

ON COURT: USA BADMINTON JUNIOR WORLD TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

The World Juniors Badminton Championships have been held beginning in 1992 every four years, or more recently, every two years. The Team Championship was won by China in 2000 (Beijing) and 2002 (South Africa).

USA Badminton sent a small pool of five boys, who participated in the individual event in Beijing in 2000, and no entrants to the competition in South Africa. This year USAB Juniors sent a team of athletes (Tiffanie Kimura, Laruen Todt, Syed Ali, Thomas Blanchet, Daniel Gouw, and Andrew Todt) to the competition in Richmond, British Columbia. After the Gold Medal performance at Junior Pan Ams in Peru (August 2004), there were high hopes for the team that went to World Juniors.

Tiffanie Kimura, past number 1 player in Illinois girls high school badminton, Syed Ali-a star player from Region II's Maugus Club, and Thomas Blanchet-once of Switzerland but now from Fresno, training with the Bin Tang Club-brought serious badminton passion and rounded out the team.

The Juniors of the US have had limited exposure on the international stage in recent years. 1) A few individuals at Beijing 2000, 2) the Dutch Juniors, 3) the Prairie States team tournament in Canada in 2000, 4) Jr. Pan Ams 1998 in Mexico, 2000 in Cuba, 2002 in Los Angeles, and 2004 in Peru.

We need to expose juniors to the speed and skill of international play. We need to send our very strongest teams as well as younger players (many countries had 14-16 year old players with them). We need to provide increasingly better training for Juniors and for our Juniors Team. This fine group of athletes represented the US proudly, taking a step up the World Juniors ladder with our first game win and our first match win at this level of play, but we have hard work ahead to take further steps up the ladder.



Visitors viewing the Duck Pond arena

OFF COURT: DUCK POND TOUR

By Mary Ann Bowles

Avid badminton enthusiasts are looking forward to the 2005 World Championships in Anaheim, California, to be held at Arrowhead "Pond." During the 2004 U.S. Open, many players and fans had the opportunity to tour the Pond.

Paisan Rangsitkpho, USA Badminton Vice President and IBF Executive Council member, led the tour. On the tour, we met several staff members who greeted us with Pond visors.

We toured the arena normally covered with ice for the Anaheim Mighty Ducks. However, the arena will be set up with five badminton courts, and two practice courts for the World Championships. A huge four-sided TV hangs over the arena allowing fans to view the action.

The tour also included a visit to the pressroom, locker rooms, storage areas, and planned entrances for athletes, officials, and volunteers. We also got a chance to see the Anaheim Club, an arena club restaurant located on the highest floor.

To stand on the floor of the arena and imagine the World Championships taking place in that facility is a dream come true for many of us who are still recovering from viewing world class badminton at the Athens Olympics on our home TV's. Can it be possible that we will have another opportunity to see world-class players on our home turf in the U.S. within the next year? The answer is Yes! The 2005 World Championships will be a high caliber event, action packed, and truly a dream come true.



CrossCourt

EVENTS & TOURNAMENTS

January:

- 11-15 Jerry Toms US Senior International Badminton Championships
- 14-16 USA Badminton Region 2 Classic Indiana Badminton Open
- 15 Champion in Christ Badminton Tournament
- 28-30 CT Open Badminton Tournament

February:

- 4-6 2005 National Training Fund Trial
- 11-12 SCBA International (Region 5 Classic)
- 25-27 2005 USAB Team USA Trial

March:

- 15-20 2005 U.S. Senior National Badminton Championships
- 25-27 2005 Boston Open

WE WANT YOU!

USAB is looking for any articles or submissions you may have for our monthly publication 'CrossCourt.' Please contact your local Regional Director if you have any information or ideas for the newsletter.

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JUNIORS

The Junior Committee has announced the USA Badminton 2004 High School All Americans. Congratulations to Syed Ali and Fernando Funakoshi!

2005 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS INFO

Tickets

Online: www.ticketmaster.com
Fax to: Lori Ortiz at (714) 704-2629
Mail to:

"WBC"
c/o Arrowhead Pond
2365 E. Katella Ave.
Anaheim, CA 92806

USA



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Colorado Springs, CO 80909

ON COURT WITH JENNIFER

COLEMAN: USAB ELITE ATHLETE

Goals for badminton, personal, career, etc.?

My most immediate goal is to qualify for the 2005 World Championships in doubles, and make the 2005 Sudirman Cup team. My long term goals are to play in the 2007 PanAm Games and the 2008 Olympics. When I graduate from college, I hope to become a child psychologist or a sport psychologist.

Daily schedule/routine, Day in the life of...

Training is from 7:00-9:00 am, Monday-Friday, with Wednesday mornings off. Afternoons we train from 4:00-7:00 pm, and I usually lift weights or do extra training. Saturday we have a 3 hour session from 9:00-Noon. On Sunday, I rest my body.

How are you trying to make people more aware of the sport?

I tell everyone I know (at school, at home, on airplanes) about what I do. I try to add in as many details to get people interested. I also invite everyone I know to come and watch me practice or compete so they can get a taste of the sport. Sometimes I also put up flyers at school for upcoming tournaments.

Any advice you can give for people trying to pursue badminton and the Olympics?

If you really want something, go for it with everything you have. There is no shame in putting your heart into something you love. After all, you'll never know how far you can get unless you try.