

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT REPORT

UNDER 17 STATE TEAM



Back row: Lionel Seah (Coach), Bernard Ho Ki Mak, Irvin Ong, Jonathan Wong, Daniel Lee, Gavin Ong, Jasper Tan (Umpire)

Front Row: Supattra Hom-on (Manager), Jessica Lee, Aim Aroonsiri (Captain), Kiara Billington, Temika Gay Cat-thy Bui

The 2016 June Bevan u17 nationals was held in Perth, Western Australia. There were 12 teams from all over Australia and New Zealand that took part in this prestigious tournament. We had 8 representatives from our home state with the addition of 2 Victorian girls. The team members were Aim Aroonsiri (captain), Jonathan Wong, Irvin Ong, Gavin Ong, Daniel Lee, Bernard Ho, Jessica Lee, Cat-thy Bui, Temika Gay and Kiara Billington.

Team Events

Day 1

We started off playing the reigning champions Victoria Rebels in the first round of our group stage. It was a tough match up for us as the opposing team were an older and more experienced team compared to us. Nevertheless, we gave them a reasonable fight in a few of the matches. Jonathan and Irvin came close in the third set against their number 1 doubles pair going down 21-15 in the third set. In the mixed doubles, 2 of our pairs came inch close winning their matches. Irvin and Cat-thy who were the huge underdogs lost 23-21 in third set. Aim and Jonathan were match point up against the Victorian top pair but unable to seal the victory losing 25-23 in the rubber.

Day 2

After a tough opening match, we faced WA Scorpions first thing in the morning. By now, the team have started to warm up to each other and also adapting better to the playing environment. Our doubles pairs started off with a blast winning all their games giving us a 4-0 head start. We were neck to neck in our singles matches. Cat-thy lost her singles in a thrilling 3 setter match. Jonathan made an incredible come back after having lost the first game and trailing 17-10 in the second but managed to overcome his opponent 21-19 and 21-12 in the third. We managed to beat the Scorpions 10-6. The win gave the team a booster in confidence and morale.

We had a quick lunch break before having to face NSW Lightning in our third round of the group stage. No easy matches for us in this tie as we started off down 4-0 after the doubles. Cat-thy and Jess did well in first doubles going 3 sets against a more experienced pair. Jonathan and Irvin also lost in a 3 setter match failing to overcome their opponents. Jonathan took the only singles match for us winning his game fairly comfortably. However, we proved to be more superior in our mixed doubles winning 3 out of 4 matches. Credits also to Jess and Temika for coming close to winning their singles games. We eventually lost 12-4 but the final score did not reflect our performance as we came very close in most matches.

Day 3

The team woke up feeling physical sore but high in morale and spirit. We had to face Central New Zealand in our last group match. We were the slight underdogs in this match up and we had to play to our best to win. We drew first blood having Bernard and Daniel pull an upset against a stronger pair. Aim and Temika kept up the momentum scoring us a win followed by Jon and Irvin in first doubles. At this point, we were 3-1 up and things were looking promising before going on to singles. Gavin played the best singles of his tournament going down 21-19 in the third set against a much older opponent. Irvin on the other hand rose to the occasion winning his match fairly comfortably against a respected opponent. Cat-thy won her first singles of the tournament beating her opposition 21-12 in the third. Aim also won her match convincingly proving to be too strong for the other side. We were 7-5 up going into the mixed doubles. Daniel and Kiara our 4th mixed doubles pair came back from the grave giving us the best comeback of the tournament. After losing the first set, they were 20-16 down in the second and managed to scrape through winning 23-21. They were again down in the third set but climbed back up and took the match 21-19. We failed to win 2nd and 3rd mixed and the tie was 8-7 our way before going down to the last mixed doubles. Aim and Jonathan delivered us the win and the overall score was 9-7 to us.

Only having 30 minutes of rest before the next tie, the team did not have much time to recover. We had to face Mainland New Zealand in the crossover which was another 50/50 match up. The team again started off well with a 3-1 lead in doubles. In singles, Temika won her match in a hard fought 3 setter battle showing tremendous determination and fighting spirit. Jess also managed to persevere over her opponent giving us another win and Jonathan without a doubt carried the team with a win in his singles putting us 6-6 in the tie. In the mixed, Daniel and Kiara again proved themselves worthy of a compliment winning their match in 3 sets. Unfortunately luck was not on our side as we could not seal the deal in the other 3 mixed doubles games. We ended up losing 9-7 but valiant effort by the team coming this close to winning.

Day 4

We played Central New Zealand again for 7th-8th position. Central had changed their team orders around to match us better. We having a less versatile team had to stick to the same order. This time we started off 2-2 after the doubles as they have strengthened their lower men's doubles. Aim and Temika couple with Jon and Irvin gave us the wins. In the singles, Central played better than us this time and took the extra game leaving us 7-5 down going in to the mixed. Our wins in singles were from Temika, Cat-thy and Aim. At this point, we needed 3 mixed doubles to win the tie. Daniel and Kiara once again miraculously came back for the third time and won their match in 3 sets. Irvin and Cat-thy also took revenge on their opponents whom they lost to in the previous tie. Jess and Bernard were not strong enough to beat the opponents. It all came down to the last game where Jon and Aim were playing in front of the whole June Bevan crowd as we were the last tie still going. The score was 1 set all when Jon and Aim had won the support of the crowd and they were all cheering for us. In the thrilling 3rd set battle, many long rallies were exchanged between both pairs. We came close but not quite enough to win the match. It was mixed emotions at this point as we were on one hand disappointed from our loss but also proud of our achievements but most importantly we gave it our best and that is what matters.

The team overall came 8th out of 11 teams. The team gave their 100% in the tournament and showed a lot of team spirit and support for one another. Our players have definitely shown improvements on court in their game and off court in terms of discipline and maturity. Every single one of them played their part as a team member and each contributing to the team in their own ways. Credit also goes to our team managers Ong and Supattra for their time and effort in managing the team as volunteers and supporting the team in every way possible.

On behalf of all the players and parents, we would like to thank the South Australian Ladies Badminton Association and Badminton Veterans Association of South Australia for their generosity in sponsoring the South Australian team. We appreciate all the support given to the South Australian junior players and we would like to express our heartfelt gratitude. As always, we will come back stronger in the future.

Supattra Hom-On (Manager)