

FIRST CLASS MAIL
Address Correction Requested

7202 Omaha Trace Omaha, NE 68122

