



COACH'S CORNER

The first half of the OUA badminton season is complete and our Blues badminton team is in a new but not unfamiliar position - first place in the East division with a 6 and 1 record. Our women enjoy a 35 and 0 win/loss record at this point of the season and are the most powerful team to perform within the university league in many years. And although our men don't have such an unblemished record, they too have enjoyed some individual successes and are looking forward to an improved team record in the second half of the season when Alex Green returns from extended injury. Even without Alex, our Blues team has been very impressive. Our 57 wins against 20 losses is the best record in Ontario University Association play this season and we are determined to finish in first place overall and set up our playoff march to the gold medal in February, 2003.

Wayne King

This season's team is much different from any of the other four teams that I have had the privilege to coach at University of Toronto and this may be partially responsible for the relative success that we have enjoyed so far this season. Our team captains, Mike Glenney (OUA MVP 2002) and Edith Chow (OUA MVP 2002), not only lead by example at every tournament, but also are models of "high performance" at each and every practice. Our team has a depth to the roster that we have not enjoyed for many years - Amy Mader is perhaps the toughest opponent that Edith will play this season; Jessica Shiu provides overall versatility that will allow us to match up well against every other team in the league; Anca Gaspar is one of the toughest players to have entered OUA in the past four or five seasons and is a strong candidate for rookie of the year, and veteran Ling Ho shows maturity and confidence in whatever role she is asked to play in this year's team. Our men's team has similar depth if not the same playing experience - Mike Glenney provided another come-from-behind victory against York to secure an overall win for the team; Denis Daly played a key role in our win against Waterloo and has shown that he belongs on the core team this season after three long years of training; Gordon Chiu and Stephen Lau are perhaps the best men's doubles team in OUA but have yet to secure victory against the powerhouse teams of York, Western and Waterloo; Lee Ha, Vikas Mohindra, Chun Wo Lam and Kenneth Lee all played important roles in helping our team achieve victory and we have more players training diligently to play their part in our competitions.

Such talented teams often do not perform to their potential because of selfish conflict among individual team members but that is definitely not the case with this year's group. Each and every member of our team is capable of playing in almost any position, and every player is satisfied with whatever role is needed in every round and supports the other team members throughout each weekend's play. When we win, the victory is a shared experience; when we lose, the team chooses to look at small improvements that will lead to victory next time.

This unselfishness on the part of each individual member and our unparalleled spirit as a team will help in our quest for gold at Queen's in February. We hope our alumni/ae will choose to share it with us. Please plan on attending the East Sectionals (January 12) here at the Athletic Centre, University of Toronto or the Final Crossover (February 1-2) at Ryerson or the OUA Finals (February 14-15) at Queen's University, Kingston. Become an active part of the supporting cast that accompanies any successful university athletic team. Come out to our tournaments, meet the players and cheer us on to victory - we will definitely appreciate your support! Experience our gold medal season in person. See you at courtside very soon!

Wayne King

TEAM ORIENTATION - CLIMBING



Christine Chen

Norman Dean Fon Sing

Gordon Chiu

Jessica Shiu

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Varsity Blues

BADMINTON

Alumni/ae Newsletter

Welcome to the Varsity Blues 2002-2003 Winter Newsletter!

Inside you will find tournament results, team roster information, messages from the coach, captains, and much more.

The 2002-2003 Varsity Blues are poised to better last year's success thanks to the arrival of a number of important new faces. A few of these rookies have already started to make their mark on the OUA after only a few tournaments. Anca Gaspar, Stephen Lau, Amy Mader, and Jessica Shiu are all exceptional badminton players, yet they've all had different experiences in the sport and have taken different routes to becoming part of the Varsity Blues family. We'll let them introduce themselves to you now...



Anca Gaspar

To the U of T community, hello!

Coming to the Varsity Blues has been a challenge and a very different world! In my new home, Canada, I must stay focused. I want to develop my skills and broaden my horizons. My role in the team keeps changing and I do not want to give up. I am part of a team. Yes, that is what university badminton is all about: a team. In the junior tournaments it is a little different. It is not the same spirit and energy in the middle. My performance counts, but with the team at U of T, everybody else's performance counts as well. In the OUA tournaments we compete as a team, not as an individual. It is also wonderful because we count on each other, we play for each other, and we cheer for each other (although in Romania though we cheer more!) What we try to achieve is the best TEAM performance. To those who believe in us and support us, thank you.



Stephen Lau

Coming back to the badminton scene after a four-year layoff has been the most exciting and rewarding event thus far in my university career. It is not only the sport that has made joining the team such a memorable experience, but more importantly, it is the team itself. In athletics, never have I experienced such a strong sense of teamwork and cooperation. The passion and dedication that I have observed in some of the players is genuinely inspiring. In short, in all of the six years that I have played competitive badminton as a junior, I have on no account truly enjoyed the sport as much as I do now, and I have varsity badminton to thank for it.



Amy Mader

I have recently relocated to the University of Toronto from Saskatchewan where I spent the first 23 years of my life. I have been playing badminton for the past 13 years and have had many great experiences playing junior and open tournaments, mainly around western Canada. However, since Saskatchewan was not particularly good at badminton many of my early memories are from the long van rides across the prairies to the tournaments. I have one particular memory of attending a Western Canadian team tournament called Clarkson Cup way back in 1994. The tournament was hosted in Grande Prairie, Alberta. Team Saskatchewan drove 16 hours from Regina to Grande Prairie, lost every tie, then climbed back in the van to drive the 16 hours back home - tired and unhappy. It took many years of tournaments just like this before I realized that I could compete with players from other provinces.

What a great change it is for me this year to be part of the Varsity Blues. I can now drive with a wonderful team for 30 minutes to York or 2 hours to London, win almost every tie, then celebrate in the van on the way home - tired and happy. It is such a pleasure to be part of this talented U of T team full of players with great work ethics and positive attitudes. I look forward to contributing to the program any way I can.



Jessica Shiu

I don't find much difference between playing badminton in Hong Kong and in Toronto. A larger proportion of the general public plays badminton in Hong Kong so there are more badminton courts around, but the level of play is quite similar in terms of intercollegiate tournaments. Badminton is regarded as a recreational sport in the USA. In order to participate in tournaments there, you normally have to drive at least 3 hours to another state and the tournaments go from 8 in the morning till 9 at night. It's also hard to find players around your level. But all in all, I've enjoyed playing badminton everywhere because the people are always friendly and it's great fun.

2002-2003 VARSITY BLUES ROSTER

TEAM CAPTAINS

Edith Chow
22 years, 5'5"
Thornhill, Ontario
Microbiology, Economics
2001-02, 2000-01 OUA MVP
Last Year: S:20-1, D:19-2 M: 0-1
"Hope is a good breakfast, but it is a bad supper" - Francis Bacon

Michael Glenney
21 years, 6'1", 170 lbs
Lindsay, Ontario
History Specialist
2001-02 OUA MVP/All-Star
Last Year: S: 11-5, D: 11-7
"Go big or go home"

ASSISTANT COACH

Denis Daly
21 years, 5'11", 145 lbs
Toronto, Ontario
Engineering Science
Last Year: S: 6-1, D: 2-3, M: 8-3
"Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around every once in a while you could miss it."
- Ferris Bueller's Day Off

MANAGERS

Jason Li
19 years, 5'10", 145 lbs
Toronto, Ontario

Geoffrey Lynch
23 years, 5'7", 159 lbs
East Retford, England
PhD in Mathematics
4 years with Durham University, England; "Half-Palatinat" for excellence and commitment to badminton

VETERAN BLUES

Ling Ho
22 years, 5'1", 90 lbs
Thornhill, Ontario
Last Year: S: 10-0, D: 3-2, M: 5-3

Julie Lee
21 years, 5'5", 135 lbs
Hamilton, Ontario
Life Science
"Dance like no one is watching you/Sing like no one is listening/Love like you've never been hurt before/Live life as though heaven is on earth"



(From left to right) Back row: Wayne King, Norman Dean Fon Sing, Edith Chow, Kenneth Lee, Anca Gaspar, Michael Glenney, Amy Mader, Kevin Lee, Ling Ho; Middle row: Alex Green, Christine Chen, Chun Wo Lam, Karen Li, Denis Daly, Julie Lee, Gordon Chiu; Front row: Vik Mohindras, Stephen Lau, Jessica Shiu, Jason Li, Geoff Lynch
Photo Credit: Tom Grochmal

SECOND YEAR BLUES

Gordon Chiu
19 years, 5'9", 160 lbs
Toronto, Ontario
2001-02 OUA All-Star
Last Year: S: 3-4, D: 12-5, M: 2-2
"If I have seen farther than others, it is because I was standing on the shoulders of giants." - Isaac Newton

Alex Green
20 years, 5'9", 175 lbs
Ottawa, Ontario
Engineering Science
2002 OWG Silver Medal
2002-01 OUA All-Star Nominee
Last Year: S: 7-7, D: 15-7, M: 2-0
"No evil can happen to a good man, either in life or after death" - Socrates

Lee Ha
21 years, 5'10", 140 lbs
North York, Ontario
Computer Engineering
Last Year: S: 0-1, D: 1-0
"Motivation is what gets you started. Habit is what keeps you going."

Kenneth Lee
18 years, 6', 150 lbs
Richmond, British Columbia
Psychology, International Relations

Vik Mohindra
20 years, 5'9", 135 lbs
Ajax, Ontario
Life Science
2001 OFSAA Gold in Doubles

FIRST YEAR BLUES

Christine Chen
18 years, 5'2", 113 lbs
Toronto, Ontario
Life Science
"Your choices are half chance, and so are everybody else's. The race is long, and in the end, it's only against yourself!"

Norman Dean Fon Sing
19 years, 5'11", 165 lbs
Quatre Bornes, Mauritius
Actuarial Science
2002 U19 Mauritius National Singles and Mixed Champion
All Africa Jr. Championships (QF Singles/Doubles) - 3rd overall

Anca Gaspar
18 years, 5'8", 130 lbs
Mississauga, Ontario
Math and Languages
2002 OWG Bronze Medal
2002 OFSAA 5th A Singles
2002 York Open winner in doubles and mixed
1999 U16 Romanian National Singles and Doubles Champion

Chun Wo Lam
20 years, 5'9", 168 lbs
Toronto, Ontario
Commerce
1999 OFSAA C Winner
2000 pre-OFSAA Finalist Mixed

Stephen Lau
20 years, 5'7", 145 lbs
Scarborough, Ontario
Management Program Co-op
1998 U16 Ont. Doubles Champ.
1999 Ontario B Championship - SF Singles

Kevin Lee
18 years, 5'11", 145 lbs
Calgary, Alberta
Engineering Science
2000 Alberta High School Championship Finalist in Mixed
1998 U14 Jr. Nationals - 2nd in Doubles, 3rd in Mixed

Karen Li
19 years, 5'4", 120 lbs
Ottawa, Ontario
Life Science
2002 OFSAA Doubles - 3rd in B
2001 OFSAA Doubles

Amy Mader
23 years, 5'7"
Regina, Saskatchewan
MA Eco. and Env. Studies
2002 - Sask. Open and Manitoba Open Singles and Doubles winner
7 time Sask. Singles Champ.
1999 CWG - QF Singles
1997 U19 Jr. Nationals - SF Singles

Caryn Nutik
25 years, 5'8", 137 lbs
London, Ontario
M.Ed. in Counselling, Psychology

Jessica Shiu
19 years, 5'3", 118 lbs
Hong Kong
Life Science
University of Chicago Badminton Team
Indiana Open Singles Runner-up

Varsity Blues open season at the top of OUA East!

The OUA East Sectionals were hosted by York University on October 12th, 2002. U of T, York, Queens, and Ryerson were all in attendance at this event, the first competition of the 2002-2003 season. The tournament was a great success for Toronto - we went undefeated and are now ranked first in the OUA East!

U of T set the tone early, beating Queens 10-1 and Ryerson 9-2. The women won all of their games and only lost 35 points in 10 matches - an average of 1.75 points a game! Female rookies Amy Mader, Anca Gaspar and Jessica Shiu played alongside 2002 OUA Female MVP Edith Chow in singles and dominated the opposition. The men also played solid badminton, particularly rookie Stephen Lau, who demonstrated his talents by winning the #1 men's singles match against Queen's Jeremy Sage (15-4, 15-5).

U of T's final tie of the day was the most exciting as we beat York University 6 matches to 5. The most critical match of the tie saw team captain Mike Glenney edge out York's Alex Krizzle in a close three-gamer (4-15, 15-10, 15-5). Once again, the women swept all of their matches. Edith Chow and Jessica Shiu teamed up in #1 doubles to beat Cheryl Tanaka and Vanee Kuga in another critical match.

The team's successful on court results were matched by the team support displayed at the tournament. Cheers of "Go Blues!" could be heard throughout the day and many alumni and parents were in attendance - thank you for coming and supporting us! Team managers Jason Li and Geoff Lynch also deserve thanks for their help at the tournament. All in all it was a great day and a great start to U of T's season.

Amy Mader, Denis Daly

Varsity Blues Hold on to Top Spot

It took a power failure to stop us on November 10th at the first OUA Crossover. When the lights went out during the 11th and deciding match against Western, so too did our chances for victory. Tied 5-5 with the defending OUA champions, Stephen Lau was down one set, but leading 11-3 in the second set when the gym plunged into darkness. The ensuing delay allowed his opponent to regroup and win the second set 17-14, thus handing the tie to Western 6-5. It was an intense series of matches, as U of T went up 5-3, only to see Western pull out three straight victories. Fortunately that was our only loss.

On Saturday morning we defeated a stunned Waterloo team 8-3, which featured a gutsy 3 set singles win by Denis Daly, and a 3 set doubles win by Vik Mohindra and Chun Wo Lam. In the afternoon we took care of the Brock team fairly easily. That gave us Saturday night to focus on our important matchup against Western. We got off to an early start, ignited by the performances of two veterans, Edith Chow and Denis Daly, who both played gruelling 3 set matches, but we just couldn't hold on.

Despite our morning disappointment, we faced McMaster in the afternoon and we beat them 8-3. Once again, Vik Mohindra provided stellar play, winning his singles match in 2 sets. With a 3-1 record we have to be happy about our results at Western, and the lone loss has shown us what we need to do to reach the next level. Overall, our women's team played superbly, not losing a match, while the men's team realized some work needs to be done to help balance our team. This was our final tournament for the 2002 year, and we will spend the next few months preparing for the OUA East Sectional in Toronto.

Michael Glenney

East Sectional @ York

October 12, 2002

TEAM RECORD

Blues	10	Queens	1
Blues	9	Ryerson	2
Blues	6	York	5

INDIVIDUAL RECORD

	S	D	XD	Overall
	(W-L)	(W-L)	(W-L)	(W-L)
Gordon Chiu	1-0	2-1	1-0	4-1
Denis Daly	1-2	0-0	1-1	2-3
Mike Glenney	3-0	0-1	0-0	3-1
Lee Ha	0-0	1-2	0-0	1-2
Stephen Lau	1-1	1-1	0-0	2-2
Kenneth Lee	0-0	0-3	0-0	0-3
Edith Chow	2-0	3-0	0-0	5-0
Anca Gaspar	3-0	2-0	0-0	5-0
Ling Ho	1-0	1-0	1-1	3-1
Karen Li	0-0	1-0	1-0	2-0
Amy Mader	2-0	3-0	0-0	5-0
Jessica Shiu	1-0	2-0	0-0	3-0

Crossover #1 @ Western

November 9-10, 2002

TEAM RECORD

Blues	8	Waterloo	3
Blues	11	Brock	0
Blues	5	Western	6
Blues	8	McMaster	3

INDIVIDUAL RECORD

	S	D	XD	Overall
	(W-L)	(W-L)	(W-L)	(W-L)
Gordon Chiu	2-0	1-2	2-1	5-3
Denis Daly	2-2	1-2	0-0	3-4
Mike Glenney	1-1	2-1	0-0	3-2
Chun Wo Lam	0-0	2-0	0-1	2-1
Stephen Lau	0-2	0-3	0-0	0-5
Vik Mohindra	2-0	2-0	0-0	4-0
Edith Chow	4-0	3-0	0-0	7-0
Anca Gaspar	4-0	1-0	0-0	5-0
Ling Ho	0-0	2-0	2-1	4-1
Karen Li	1-0	2-0	0-1	3-1
Amy Mader	3-0	4-0	0-0	7-0
Jessica Shiu	0-0	4-0	0-0	4-0