



## Tenth Title for China – Vivo BWF Sudirman Cup Finals

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**Dongguan, China: China's tenth Sudirman Cup Title came in authoritative fashion over Japan, which had reached the Badminton Tournament's finals for the first time in Dongguan today.**



### **(China Team – Gold Medalist at Sudhirman Cup – 2015)**

The title, China's sixth in a row, was won when crowd favourite Lin Dan whipped a smash past Takuma Ueda to give the home team an unassailable 3-0 lead. China's victorious campaign was achieved with the loss of only one match in the tournament.

Their stiffest test for China today was in the opening Men's Doubles. Zhang Nan and Fu Haifeng were dominant overall but had to contend with some stubborn resistance from Kenichi Hayakawa and Hiroyuki Endo. The Japanese staged a mini-recovery from 4-10 down to 9-11, but Hayakawa was service-faulted again. Eventually, it was superior firepower that did them in, with Fu Haifeng consistently puncturing their defenses with his big smashes. The 21-17 20-22 21-17 victory took them 79 minutes.

Akane Yamaguchi started spectacularly against Li Xuerui in the Women's Singles. The World Junior Champion had Li in trouble with her fierce smashes and court coverage, but Li edged through the first with fine touch at the net. Yamaguchi's challenge fell apart in the second with Li getting to grips with her game and forcing her to run the long diagonals. Yamaguchi was bereft of ideas by the end as she went down 23-21 21-14.

Just as he had yesterday in the semi-finals, Takuma Ueda threw everything into his match against Lin Dan. Faced with an opponent who seemed to be in the right spot all the time, Ueda was required to play some extraordinary shots to win points; for the most part, however, his best shots were returned. Lin conjured winners out of seemingly innocuous situations; the 21-15 21-13 result was achieved in 49 minutes.



### **(Japan Team – Silver Medalist at Sudhirman Cup – 2015)**

Japan Chief Coach Park Joo Bong conceded that he was happy with his Team's performance despite the loss. "Our target was the Semi-finals. We are happy although we lost to China. Our Men's Singles player Kento Momota was injured and so it was difficult. If we had won the first Men's Doubles, it would have been a different situation. We've improved our fighting spirit. The players are very motivated. In terms of speedwork and tactics we have improved in recent times. China has always been strong but over the last two-three years we have been getting better."

China's Chief Coach Li Yongbo said his main difficulty was in choosing his Men's Singles player. "To me, both Lin Dan and Chen Long are No.1. It's good for us, but it's also a headache to choose one over the other. Both wanted to play today."

The Coach heaped praise on Doubles players Zhang Nan and Tang Yuanting. "With ten days to go for the Sudirman Cup, Zhang Nan fell sick and couldn't practice. Tang Yuanting is a very comprehensive player; she's good in attack and defence and can combine with anyone. She's very young and we would like to give more opportunities to our young players. Tang has already got experience with different partners and I won't be surprised if she wins a medal at the Rio Olympics."



**(Korea Team – Bronze Medalist at Sudhirman Cup – 2015)**

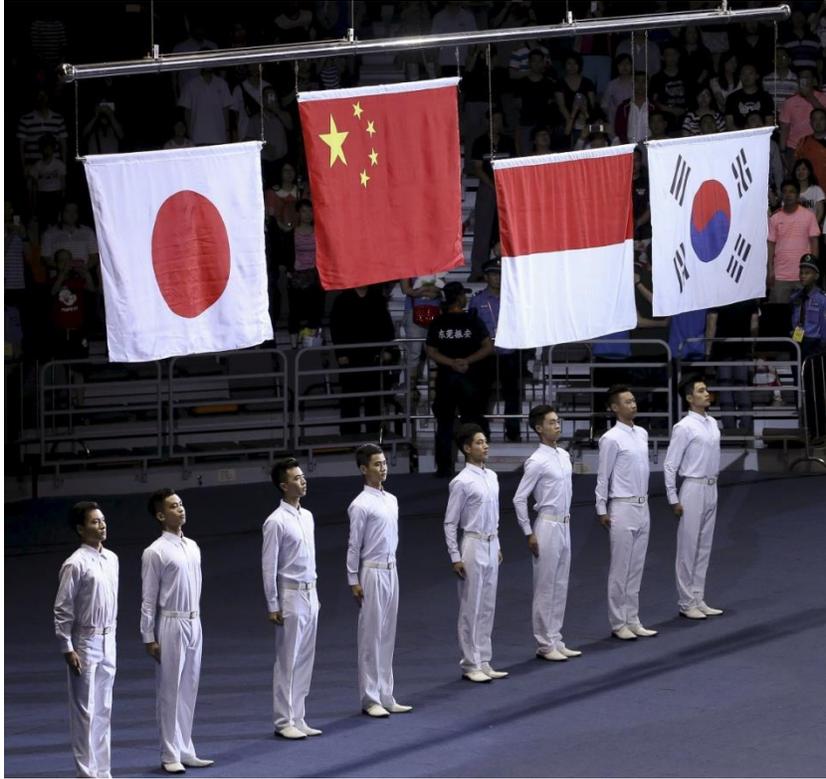
Japan ousted a strong South Korean Team, winning 3-2, booking a place in Sunday's final against China. Japan lost the Men's Doubles, but Nozomi Okuhara turned the tide by beating Sung Ji Hyun in the Women's Singles. Japan fell to South Korea in the Men's Singles with Takuma Ueda losing to fifth seed Son Wan Ho 21-9, 22-20.

The score was then evened out by a strong performance by Japan's Women's Doubles duo and first seed Misa Matsutomo and Ayaka Takahashi, who controlled both games against Chang Ye Na and Jung Kyung Eun 17-21, 8-21. Japan's Mixed Doubles duo then continued their Team's winning ways, defeating eighth seeded Kim Ha Na and Ko Sung Hyun 14-21, 15-21.



**(Indonesia Team – Bronze Medalist at Sudhirman Cup – 2015)**

China eliminated Indonesia in the Semi Finals after winning tightly-contested matches at the Sudirman Cup. A 3-1 loss to China in the Vivo Sudirman Cup 2015 Semifinal has prolonged Indonesia's Title drought in the World's Mixed Team Championships, but promising performances from some shuttlers show there's a glimpse of hope for Indonesia in the future.



(China Team)



(Japan Team)

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