

Badminton

ALL-TIME EVENT MEDALS

CHINA	8	4	10	22
INDONESIA	5	5	5	15
S. KOREA	5	6	3	14
DENMARK	1	1	2	4



The Oregonian

FRIDAY, AUG. 15, 2008

EIGHTH OF 17

TODAY'S TV HIGHLIGHTS

+> 2 a.m.:
Badminton:
women's
doubles
final (live),
MSNBC

+> 8 a.m.:
Women's soccer;
beach volleyball;
boxing (live),
Telemundo

+> 10 a.m.:
Swimming; track
& field qualifying,
NBC

+> 6 p.m.:
Gymnastics
recap; tennis
semifinals,
Oxygen

+> 8 p.m.:
Swimming: men's
100m butterfly
final, men's 50m
freestyle final;
beach volleyball
elimination
match; track &
field: various
finals; men's
volleyball: USA
vs. China (live),
NBC

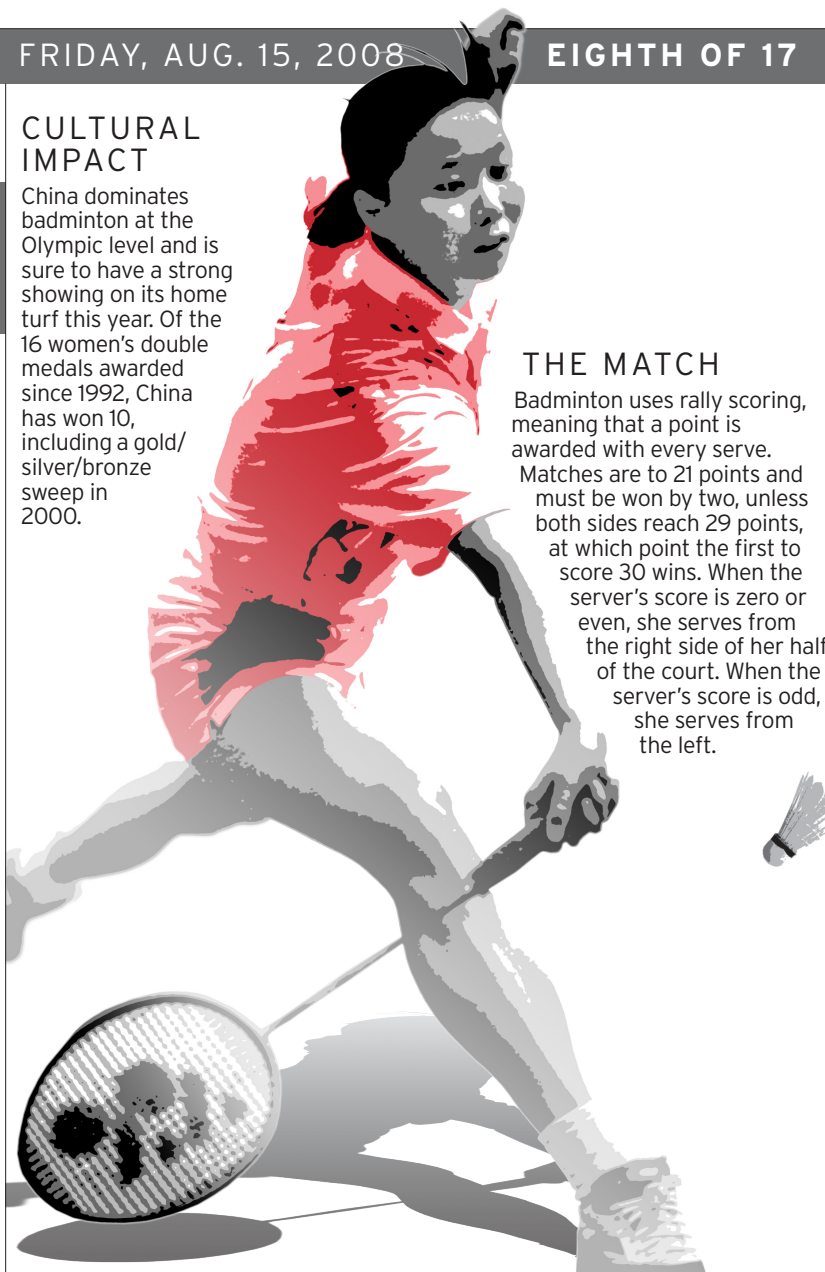
+> 9 p.m.:
Softball: USA vs.
Chinese Taipei
(live), CNBC

+> 11 p.m.:
Boxing: flyweight
and middleweight
elimination bouts
(taped), CNBC

+> 11 p.m.:
Tennis: women's
singles gold-
medal match,
men's doubles
gold-medal
match, women's
singles bronze-
medal match;
men's singles
bronze-medal
match; cycling:
various track
finals; women's
field hockey: USA
vs. New Zealand
(live), USA
Network

CULTURAL IMPACT

China dominates badminton at the Olympic level and is sure to have a strong showing on its home turf this year. Of the 16 women's double medals awarded since 1992, China has won 10, including a gold/silver/bronze sweep in 2000.



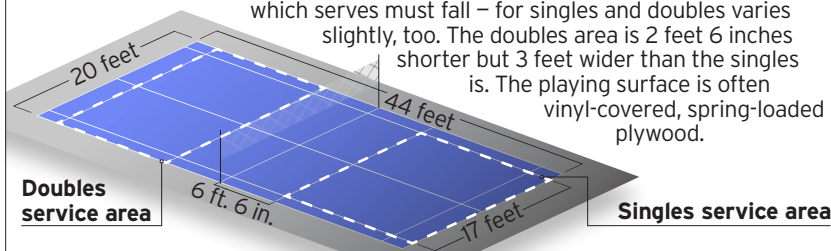
THE MATCH

Badminton uses rally scoring, meaning that a point is awarded with every serve.

Matches are to 21 points and must be won by two, unless both sides reach 29 points, at which point the first to score 30 wins. When the server's score is zero or even, she serves from the right side of her half of the court. When the server's score is odd, she serves from the left.

THE COURT

Badminton is played indoors on a court with a 5-foot-high net. Singles and doubles are played on the same surface with similar dimensions, only the singles court is three feet narrower. The service area – or portion of the court within which serves must fall – for singles and doubles varies slightly, too. The doubles area is 2 feet 6 inches shorter but 3 feet wider than the singles is. The playing surface is often vinyl-covered, spring-loaded plywood.



ONE TO WATCH

China's **Lin Dan**, the top-ranked male singles athlete in the world

U.S. HOPEFUL

THE OBJECT

Badminton is a racket sport for singles and doubles in which players hit a shuttlecock, a weighted skirt of feathers about the size of a snow cone, over a net. There are five events: women's singles and doubles, men's singles and doubles, and mixed doubles. All events are a single-elimination tournament, with no more than 64 singles or 16 pairs entered in an event.

THE GEAR

The racket: The frames and handles are made light and stiff to allow maximum racket velocity. The synthetic strings are pulled tight to transfer as much power from the athlete to the shuttlecock as possible. They usually weigh less than four ounces.



The shuttlecock: Also known as the birdie or shuttle, it's a cork half-sphere with 16 goose feathers protruding from the flat end of the sphere. It weighs a quarter of an ounce and is so fragile they frequently break during play.

OLYMPIC DEBUT: 1992

Badminton is the second most popular participation sport in the world. Only soccer is played by more people.

Howard Bach helped win 2005 men's doubles World Badminton Championship