

NATION'S TOP PLAYER EVA LEE OF IVC WINS SINGLES, DOUBLES BADMINTON CROWNS

PASADENA, CA—Only two weeks ago, Irvine Valley College freshman Eva Lee faced the world's No. 1-ranked women's badminton player Zhang Ning of China. Lee, playing for Team USA, lost that No. 1 singles match as part of the Uber Cup competition held in Japan April 28. On Saturday, it was the 19-year-old Lee's turn to show why she is the No. 1-ranked player in the U.S.

Lee captured both the individual singles and individual doubles crowns at the California Community Colleges Commission on Athletics Women's Badminton Championships presented by U.S. Bank, including a dominating performance in the singles final at Pasadena City College.

Completing the match as if she had just barely enough time to catch a bus, Lee powered past City College of San Francisco's Maggie Choy, 11-0, 11-1. Lee captured the state title in an amazing eight minutes. She broke Choy's serve in the first game, then scored the next 11 points in succession. The second game wasn't much different as Lee used a variety of overhand smashes, backhands, and short volleys to win the match.

In the doubles final, Lee and IVC teammate Yuki Nakagawa also played a short match in defeating the San Diego City pair of Jenny Chau and Cecilia Do, 15-2, 15-3.

Lee, the 2004 USA Badminton Player of the Year and a hopeful for the 2008 Olympics, said she didn't take her community college title matches lightly.

"I take every match I play seriously," Lee said. "I feel like I have to play my best no matter the opponent, or I might not win. I think if I were facing a nationally ranked player on the other side of the net, that's going to be really tough for the opponent. I still find myself mentally stressed to perform well going into a match."

Lee added to her awards case after winning CIF singles and doubles titles at two different California high schools, Cupertino and Villa Park. She was just 14 when she won the Central Coast Section girls singles championship as a high school freshman at Cupertino.

After giving Irving Valley its second consecutive singles championship, Lee helped make it five consecutive doubles crowns for the college. IVC did not win the state team championship this year (San Diego City won Thursday over San Francisco) after winning four straight from 2002-2005.

--Robert Lewis, COA Sports Information

**CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES
COA WOMEN'S BADMINTON CHAMPIONSHIPS
PRESENTED BY U.S. BANK
AT PASADENA CITY COLLEGE
CHAMPIONSHIP INDIVIDUAL SINGLES**

SEMIFINALS

Eva Lee (Irvine Valley) d. Jenny Chau (San Diego City), 11-1, 11-1;
Maggie Choy (CC San Francisco) d. Yuki Nakagawa (Irvine Valley), 11-6, 11-8

FINALS

Lee d. Choy, 11-0, 11-1

CHAMPIONSHIP INDIVIDUAL DOUBLES

SEMIFINALS

Lee-Nakagawa (Irvine Valley) d. Kim-Thatch (Orange Coast), by default;
Chau-Do (San Diego City) d. L. Nguyen-Le (San Diego City), 8-15, 15-4, 15-4

FINALS

Lee-Nakagawa d. Chau-Do, 15-2, 15-3

CONSOLATION SINGLES

SEMIFINALS

Michelle Li (CC San Francisco) d. Yuma Nishigaki (Irvine Valley), 11-0, 11-5;
Jennifer Wong (Skyline) v. Phuong Nguyen (San Diego Mesa), 11-7, 11-2

FINALS

Li d. Wong, 11-5, 11-7

CONSOLATION DOUBLES

SEMIFINALS

Kristi Wong-Wai Tam Tam (Skyline) d. M. Estrada-R. Gonzalez (Compton), 15-8, 15-4.
Maria DeLaLima-Luz Gonzaga (Compton) d Jennifer To-Sarah Dorsey (San Francisco,
15-11, 17-16

FINALS

Wong-Tam Tam d. DeLalima-Gonzaga, 15-11, 15-2