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March 2014

Bye Bye Birdie

International Badminton Tournament to Hit Suffolk in July

Fly, Birdie, Fly: International Badminton to Hit College

For the first time, badminton players from around the globe will compete on the East Coast in Suffolk this summer.

by Drew Biondo
Community contributor

A major international badminton tournament — a first of its kind on the East Coast of the U.S. — will be hosted by Suffolk County Community College at its Michael J. Grant Campus' Health, Sports and Education Center field house in Brentwood. The College's Health, Sports and Education Center field house is the largest facility of its kind in Suffolk County.

Suffolk County Community College President Shaun McKay was joined at a recent morning news conference by Suffolk County Community College Trustee Belinda Alvarez-Groneman; Dr. Tina Good, SUNY Trustee and President, Faculty Council of Community Colleges; the Suffolk County Legislature Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory, Legislators Sarah Anker, Monica R. Martinez, William J. Lindsay III, Tom Muratore, William Spencer, Kevin J. McCaffrey, John M. Kennedy and Robert Trotta; Michael J. Grant, Director, Brentwood Chamber of Commerce; representatives of the Badminton World Federation (BWF), and the U.S. Open Tournament

Committee and tournament sponsor YONEX, organizers of the July 8 -13 event, and members of the Suffolk County Community College Cheer Team.

The 2014 YONEX U.S. Open Championships, a BWF-sanctioned Grand Prix Gold Series Tournament, will award a total prize purse of \$120,000 and is one of only 11 Grand Prix Gold tournaments world-wide according to officials. A badminton tournament of this magnitude has never been held on the East Coast of the United States. The tournament was moved from Orange County, Calif., where it has been staged for the past 18 years, according to the U.S. Open Tournament Committee. Tournament officials said the move to the East Coast and Suffolk County Community College was made to broaden the appeal of the sport. Tickets will cost between \$15 and \$30 for adults, depending on the event and \$10 to \$15 for school age children.

"We are delighted to host an international event of this magnitude," said McKay. "Not only will the event highlight our institution and showcase our facilities, but also demonstrates that while our college can transform the lives of students, it can also be an economic engine for Suffolk County."

Tournament officials expect competitors from 30 countries to participate in the six-day event and anticipate 300 athletes, coaches, trainers, and support staff, all of whom will fill hotel rooms, eat at local restaurants and tour Long Island while they are here.

The UPSKY Long Island Hotel at 110 Vanderbilt Motor Parkway, Hauppauge, is the official 2014 YONEX U.S. Open Grand Prix Gold Championships hotel.

Dr. Tina Good, SUNY Trustee and President, Faculty Council
Continued on next page



This summer's badminton tournament at Suffolk County Community College won't be your average backyard match.

Photo courtesy of Victoria Sinacori



Suffolk County Community College President Shaun McKay announces the July badminton tournament with a few college cheerleaders.

Photo courtesy of Victoria Sinacori



Get ready for a slam dunk this summer during the YONEX U.S. Open Grand Prix Badminton Tournament at Suffolk Community College's Brentwood campus.

Photo courtesy of Victoria Sinacori



Who doesn't love a good game of badminton. Watch the birdies fly this July.

Photo courtesy of Victoria Sinacori

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cil of Community Colleges said that “Suffolk County Community College again demonstrates its commitment to serving its community while providing opportunities for people from around the world to come together and share their experiences. Congratulations to SCCC and to all the athletes.”

Suffolk County Legislature Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory said he was impressed by another first for Suffolk County Community College.

“This is not a badminton game in your backyard at your

family picnic,” Gregory said. “This U.S. Open Gold Series Championship is 300 professional players and support staff from 30 countries, the best players in the world. It will be an exciting event and will provide a significant boost to the local economy as well. I applaud the college for hosting this event.”

“Congratulations to Suffolk County Community College — it is an outstanding achievement to be chosen to host the U.S. Open Badminton Championship in July,” said Michael J. Grant, director of the Brentwood Chamber of Commerce. “An international sporting event will highlight the excellence of the college and its facilities. In addition, this six-day event will serve as an economic gain for both Brentwood and Suffolk County. In securing this event, Suffolk County Community College aligns with my father’s vision that a college should engage both its students and its community. Brentwood welcomes the opportunity to participate in this special event,”

“This is an incredibly unique opportunity to showcase our community and all it has to offer,” said New York State Senator Lee Zeldin. “It speaks directly to all we have done in New York and especially on Long Island to attract new and varied opportunities to spur tourism and boost our local economy. I am confident that the success of the event and the welcoming of our community will bring organizers back year after year.”

New York State Senator Kenneth P. LaValle, Chair of the New York State Senate Select Committee on Higher Education said he was excited that Suffolk County Community College will be in the international spotlight during this event. “It will

The tournament happens July 8 - 13.

July

Enjoy your summertime with a rousing game of badminton with athletes from around the world.

The Schedule

Keep this schedule below to remember this summer's badminton games and learn more about the field house.

Tournament Schedule:

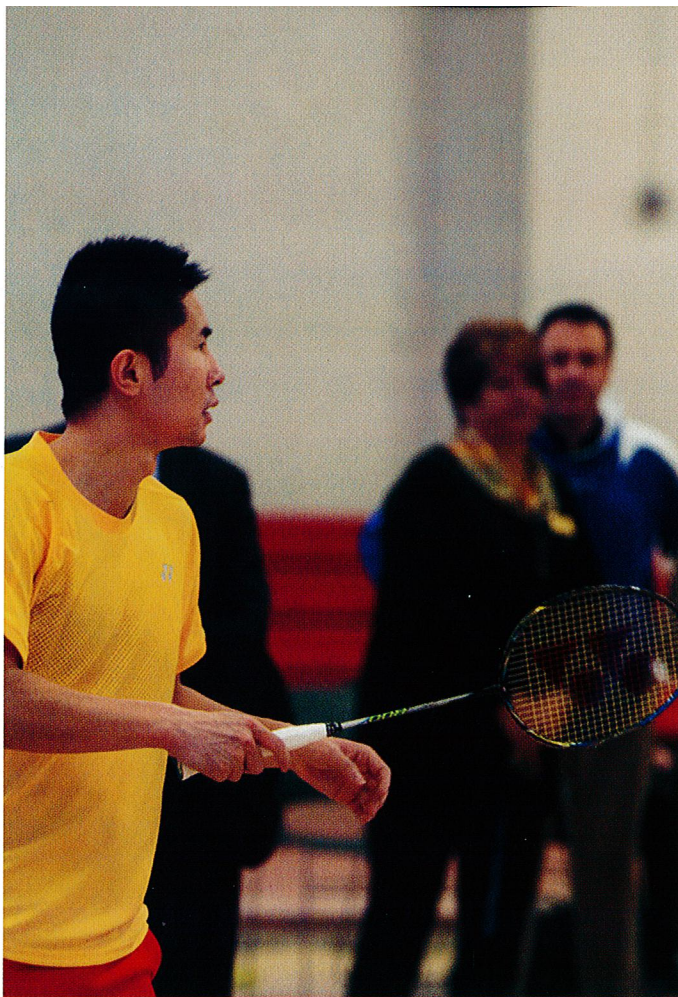
Tuesday, July 8, 2014	Qualify Rounds
9:00am - 4:00pm	
Tuesday July 8, 2014	Main Draw MS
5:00pm - 10:00 pm	
Wednesday July 9, 2014	Main Draw
9:00am- 10:00pm	
Thursday July 10, 2014	Second Round
2:00pm - 10:00pm	
Friday July 11, 2014	Quarter-Finals 5:00pm - 10:00pm
Saturday July 12, 2014	Semi-Finals Start at 1:00pm
Sunday July 13, 2014	Finals Start at 1:00pm

The 57,800 square foot Michael J. Grant Campus Field House opened in 2000, can seat 4,800 spectators for exhibits and conventions and 2,700 spectators for sporting events, and is the largest facility of its kind in Suffolk County. The facility has a 200-meter, six-lane track, synthetic sports flooring (with the exception of a hardwood basketball court area); fitness center, dance/aerobics room, and a six-lane 250-meter pool with diving area and training room. —**Drew Biondo**



Suffolk County Community College's Brentwood Campus features a multi-facility field house where the international badminton tournament will take place.

Photo courtesy of Drew Biondo



A badminton match this winter kicked-off the upcoming badminton tournament to take place at Suffolk Community College this July.
Photo courtesy of Victoria Sinacori

underscore what we've all known for many years. The college provides students with a great education, taught by a superb faculty in world-class facilities; facilities that are also contributing to the economic vitality of the college, the community and our region," LaValle said.

Suffolk County Legislator Tom Muratore, Fourth Legislative District, said, "This is another great example of our Community College thinking out of the box and securing this highly competitive world-wide event."

Suffolk County Legislator John M. Kennedy, Jr. said, "This is a world class opportunity to showcase one of the finest event centers on the east coast. Special tribute to Dr. McKay and his staff for securing an event of this magnitude and we look forward to hosting athletes from all over the world."

"Badminton and Suffolk County Community College are a winning combination," said Suffolk County Legislator Robert Trotta of Fort Salonga. "I'm proud of the college and of my daughter for attending it. This is a great opportunity to showcase team Suffolk County, as well as providing a new opportunity to stimulate Suffolk's economy. My family and I enjoy badminton, so we'll certainly be there to cheer."

For more information, go to sunysuffolk.edu.

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