

Eagles Badminton Back in Action after Long Break



METRO VANCOUVER, BC (January 24th, 2013) – After a long break between tournaments, the Eagles Badminton team hit the court hard in the back-half of the 2012-2013 season this past weekend. Traveling to Douglas College in Tournament #3, the Eagles were determined to hold on to their 2nd place ranking that was solidified before the pause in play.

The Eagles faced a difficult field due to some mid-season additions to rival institutions but a consistent collection of points in the team competition kept the Eagles in 2nd place overall heading into the Provincial Championships. On Day 1, the Eagles split their ties; winning two and losing two. The Eagles defeated Thompson Rivers University (TRU) and Vancouver Island University (VIU) to open the tournament both with a 3W-2L record. The Eagles would flip the results in the back-half losing to both Langara College and Douglas College with a 2W-3L record in each match-up. Notable efforts came in the tie against the Douglas Royals when second-year athlete Zerlinda Chau (Surrey) won Women's Singles, and 5th year veterans Grace Whang (Surrey) and Willis Kwee (Richmond) teamed up in mixed doubles to win their match in

three sets. The Eagles won 2 ties and 10 matches in Day 1 competition to find themselves in 3rd place in the Tournament with a total of 129 points; trailing both Langara and Douglas.

The individual events featured 2012 CCAA bronze medalists Willis Kwee (Richmond) and Andy Wong (Vancouver) as the Eagles' first-team in Men's Doubles, competing in Pool A. After battling hard against the Royals duo of Luo and Cho, they fell prey to the Royals, finishing in 2nd place and were defeated 21-8, 21-14. The Eagles' second-team in Men's Doubles, consisting of Jamie Arseneau (Surrey) and 5th year veteran David Dryden (Surrey) captured top spot in Pool C action. In the Women's Doubles event, first-team rookie Paulina Hsu (Delta) teamed up with second-year transfer Alisa Young (Vancouver) to beat TRU in Pool A to capture third place. The Eagles' second-team in women's doubles featured second-year Even Tong (Surrey) and first-year Lisa Doan (Surrey) who defeated their TRU counterpart to take first place in Pool B.

The Eagles singles players found themselves in a difficult draw, pressing hard but unable to qualify for Pool A in either Men's or Women's events. Chris Chung (Hong Kong) and Dryden led Pool B action taking first and second place, respectively. In Women's Singles, Young found herself matched up against tough competition from a strong Langara opponent, losing in 2 straight sets to be seeded in Pool B. Young and Tong bookended the Pool B field placing first and third, respectively. In mixed doubles, Hsu and Chung defeated TRU to take third place in Pool A while Grace Whang (Surrey) and Kwee went on to place first in Pool C.

At the end of tournament play, the Eagles accumulated an additional 127 points in the individual events for a total of 256 points in the tournament. With the gap already established on Day 1 between the competitors, the Eagles placed 3rd in the tournament behind Douglas College (334 points) and Langara College (301 points). However, due to a strong first half of the season, the Eagles maintain their hold on 2nd place overall with a total of 842 points over the three tournaments.

The Eagles look forward to a strong finish to the season when they compete at the 2013 PACWEST Provincial Championships. Hosted by the Langara College Falcons, this event will be held at the Pinetree Community Centre in Coquitlam from February 16th-17th.

Complete information can be found at: www.kwantlen.ca/eagles

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