

Season's Greetings



Midwest players at the Japanese tournament:

Front row, L to R: Karen Jerg, Jurate Sidlauskaitė, Alice Wunderlich, Mary Ann Bowles.
 Back row, L to R: Alice Mohr, Peggy Meacham, Gena Fite, Mary Blandino,
 and Jeannine Bohn.

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Thanks to our MBA Patrons:

Russ & Mary Ann Bowles
 Dawn & Bharat Patel



“As far as my experience goes, it was awesome. My teammates on the OCBC Belles were wonderful ladies and fun to play with. Our team captain Linda Shen went out of her way to make my trip very enjoyable. It was such a wonderful experience to play against, socialize with, and communicate with the Japanese women. They are wonderful athletes and very friendly and caring women. The OCBC facility is beautiful, and Don and Kim Chew are such great people to open their club up to the tournament. It was also exciting meeting past, present, and future Olympic badminton players. **(Karen Jerg)**”

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7202 Omaha Trace Omaha, NE 68122



2008 Ray Scott Memorial

Seven thousand two hundred and seventy nine points, 211 games, 102 matches, 19 three-gamers, and 21 OT games almost didn't happen. Twelve days before the tournament, the event was in doubt—serious, desperate, maybe even cancellation doubt. Let me explain.

Top Flight Badminton Club plays regularly on Sunday evenings from 6- 8 P.M. at the Papillion high school gym. On the night of October the 5th (12 days before the tournament was scheduled) I ran into one of the PE teachers from the high school that I know. I've been to her classes and done demos with her students. Although it was strange to see her there on a Sunday evening, her visit turned out to be a fortuitous meeting.

Somehow we got to talking about the

A Close Call!

upcoming tournament and she remarked that she was sure the Homecoming set-up and dance was the same Friday and Saturday. "No way," I said, "that's our tournament week end," as I dropped the 90-lb cement bucket we use to anchor the net standards. She said, "you'd better check with the AD because I'm sure it is!" Oh wow, just what we need, less than two weeks out. Ugh! Panic! I was so shocked I never said a word to anyone, save Karen. She was close to me when the PE teacher and I were talking. I told Karen, "no sense alarming anyone else, I'll talk to the AD tomorrow." I drove home under a big, black cloud.

Next morning I called the AD and he confirmed my worst suspicion. Indeed it was

by Bob Ericson



L to R: Bob Ericson, President, Top Flight Badminton Club Palav Deka, Gold; Stanley Phiri, Silver.

All Ray Scott Memorial photos by Top Flight Badminton Club



Homecoming and Top Flight was out of luck, out of a tournament venue. "I'm terribly sorry," he said, "but there's nothing I can do." He did, however, give me some phone numbers of other high school AD's to contact. I called the first one, "sorry, we're booked out," he said. He referred me to another school—same response. Tried a third—same response. Things were not looking too good at this time.

I didn't want to cancel the event because several participants were coming from out-of-state and already had airline reservations. Now what do I do? So I called another school. "I don't know for sure, I'll have to call you back," the AD said. Fuddle, fuddle, rub my stubble, thumbs kadouble, blood pressure bubble, bubble. What do I do, what do I do? Just what I need. I still had not

discussed the dilemma with anyone else.

Next day, the black cloud began to dissipate when the AD at the junior high school in downtown Papillion called back and said the gym was available. I said, "we're definitely interested; can I come down and look at the gym?" The junior high school is only a mile from our regular venue. An hour later I was on my way to visit the school and check out the gym. Turned out there were two gyms of equal size; however, neither one had lines on the floor—another problem—no problem. After some preliminary step-offs I figured we could get four courts in each gym. I was now prepared to let the Club know and figure out how we were going to arrange to set up the gym and notify all the participants.



L to R: Karen Chin, Bronze; Kanithaporn Puangsombat, Gold; Len Williams, Top Flight BC; Chern-Yang Chng, Silver.

Tournament Calendar

2009 Jerry Toms U.S. Senior International Badminton Championships

1/12/2009 - 1/17/2009

Don Shula's Hotel and Golf Club, Miami Lakes, FL
 Contact: Paison Rangsikitpho paisonr@gmail.com (562) 858-2011
 DEADLINE: 12/20/08

2009 Indiana Badminton Open

1/16/2009 - 1/19/2009

Indiana State University Health & Human Performance Building N. Gym, Fifth St.
 Terre Haute, Indiana
 Contact: Dawn Patel dlpatel@gmail.com 765-349-0662
 DEADLINE: 1/2/2009

Chicago Junior Smash

1/24/2009 - 1/25/2009

Thornton Fractional North High School, Chicago IL
 Contact: Russ Bowles russellbowles@gmail.com 314-487-7187
 DEADLINE: 1/3/2009

2009 Collegiate Nationals

3/21/2009 - 3/22/2009

Irvine ValJoseph Lin jlin9495522051@gmail.com 949-552-2051
 DEADLINE: 3/02/2009

2009 U.S. Senior National Badminton Tournament

3/25/2009 - 3/29/2009

Orange County Badminton Club, Orange, CA:
 Contact: Robert Davis rcd47@aol.com 310-374-7217
 DEADLINE: 3/11/09

2009 K & D Graphics U.S. Adult National Badminton Championships

4/17/2009 - 4/19/2009

Papillion LaVista High School, Papillion, Nebraska
 Contact: Tim Mangkalakiri timocbc@aol.com 714-639-8900
 DEADLINE: 3/18/09

2009 K & D Graphics U.S. Junior National Badminton Championships

10/17/2009 - 10/19/2009

Orange County Badminton Club, Orange CA
 Contact: Tim Mangkalakiri timocbc@aol.com 714-639-6222
 DEADLINE: 6/19/09



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.

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My Serve:

As I write this the temperature is 5 degrees outside. There's four inches of new snow on the ground with more predicted for tomorrow.

Strains of "Jingle Bell Rock," "Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer," and "The Chipmunks," remind me it's that time of year again. Oh, I almost forgot, "He's making a list and checking it twice . . ."

The Christmas "this is what we've been doing" newsletter is written. Copies have been made, lovingly folded, tucked into the yearly cards, and they are finally, in the mail.

Now it's time to sit down and write out my Christmas wish list. Got yours done yet? Maybe reading mine will motivate you to start yours. It's hard, ya know. Some items come to mind easily, while others require some creative thinking.

Here's my Top Ten wish list:

- 1st..... A new keyboard; hopefully it will eliminate typos and scare away those cyber gremlins that seem to visit me now and then.
- 2nd..... A plethora of unsolicited articles, stories, photos for future issues of the *Flick* from members of the 14-state MBA.
- 3rd..... Information from MBA clubs.
- 4th..... More tournament information to publish in the calendar
- 5th..... Info on "grass roots" activities
- 6th..... More volunteers
- 7th..... More tournament sponsors
- 8th..... A year in advance schedule of all MBA tournaments, clinics, etc. dates and sites
- 9th..... More junior players
- 10th..... More senior players

That's my list. I'll be checking it more than twice—every time I sit down to put a newsletter together. Did you hear that? Sounded like something up on the roof. Got to go investigate. Ah, almost forgot to add to my list—Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. See ya round the court.



Time for you to return my serve.

Love all, play.

Midwest Players Part of Japanese Crowd

A women's doubles team tournament in the U.S. sponsored by a federation of Japanese women? When? Where? How does one enter? Those were the questions swirling around the U.S. badminton clubs and players in the winter of 2007-08. Some U.S. players had been to this tournament in Japan, but coming to the U.S.? What an opportunity for players to try something new!

That was precisely the feeling of the nine Midwest players who traveled to Orange, CA, October 17-19, 2008, for the 14th International Friendship Ladies Badminton Tournament. Four hundred seventy-one women in four age groups from Australia, Canada, Korea, the Netherlands, the USA, and Japan determined zone champions, the largest badminton team tournament in the United States ever. After 13 tournaments in Osaka, the Osaka Ladies Badminton Federation, host of the tournament, moved the tournament to the USA where the Orange County Badminton Club had been asked to host the competition. The format was a doubles team tournament with 6-8 players on a team. Each team played the best two of three matches in pool play with top teams and/or top two teams moving out to main draw play. Team captains were responsible for submitting rosters to the tournament desk with their line-ups of doubles teams prior to matches.

A & B Zone teams played on Friday, October 17. The A Zone was advanced level for any team wishing to enter the zone with no age requirement. B Zone consisted of all players 55 of age and under. C & D Zone players competed on Saturday, although a few D Zone matches were held on Friday. C Zone was all players from 56-65 years old, and all players 66 and older were D Zone players. Midwest players included Gena Fite of Elmhurst, IL, on the B Zone Team IBF; Alice Wunderlich of Mt. Prospect, IL, and Jurate Sidlauskaitė of Manhattan, IL, on B Zone team Pickup Partners; Mary Blandino of West Allis, WI, and Peggy Meacham of Cincinnati, OH, on C Zone Team CAWATO; Karen Jerg of Sun Prairie, WI, on C Team OCBC Belles; Mary Ann Bowles of St. Louis, MO, on the C Team Shuttle Sisters; Jeannine Bohn of Cincinnati, OH, on D Zone Team 66 USA; and Alice Mohr of St. Louis, MO, on D Zone Team Arizona. Alice Mohr had the

distinction of being the most senior player in the tournament—the youngest player was a 15-year-old Californian.

Midwest players included Gena Fite of Elmhurst, IL, on the B Zone Team IBF; Alice Wunderlich of Mt. Prospect, IL, and Jurate Sidlauskaitė of Manhattan, IL, on B Zone team Pickup Partners; Mary Blandino of West Allis, WI, and Peggy Meacham of Cincinnati, OH, on C Zone Team CAWATO; Karen Jerg of Sun Prairie, WI, on C Team OCBC Belles; Mary Ann Bowles of St. Louis, MO, on the C Team Shuttle Sisters; Jeannine Bohn of Cincinnati, OH, on D Zone Team 66 USA; and Alice Mohr of St. Louis, MO, on D Zone Team Arizona. Alice Mohr had the distinction of being the most senior player in the tournament—the youngest player was a 15-year-old Californian.

Friday's play began with Opening Ceremonies recognizing the Osaka Ladies Badminton Federation and staff; the Orange County Badminton Club and staff; Don, Kim, and Montri Chew, OCBC owners; and Yonex Corporation USA. Matches proceeded with teams furnishing umpires and lineswomen.

Saturday's schedule was the same, but matches were speeded along to accommodate the evening's dinner. Following the matches, the OCBC's ten courts were turned into a 50-table banquet hall. A delicious dinner from the OCBC's Bebe's Café was served followed by thank you's to all those involved with the tournament.

Entertainment for the evening was provided by the players including musical solos; "It's A Small World," performed by Team IBF; a catchy Aussie chorale; a popular Canadian ballad; a hula dance; a Japanese drum team; and a Japanese line dance. But the evening was brought to a close with a surprise performance by OCBC owner and host Don Chew singing "Dream, Dream, Dream."

Excitement was the rule on Sunday with semifinals and finals on the agenda. Play started at 9AM and continued nonstop until 2:30PM. Which U.S. teams prevailed? In the A Zone with six teams, the three U.S. teams took the top three spots: 1st, Pink

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A Close Call! 2008 Ray Scott Memorial

(Continued from Page 1)

Once the shock wore off at the last-minute change of venue, club members pitched in to prepare for the tournament plus set up the gym. Tables and chairs, nets, standards, & four 90-lb cement buckets, five Top Flight Scrapbooks, & three Cornhusker State Games scrapbooks were transported to the new venue & set up. Two broken 50-foot measuring tapes, sore knees, & 2,616 feet of blue painter's floor tape later, we were ready for the tournament. Whew! What a week! I think we're ready.

My sincere thanks to Karen Harned, Al & Carol Toris, Len Williams, Kevin and Anne Rutland, Jay Koneru, Xiaodong Tan, and Cheong Ee Teoh for the logistical set up. Of course, all the changes had Al Toris in a dither but "Father Len" Williams assuaged Al's fears of running a tournament in one day with six courts instead of eight. Lenny's scheduling of games and courts was masterful, marvelous; he waved his cards and worked his magic. The last game of mixed doubles was over by 9:30 P.M. I don't know how he did it. David Coperfield would be envious.

Lots of matches. Lots of fun. Lots of shouting. Lots of feathers flying. Lots of squeaky sneakers. Lots of good badminton. Too bad all the Omaha sports enthusiasts missed such high caliber badminton.

Of particular note was the Men's Doubles final: Jay Koneru and Palav Deka of Omaha versus Moss Lattison and Anh Nguyen of Lincoln—survivors of 14-doubles teams. Their match featured fast action, plenty of smashes with clearing returns plus some calculated drops. The match, umpired by California's Dave Anderson, turned out to be a three-gamer—won eventually by the Omaha duo 21-11, 18-21, 21-17. All four players received a hearty, appreciative round of applause from the spectators.

L to R: Anh Nguyen, Karen Chin, Silver; Bob Ericson, TFBC president, Kanithaporn Puangsombat, Moss Lattison, Gold.



L to R: B. Ericson, TFBC president; Bob McFarland, Bronze; Andy Tanabe, Silver; Dave Anderson, Gold.



L to R: Anh Nguyen, Moss Lattison, Silver; Bob Ericson, TFBC president; Palav Deka, Jay Koneru, Gold.



L to R: Rohit Thadani, Bob Ericson, TFBC president, Hull Wu.

Palav, a newcomer to Omaha and the tournament, captured the 16-player Open Men's Singles earlier in the day without losing a game when his opponent, Stanley Phiri, retired with an injury.

The Open Women's Singles draw was very small. Kanithaporn Puangsombat from Kansas defeated Chem Yann-Chng of Nebraska 23-21, 21-11.

The Open Women's Doubles draw was also small. It was won by Kanithaporn Puangsombat and Karen Chin, IL. They defeated Brigitte Danielsen, NE, and Linda Downey, IN, 21-6, 21-5.

Junior Senior Men's Doubles featured spirited Round Robin action. Naren Koka and Douglas Towne from Arizona got the best of Hull Wu, MO, and Michael Xi, KS, 14-21, 21-18, 21-14.

Open Mixed Doubles had 11-teams and was won by Moss Lattison, NE, and Kanithaporn Puangsombat when they got the best of his Men's Doubles finals partner, Anh Nguyen and partner Karen Chin 21-16, 21-18.

Participants this year came from 12-states: Arizona, California, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Oklahoma, Wisconsin, and, of course, Nebraska. It was nice to see such a large contingent from Kansas.

Rajeev Trehan, Lawrence, Kansas, received the 2008 Ray Scott Sportsmanship Trophy at the end of the international cuisine pot luck dinner.

Thanks are in order for all who contributed good things to eat, especially, the curried rice provided by Jay and Brigitte. Yummy, hot stuff. Wonderful. Not a morsel was left.

Additional thanks go to Brent Calder, Athletic Director at Papillion Junior High School, David Dai, RSL North America (Sports Jolly Good) for the RSL shirts raffle, and Todd Granus of Carlton/Dunlop for the posters, brochures and carry bag for the raffle. I must not forget my wife Jacqueline and Michelle Zorn for

(Continued on Page 5)



L to R:

Linda Downey, Brigitte Danielsen, Silver.

Kanithaporn Puangsombat, Karen Chin, Gold.

Rebecca Liu, Yan Sun, Bronze.

(Continued from Page 4)

setting up the buffet, and Dave Anderson for mopping up a spill. Dave and Rajeev also served as umpires.

I must also give special thanks to Pam (Ray's daughter) & Tom Swierzb for their generous support of the tournament. They took time from their busy schedule to visit the tournament and watch some of the outstanding competition.

7,279 points, 211 games, 102 matches, 19 three-gamers, and 21 OT games later, around 9:30 P.M., we were done. 20-minutes later, 2,616 feet of floor tape disappeared.

"Press On" we did. You'd never have known that just 12-days earlier the whole affair was in doubt.

Rohit Thadani kind of summed it up: "good fun, I really enjoyed it." That's why we do it. Close calls are always fun. ❖



Sportsmanship Trophy

Andy Tanabe, left, 2007 recipient, hands over the Ray Scott Sportsmanship trophy to the 2008 winner, Rajeev Trehan.



Raffle Winner

Karen Harned, right, Top Flight vice president, with Rohit Thadani, left, winner of Dunlop racquet bag raffle.



Jay Koneru delivering more curry at dinner.



Master at Work?

"Father" Len Williams at . . . work?



How many inches?

Top Flight club members Xiaodong Tan, left, & Cheong Ee Teoh, right, putting court lines on the floor on Friday night.

COMPLETE RESULTS

OPEN MEN'S SINGLES

Gold: Pallav Deka, Omaha, NE
Silver: Stanley Phirii, Topeka, KS
Bronze: Bicheng Wang, Omaha, NE

OPEN WOMEN'S SINGLES

Gold: Kanithaporn Puangsombat, Manhattan, KS
Silver: Chern Yann-Chng, Lincoln, NE
Bronze: Karen Chin, Chicago, IL

JR/SR MEN'S SINGLES (35-39) Round Robin

Gold: Dilok Phanchantraurai, Ankeny, IA
Silver: Ramesh Paramasivan, Rochester, MN
Bronze: Kashinath Volvoicar, Omaha, NE

MASTER MEN'S SINGLES (40-49) Round Robin

Gold: Dave Anderson, Glendale, CA
Silver: Andrew Tanabe, Pearl City, HI
Bronze: Bob McFarland, Grand Island, NE

RECREATIONAL MEN'S SINGLES

Gold: Martin Jacob, Omaha, NE
Silver: Paul Joy, Omaha, NE
Bronze: Dinesh Kumar Vadivel, Egan, MN

RECREATIONAL WOMEN'S SINGLES

Gold: Iris Chen, Omaha, NE
Silver: Xiaoyue Song, Omaha, NE
Bronze: Michelle Zorn, Lincoln, NE

OPEN MEN'S DOUBLES

Gold: Pallav Deka/Jay Koneru, Omaha, NE
Silver: Aspirat Lattison, Lincoln, NE
Anh Nguyen, Lincoln, NE
Bronze: Rohit Thadani, St. Louis, MO
Hull Wu, St. Louis, MO

OPEN WOMEN'S DOUBLES

Gold: Kanithaporn Puangsombat/Karen Chin
Silver: Brigitte Danielsen, Omaha, NE
Linda Downey, Bowling Green, IN
Bronze: Yan Sun, OK/R. Liu, Maryland Heights, MO

JR/SR MEN'S DOUBLES ROUND ROBIN

Gold: Naren Koka & Doug Towne, Phoenix, AZ
Silver: Hull Wu/Michael Xi, Lawrence, KS
Bronze: Ramesh Regulapati, Bennington, NE
Kashinath Volvoicar

RECREATIONAL MEN'S DOUBLES

Gold: Cong Ye & Zhenglun Wei, Manhattan, KS
Silver: Fangmao Ye & John Frigon, Manhattan, KS
Bronze: Paul Joy/Martin Jacob

RECREATIONAL WOMEN'S DOUBLES

Gold: Carol Toris, Omaha, NE
Karen Harned, Papillion, NE
Silver: Betty Uyema, Pearl City, HI
Pamela Trachsel, Rochester, MN
Bronze: None Awarded

OPEN MIXED DOUBLES

Gold: Aspirat Lattison
Kanithaporn Puangsombat
Silver: Anh Nguyen/Karen Chin
Bronze: Rohit Thadani/Rebecca Liu

JR/SR MIXED DOUBLES (35-39)

Gold: Hull Wu/Yan Sun
Silver: Doug Town/Darcy McGrane, Phoenix, AZ
Bronze: None Awarded

SENIOR MIXED DOUBLES (40-49) Round Robin

Gold: Naren Koka/Darcy McGrane
Silver: Terry Downey, Bowling Green IN
Linda Downey
Bronze: Dave Anderson/Carol Toris

MASTER MIXED DOUBLES (50-59) Round Robin

Gold: Terry Downey/Linda Downey
Silver: Rajeev Trehan, Lawrence, KS
Karen Harned
Bronze: Andrew Tanabe/Betty Uyema

MASTER MEN'S DOUBLES (50-59) Round Robin

Gold: Terry Downey/Dave Anderson
Silver: Andrew Tanabe/Samuel Prabhakar, Rochester, MN
Bronze: B. McFarland/Jack Elgin, West Des Moines, IA

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Ladies (Mesinee Mangkalakiri, Eva Lee, Mona Santoso, Joo Hyun Lee, Grace Peng, Bonnie Wong, Eti Gunawan, and Elie Wu); 2nd, Kawaii (Rulan Yeh, Rulien Yeh, Priscilla Lun, Rena Wang, Susana Zhong, and Beckie Neumann); and 3rd, Mini-OCBC (Panita Phongasavithas, Vimla Phongasavithas, Jamie Subandhi, Joanne Chen, Cee Ketpura, Qiu Ming Wu, and Thuy Hoang). This zone rewarded players with medals and a prize purse—1st, \$2K; 2nd, \$1500; and 3rd, \$1K.

In the B Zone with 29 teams, three of the twelve U.S. teams came out on top: 1st, PH7 (Joy Kitzmiller, Daphne Chang, MingZi Zhang, Jeannie Yang, Shackerah Cupidon, and Ruilin Chen); 2nd, Team IBF (Monica Ortez, Terry Lira, Wendy Carter, Claire Sharpe, Ann Gonsalves, Mai-Quyen Bui, Gena Fite, and Elke Nijssse-Drews); and 3rd, Super Crew (Sara Vang, Lily Chen, Linda Phan, Connie Hwang, Tanya Lieu, and Elena Dumitriu).

The C Zone with 26 teams had three U.S. or U.S./Canadian teams but the Japanese teams came out on top—1st, Kirakukai; 2nd, O.B.B.; and 3rd, Tokyo B. D Zone with ten teams, 2 U.S. or US/Canada, had three Japanese teams prevail, although Team 66 USA won their way to the ? playoff. D Zone winners were: 1st, O.B. Pals B; 2nd, Endless; and 3rd, Freesia. B, C, and D Zone winners were presented medals.

How did the Midwest players fare? Gena Fite on Team IBF made it to the B Zone finals where they bowed to the U.S. Team PH7, 2 matches to 0. Alice Wunderlich and Jurate Sidlauskaitė, on the B Zone Pickup Partners, took fourth in their pool behind another U.S. team and two Japanese teams. Mary Blandino and Peggy Meacham of CAWATO, a C Zone team, took fourth of five teams behind three Japanese teams. Karen Jerg on the C Zone OCBC Belles took fourth of four teams in their pool behind three Japanese teams. Mary Ann Bowles on C Zone team Shuttle Sisters finished second behind the Japanese team Kirakukai which went on to win the C Zone finals.

D Zone Team 66 USA of which Jeannine Bohn was a member finished second in their pool of five with three Japanese teams and one Canadian team. That team then lost to the eventual D Zone champions, O.B.Pals. B., in the semifinals which sent them to the ? playoff, taking fourth place, 0-2, to the Japanese Freesia team. Team Arizona, of which Alice Mohr was a member, took fifth place of five teams in that pool with four Japanese teams.

It was three days of smiling faces, making new friends, hand-shaking, photo-taking, gift-giving and receiving, bowing, paper-rock-scissors, cheering, and playing hard. Japanese teams were fit, energetic, well-practiced, and relentless in returning shots. Rallies were long, and points were well-earned. It was a great experience for all those on the courts! ❖

Many thanks to the Osaka Ladies Badminton Federation and their staff; the OCBC and its staff; Bebe's Café Thai Restaurant; K&D Graphics; USA Badminton; Yonex Corporation USA; Don, Kim, Montri, and Gus Chew; Tim and May Mangkalakiri; Cai Zi Min; Halim Haryanto Ho; Michiko Watanabe; Monica Ortez; Frances Fujinami; Panita, Vimla, and Anoma Phongasavithas; and Tournament Referee Elaine Kong.

Instructions at the Opening Ceremonies were to have fun and make friends. Mission accomplished by all Friendship Tournament players!



2008 Madison Open Results December 6-7, 2008

- Mens Open A Singles:**
S. Rossi (WI) def. K. Kanisan (IL), 21-16, 21-14
- Mens Open B Singles:**
double default, N. Ong (MN) and N. Vang (MN)
- Mens Open C Singles:**
K. Chan (WI) def. H. Wang (WI), 21-19, 18-21, 21-10
- Mens Open D Singles:**
M. Yang (WI) def. P. Prabhakar (MN), 20-22, 23-21, 21-16
- Womens Open A Singles:**
K. Chin (IL) def. N. Se (MN), 21-15, 16-21, 21-13
- Womens Open B Singles:**
J. Hentschel (IL) def. A. Lepsin (IL), 21-15, 21-15
- Womens Open C Singles:**
L. Chen (WI) def. M. Blandino (WI), 21-14, 21-4
- Womens Open D Singles:**
S. Rueth (WI) def. E. Steele (WI), 21-15, 18-21, 21-11
- Mens Open A Doubles:**
Hussey/Wrobel (IL) def. Chen/Rossi (WI), 13-21, 21-17, 21-18
- Mens Open B Doubles:**
Billah/Cheng (MN) def. Chan/Jih (IL), 21-12, 21-16
- Mens Open C Doubles:**
Daline/Goh (MN) def. Lin/Nate (WI), 21-14, 21-16
- Mens Open D Doubles:**
Lam/Wang (WI) def. Murray/Wang (WI), 21-19, 22-24, 21-7
- Womens Open A Doubles:**
Meysman/Se (MN) def. Singwonsa/Yang (MN), 21-8, 19-21, 21-10
- Womens Open B Doubles:**
Holm/Robbos (MN/WI) def. Jerg/Jorgenson (WI), 21-8, 21-12
- Womens Open C Doubles:**
Chin/Svoboda (IL) def. Downey/Hentschel (IN/IL), 21-19, 17-21, 21-17
- Womens Open D Doubles:**
Jin/Tian (IL) def. Huang/Blandino (WI), 21-15, 21-15
- Mixed Doubles A:**
Hentschel/Lee (IL) def. Chin/Ongkamonkol (IL), 19-21, 27-25, 21-18
- Mixed Doubles B:**
Meysman/Cheng (MN) def. Daline/Se (MN), 21-13, 21-16
- Mixed Doubles C:**
Chan/Rao (IL) def. Huang/Yang (WI), 21-15, 21-14
- Mixed Doubles D:**
Jorgeson/Nate (WI) def. Liu/Jin (MN), 21-12, 21-4
- Senior Mens Singles A Playoff:**
S. Prabhakar (MN) def. J. Ye (IL), default
- Senior Mens Singles B Playoff:**
N. Asaoka (IA) def. V. Hirano (IL), unknown
- Senior Mens Singles C Playoff:**
D. Murray (WI) def. A. Lee (IL), default
- Senior Mens Doubles A Playoff:**
Griffith/Janowski (WI) def. Coleman/Rader (WI), 21-10, 21-19
- Senior Mens Doubles B Playoff:**
Post/Raman (WI) def. Lee/Prabhakar (MN), 21-19, retired
- Senior Mixed Doubles 1st Place:**
Jorgeson/Rader (WI)
- Senior Mixed Doubles 2nd Place:**
Blandino/Murray (WI)
- Senior Mixed Doubles 3rd Place:**
Downey/Downey (IN)

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Quotes from Midwest Players at Friendship Tournament

Last May, I had heard that the Osaka Ladies Badminton Federation was bringing their annual friendship tournament to the Orange County Badminton Club in Orange County, California. I had had the opportunity to go to Osaka, Japan in 2002 and again in 2004 to compete along side more than 1,000 women from all around the world at this event and I knew I could not miss out!

This tournament is called the friendship tournament and its purpose is to unite women from all over the world through badminton. This year at the OCBC, the gym was alive with the buzz of 471 excited women wanting to compete and meet new friends.

In 2002, at the 8th annual tournament in Osaka, I was a part of a dynamic group of women who finished in 3rd



Team IBF of which Gena Fite was a member for the Japanese tournament. She's 4th from the right next to the little blond girl.

place - the first US team to "place" in this tournament- and we had reunited in California with a purpose! We were determined to finish stronger than before. Usually, with this

goal in mind, you don't mingle with your opponent. But, at this tournament, there was always a sense of "goodwill" on court even though we were trying to win. This friendship tone is set

when both teams approach the net to exchange gifts with one another, then there is the "rock, paper, scissors" method of determining who gets to choose to serve first (always a laugh behind this one as our timing is usually off with the language barrier). There was no bickering over the score, there were lets called if we were not sure of the line call, and after the three matches were played, all players returned to the net and shook hands saying, "Domo arigato" and "thank you."

On October 19th, 2002, the Japanese brought a new look to American badminton: competition with grace. **(Gena Fite)**



Mary Ann Bowles (3rd from right) with Shuttle Sisters teammates.

Mary Ann Bowles and two Canadians on her team--they sang a song called the Shuttle Sisters, their team name, for the talent show at the tournament dinner.



Jeannine Bohn from Cincinnati, 2nd from left, with her team, Team 66 USA, and the founder of the Osaka Women's Friendship tournament, Mrs. Hiromi Murai.



This tournament was an outstanding opportunity to enjoy competition while sharing different cultures. It was a great event, and I look forward to doing again. **(Jura Sidlauskaitė)**

This is the first time I have had the pleasure of playing with a great team from the USA in the 65+ division against the Japanese ladies. There were over 300 ladies from Japan so they had many teams to compete against the USA in all different age divisions. Don't know exactly how every team did, but I know our Team 66 got to the finals and played two very good teams from Japan, but we lost each match and came in 4th out of 10 teams, so we were pleased with our play. It was a once-in-a-lifetime event and I do hope in the future I again will be able to compete in Japan some day. **(Jeannine Bohn)**

The Friendship Tournament was delightful even though I lost all my matches, and I even lost my shirt ('twas replaced) because I won many new friends from US and Canada. The Japanese ladies plied us with gifts, smiles, bows and requests to pose for photos. Best of all was the opportunity to observe the many styles and levels of play in women's badminton. **(Alice Mohr)**



Alice Mohr (far left) with her Team Arizona at the Japanese tournament

All photos this page courtesy of Mary Ann Bowles