

RACQUET-FEERING

BY GORDON CUMMING

Hundreds of eyes are focussed upon the middle court . . . two slight, supple figures move gracefully, yet purposefully, from position to position . . . a feathered missile shuttles back and forth with decisive precision . . . a well placed stroke . . . a clever pick-up . . . apparently the bird drops outside the near baseline . . . a juvenile exclamation. "Oh! Gee!"

And it is forced upon the spectator that the veterans of yesteryear are missing from the Ladies' Singles Badminton Championship. Youth, personified by Mrs. J. Porteous, of Montreal, and Miss Norma Hall, fourteen-year-old player from Ottawa, battles for the Dominion's 1930 crown of badminton.

SUCH was the tenor of the tournament—youth forging to the fore and humbling experience in its path. Without doubt, the 1930 Canadian Badminton Championships, played in Ottawa at the Badminton Club, March 6-7-8 attracted more attention and probably a greater attendance than any previous championship. This year's matches produced many upsets and surprises and the game's growing appeal is testified to by the increased prominence given the tournament in the daily press. All the available seats in the club were filled; many spectators were compelled to stand to watch the play.

Lord and Lady Willingdon were present during the finals and presented prizes after each event. The tournament left the titles well distributed for 1930. Toronto and Vancouver, each, annexed two events; Montreal took the fifth. Ottawa was unlucky not to win at least one event as it was represented in two finals and supplied the major sensation of the tournament.

Follow results of the final matches:

Championships

- Ladies' Singles**—Mrs. J. Porteous, Montreal, defeated Miss N. Hall, Ottawa, 12-14; 11-5; 11-2.
- Men's Singles**—J. Purcell, Carlton, defeated N. Radford, Vancouver, 15-1; 15-5.
- Ladies' Doubles**—Mrs. J. Woodman and Miss E. George, Vancouver, defeated Mrs. H. F. Wright and Miss R. Robertson, Ottawa, 15-6; 15-10.
- Men's Doubles**—G. G. Blackstock and C. K. F. Andrewes, B. & R., defeated A. B. Massey and T. Sheard, Carlton, 11-15; 15-5; 15-5.
- Mixed Doubles**—Miss E. George and J. Underhill, Vancouver, defeated Mrs. J. Woodman and N. Radford, Vancouver, 15-6; 15-6.

Consolation

- Ladies' Singles**—Mrs. W. H. Knowles, Montreal, defeated Mrs. K. Stuart, Ottawa, 11-5; 11-3.
- Men's Singles**—W. R. Barnes, Hamilton, defeated C. R. Willson, Granite, 15-10; 15-6.
- Ladies' Doubles**—Mrs. G. S. Macfarlane and Miss E. Odevaire, Ottawa, defeated Miss J. Dupre and Miss H. Brunet, Quebec, 13-15; 17-14; 17-14.
- Men's Doubles**—P. Hurcomb and H. Robertson, Ottawa, defeated H. Webster and M. Ibbotson, Montreal, 15-2; 15-4.
- Mixed Doubles**—Miss M. Barrow and E. Lafferty, Quebec, defeated Miss E. M. Crossley and V. L. Eardley-Willmot, Ottawa, 15-12; 15-11.

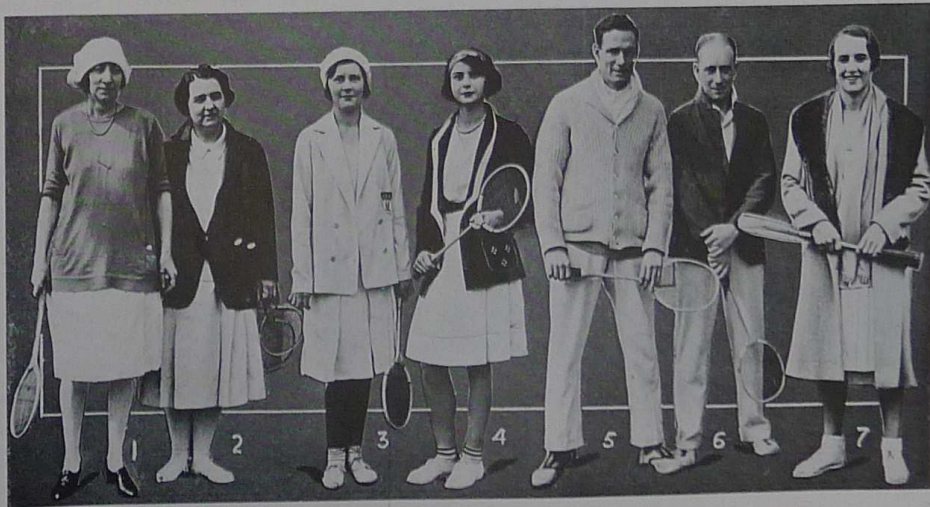
The ladies' singles provided most of the upsets. Miss N. Hall, the fourteen year old Ottawa

wizard, battled her way through to the finals where she was finally eliminated by Mrs. J. Porteous, of Montreal. Before the tournament, neither of these players was conceded a chance. Yet Mrs. Porteous defeated Mrs. Coke in the semi-finals in straight games, 14-11, 11-5, while Miss Hall had eliminated such stiff competition as the Misses Robertson, of Ottawa, eliminating Ruth Robertson in the fourth round, 11-6; 4-11, 13-12, and Margaret Robertson in the semi-finals, 11-7; 7-11, 11-8. It is obvious that neither finalist got there by a fluke. For Mrs. Coke, it is only fair to say that she does not appear to be entirely recovered from her recent illness but the fact that she went as far as the semi-finals shows that she is still a power to be reckoned with.

Miss Hall played a wonderful game throughout the tournament and provided its major sensation. Her play is not an aggressive style. Doubtless due to her youth, she lacks something of power and weight but her strength just now lies in her defensive game. She seems capable of playing any stroke that is within her reach. It must have been heart-breaking to her opponents to see perfect "kills" come sailing back over the net—and all played strokes, not just flukes. With experience and weight, Miss Hall should herself develop a deadly smash. At the moment her placing and play otherwise is wonderfully polished.

In the final match of the ladies' singles, Miss Hall succeeded in taking the first game from Mrs. Porteous, of Montreal, at 14-12. The set was a battle royal which went to deuce and was anybody's match up to the last stroke. In the remaining two games, Mrs. Porteous' greater experience and harder stroking gave her the advantage which enabled her to take both games and win the battle. Mrs. Porteous plays a smooth, graceful game and had a decided edge on Miss Hall in the power of her shots. [See also page 98]

A group from the Montreal City and District badminton championships. No. 1, Mrs. K. Archibald, who, with Mrs. R. B. Malcolm (No. 2), retained the Ladies' Doubles. No. 3 is Miss Elizabeth Kennedy, runner-up to Miss Barbara Tributt (No. 4) in the final of the Junior Girls' Singles. No. 5 is C. W. Aikman, Men's Singles champion, who won the Men's Doubles with C. W. Argus, (No. 6), and the Mixed Doubles with Mrs. John Porteous (No. 7), now Dominion and Quebec Ladies' Singles titleholder.



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