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the International
Badminton
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watch the birdie

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Newsday’s tournament has brought out the competitive spirit in some famous Long Islanders. These celebs turned to social media to rally their fans to vote for them:

**MICK FOLEY**
WWE Hall of Fame wrestler and best-selling author
**STRATEGY** A selfie with his kids.
The Ward Melville High School alumnus posted this photo on his Facebook fan page, which has 1 million followers, along with the rally cry “WIN ONE FOR THE MICK-ER” to pull off a come-from-behind victory over Ashanti in Round 1 of the tournament with less than two hours before voting closed.

**DEBBIE GIBSON**
Pop singer
**STRATEGY** Play nice.
The former Merrick resident tweeted about her close Round 1 matchup with Ralph Macchio by writing, “Can we tie? I love him!” In the end, she edged him out by only three votes.

Round 3 of voting is on now — go to newsday.com/tsli to join in.

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**CHOU TIEN CHEN**
Taiwan is seeded second at the U.S. Open Badminton Championships in Brentwood.

**BY STACEY ALTHERR**
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**WATCH SHUTTLES FLY AS LI HOSTS BADMINTON CHAMPIONSHIPS**

We’ve had tennis and golf. Now, another U.S. Open is coming to Long Island.

**WHEN | WHERE**
Tomorrow-Sunday Michael J. Grant Field House at Suffolk County Community College’s Brentwood Campus, 1001 Crooked Hill Rd. Advance tickets online.

INFO usopenmpg.com

ADMISSION $15-$30 ($10-$15 school-age children)

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**BADMINTON 101**
This isn’t the quaint game Long Islanders play in their backyards — it’s a serious athletic event.

We call them “birdies” here in America, but all over the world, and in the professional badminton circle, those little white, webbed, rubber-tipped objects are called shuttles.

And those shuttles fly fast across the net, with mo-
ments of suspended animation. They can reach up to 200 miles an hour when hit by top athletes, Kasuga says.

Games go to 21 points, and players must win by two points—matches last anywhere from 30 minutes to an hour. The winner is determined by the best two out of three games. 

Howard Shu, 23, of Orange County, California, 69th in Federation rankings, says playing in New York will be a change of scenery for him and others from his team, and they’ll face different players than usual.

“There’ll be a lot of European players, because [the] East Coast is closer,” he says. The U.S. Open, in general, is a fun event, he says. “It’s always nice to play in your home country and see who comes out to see us,” he says.

IF YOU GO

The U.S. Open officials chose the Brentwood campus because of its spacious arena, as well as location. The 57,000-square-foot indoor field house has room for 2,700 spectators. Early round play will be on multiple courts, shrinking to one court for Sunday’s final matches. Yonex, a maker of badminton equipment, will set up a demo court for those who want to try the sport.

For those who get hungry between matches, a concession stand will be open for refreshments, including the usual fare of hot dogs, pretzels, candy, ice cream and soda, says Neftali Collazo, Suffolk County Community College director of special programs and events.

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Danish Olympics stars Mathias Boe, left, and Carsten Mogensen will play.

Aubrey Peeples plays Claudia in “Sharknado,” a Syfy original movie.

Danish Olympics stars Mathias Boe, left, and Carsten Mogensen will play.