



Syed Modi International Badminton Championships 2015 – Parupalli, Nehwal Triumph

BWF : January 27, 2015 - Text by Dev Sukumar



Lucknow: After her fourth Indian Open Grand Prix Gold Title win on Sunday, where she beat World Champion Carolina Marin in three games in the final, Saina Nehwal was beaming ear to ear, as she held the Trophy aloft on the podium at Lucknow.

"I have played her twice before, and have won both times. But she has become so fast, her net game has become much stronger, and her smashes have

improved too. I definitely have a lot of work to do against her and I have to thank god for my win, I managed to get back into a safe zone after that", said Saina.

World No. 3 Saina scraped past the seventh-ranked Spaniard 19-21, 25-23, 21-16 in a see-saw battle lasting an hour and 19 minutes. Local favourite Saina Nehwal had her hands full against Marin. The Spaniard fought off a deficit to take the opening game. From 13-all in the second it became the closest of contests, with the two going neck-and-neck. Nehwal survived two match points and clinched the game on her third opportunity.



Parupalli (**right**) able to use his greater experience to quell the fast-rising youngster. The Commonwealth Games Champion was down two game points in both games but kept his composure to record a 23-21 23-21 result.

Parupalli had a smoother ride to the final, with his stiffest test coming in the semi-finals against Viktor Axelsen. The Dane was up a game and had his chances in the second at 20-all, but Parupalli edged past to level at a game apiece and then routed Axelsen in the decider: 18-21 22-20 21-7

The other three titles were split between Denmark, Malaysia and Indonesia. Mathias Boe / Carsten Mogensen (Denmark); Amelia Alicia Anscelly / Soong Fie Cho (Malaysia) and Riky

Widiyanto / Puspita Richi Dili (Indonesia) emerged Champions in Men's Doubles, Women's Doubles and Mixed Doubles respectively.



Boe and Mogensen (*above; right*) would have expected trouble against Vladimir Ivanov / Ivan Sozonov in the Men's Doubles final but the Russians could not rise to the occasion. The Danes won the opening game in a canter and though the Russians saved a match point in the second, they could not hold off the inevitable: 21-9 22-20.



In the all-Malaysia Women's Doubles final, Amelia Alicia Anscelly / Soong Fie Cho (*above; right*) stole a march over their fancied compatriots Vivian Hoo / Woon Khe Wei 22-20 21-15. After a close first game, the No.4 seeds led from the start of the second and closed it out with plenty to spare over the Commonwealth Games Champions. Earlier, Anscelly / Soong ended the campaign of local favourites and No.2 seeds Jwala Gutta / Ashwini Ponnappa in the semi-finals, 21-16 19-21 21-13.



Indonesia's Riky Widianto / Puspita Richi Dili (*above; right*) justified their top seeding in the Mixed Doubles with a 34-minute win over local hopes Manu Attri / K Maneesha, 21-17 21-17.
