

Sports Director
Chinese Students and Scholars Association ¹
University of Hawaii at Manoa

Dr. Hisaka,

This letter is a proposal to open a badminton class at the University Gym 1 on Monday and Wednesday evenings for our students.

The sport of badminton

Badminton is called the world's fastest racquet sport: the fastest speed of a shuttle leaving the racket can reach 200 mph ², while the fastest tennis ball is around 170 mph ³. As quoted ⁴:

"Today's players compete in a lightning-fast sport which demands constant, highly concentrated actions: running, jumping, twisting, stretching, running backwards and striking. Besides explosiveness, quick reflexes and rapid hand-eye coordination, competitive badminton players must also possess superb aerobic endurance."

Current status of the badminton sport on campus

Currently the University of Hawaii at Manoa lower campus Gym 1 is open for badminton from 6:30pm to 9:30pm every Monday and Wednesday. Many students participate in this sport, including American students, and students from China (including Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan), Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia, India and more countries.

The students enjoy the sport, but lack formal training and a competitive environment to improve their skills. They are also separated from the Hawaii badminton community.

The Hawaii badminton community

Just like in every other major city around the world, there are many badminton fans here in Hawaii. We have several public badminton courts on the Oahu Island, including Aiea Recreation Center (where the Hawaii Badminton Club ⁵ locates), Kailua district park, Koko Head district park and McCully district park (currently closed for maintenance) ⁶. There are courts on the big island too.

Every year several badminton competitions are carried out at Hawaii. The biggest one is the Honolulu Badminton Open every January, in which

¹ <http://www2.hawaii.edu/~cssauh/officers.htm>

² <http://hypertextbook.com/facts/2006/ShuMeiDeng.shtml>

³ <http://hypertextbook.com/facts/2001/TinaCheung.shtml>

⁴ <http://www.usabadminton.org/>

⁵ <http://www.hawaiiabc.org>

⁶ <http://www.worldbadminton.com/whereToPlay/unitedStates/#hi>

players from local Hawaii, mainland America and other countries (mostly Canada) compete and have fun. The competition results of the past three years (2005, 2006 and 2007) are available from the Hawaii Badminton Club website ⁷. In the 2007 Honolulu Open, several Canada universities sent their school teams here, and their players include those among their national university champions. Another event is the Aloha State Games Badminton Open (aka Aloha Open) every June, which is mostly for local players. The Hilo Open in late August is another one, held by the Hilo Badminton Club on the Big Island.

The need of a badminton class for our students

With all these badminton events going on and the sports tradition of the University of Hawaii, we believe that we should become an active participant in the Hawaii badminton community, and our students should be exposed to formal training in badminton and (voluntarily) compete in the badminton opens every year, like those students from Canada. Actually we already had students, faculties, visiting scholars and alumni participated in the Honolulu Open and the Aloha Open each year (See Appendix C). Some of our students are formal members of the Hawaii Badminton Club.

The Hawaii Badminton Club offers a badminton class every Tuesday throughout the year. It charges \$15 per person per year. However, located at the Aiea Recreation Center and being too far away from the university campus, it is hard for most students to join.

That said, we actually got all the necessary elements for a successful badminton class right here in the gym of the University of Hawaii at Manoa (as will be explained in the next section): the coach, a pool of mid-level players, and especially, interested and enthusiastic students. It is time to let our students have formal training, polish their skills and interact with the outside badminton community.

Detailed plan

We propose that a badminton class be opened to the students.

1) We propose to have Mr. Wesley Lin (See Appendix B) as our coach. He is among the top players at Hawaii, ever achieved numerous championships since the 1980s. He is an active member of the Hawaii Badminton Club and now is coaching at Aiea Recreation Center every Tuesday. He once coached at the University of Hawaii at Manoa gym before and now it is time to welcome him back to coach again.

2) We also propose that a small pool of outside mid-level players be allowed to join. Right now the gym checks ID and only university students and staff are allowed to enter. Having the outside players are advantageous to the students because: a) Better utilization of the gym resources. The gym is not crowded with students and staff. Sometimes only 5 out of the 6 courts are used. b) Most students are at the beginning level. Playing with higher-level players can no doubt improve

⁷ <http://www.hawaiibc.org/main.html>

their skills and boost their interests. c) Many of these outside players are connected with the Hawaii badminton community like the Hawaii Badminton Club, so participation of these players is a valuable opportunity for the students to communicate with the community.

3) The format of class. Mr. Wesley Lin ever coached in the university gym before. The format usually is to allocate two out of the six courts for coaching purpose: one court for specific skill training, the other court for small games in which winners stay.

4) The fee. Mr. Wesley Lin volunteers to coach the class. It should be free for our students and staff. And depends on the opinion of the Intramural Sports Program, a small fee may be charged for the outside players (the Hawaii Badminton Club charges \$15 per person per year for their class).

5) Continuity. The badminton class should last over semesters, so the students can get continuous training.

For any questions, please contact me at chenx@hawaii.edu or Mr. Wesley Lin at (808)-223-3282.

Aloha,

October 15, 2007

Appendix A. Tennis vs. Badminton⁸

The speed and the stamina required for badminton are far greater than for any other racket sport. At the 1985 All England (Tennis) Championships, Boris Becker defeated Kevin Curren 6-3, 6-7, 7-6, 6-4. At the 1985 World Badminton Championships in Calgary, Canada, Han Jian of China defeated Morten Frost of Denmark, 14-18, 15-10, 15-8. The following is a statistical comparison of those matches.

	Tennis	Badminton
Time:	3 hrs & 18 mins	1 hr & 16 mins
Ball/Shuttle in Play:	18 mins	37 mins
Match Intensity*:	9 percent	48 percent
Rallies:	299	146
Shots:	1,004	1,972
Shots Per Rally:	3.4	13.5
Distance Covered:	2 miles	4 miles

⁸ <http://www.badminton.bnl.gov/ten-bad.html>

Appendix B. Winning records of Mr. Wesley Lin^{9 10 11}

2007 - Honolulu Open, Men's Doubles, Runner-up (with Darrel Siu)
2006 - Honolulu Open, Men's Senior Doubles, Champion (with Lance Niimi)
2003 - Aloha Open, Mixed Doubles, third place (with Amy Xie)
2002 - Honolulu Open, Men's Doubles, Runner-up (with Nintendo Do)
2001 - Honolulu Open, Men's Doubles, third place (with Irwan Prayogo)
1998 - Honolulu Open, Men's Doubles, third place (with Hung Tran)
1997 - Aloha Open, Men's Singles Champion
1997 - Aloha Open, Mixed Doubles Champion
1997 - Honolulu Open, Men's Doubles Champion
1997 - Honolulu Open, Mixed Doubles Champion (with Jan Pappas)
1997 - USCD SunGod, Mixed Doubles Champion (San Diego)
1994 - Aloha Open, Men's Doubles Champion (with Darrel Siu)
1991 - Aloha Open, Men's Singles Champion
1991 - Aloha Open, Mixed Doubles Champion (with Alice Wong)
1990 - Aloha Open, Men's Singles Champion
1990 - Aloha Open, Men's Doubles Champion (with Wilfred Loui)
1990 - Honolulu Open, Men's Doubles Runner-up
1989 - 17th Hawaii State Badminton Tournament, Men's Singles Champion
1987 - 15th Hawaii State Badminton Tournament, Mixed Doubles Champion
1987 - 15th Hawaii State Badminton Tournament, Men's Doubles Champion
1986 - Governor George R. Arigoshi Trophy for 3 consecutive (1984-1985-1986) Hawaii State Badminton Tournament Open Men's Singles Champions
1986 - 14th Hawaii State Badminton Tournament, Men's Doubles Champion
1986 - 14th Hawaii State Badminton Tournament, Men's Singles Champion
1985 - 13th Hawaii State Badminton Tournament, Men's Singles Champion
1984 - 12th Hawaii State Badminton Tournament, Men's Singles Champion

Appendix C. Some credits received by the University of Hawaii at Manoa students, faculty and alumni in badminton Opens

2007 - Aloha Open, Men's D Doubles Champion: Jun Zhu (student), Manh Hung Nguyen (student)
2007 - Honolulu Open, Men's D Doubles Champion: Huan Ma (student), Xin Chen (student)
2006 - Honolulu Open, Men's C Doubles Runner-up: JingChuan Zhou (visiting scholar), YingFei Dong (faculty)
2006 - Honolulu Open, Men's D Doubles Champion: Kalig Abdul (student), Keith Chua
2006 - Honolulu Open, Mixed A Doubles Runner-up: Lutz Strüngmann (visiting scholar), Dani Strüngmann (visiting scholar)
2006 - Honolulu Open, Mixed B Doubles Champion: Lutz Strüngmann (visiting scholar), Dani Strüngmann (visiting scholar)
2006 - Honolulu Open, Mixed B Doubles third place: Rie Takamasu (alumni), Yoshifumi Nogami
2006 - Honolulu Open, Women's B Doubles Champion: Rie Takamasu (alumni), Michiko Watanabe

⁹ <http://starbulletin.com/>

¹⁰ Hawaii Sports – History, facts, & Statistics. Dan Cisco. University of Hawaii Press (1999)

¹¹ As provided by Mr. Wesley Lin