

# **Badminton: Sameer Verma stuns 5th seed Hans-Kristian Vittinghus at India Open**

Mar 26, 2015

**New Delhi: Young Indian shuttler Sameer Verma caused a surprise by taking out fifth seed Hans-Kristian Vittinghus as other top players sailed smoothly into the second round of the \$275,000 (Dh973,165) Yonex Sunrise India Open Superseries event at the Siri Fort Sports Complex here on Wednesday.**

The day belonged to qualifier Sameer, who beat the Dane 21-15 21-17. The former Junior National Champion said he was nervous as he knew Vittinghus liked to play rallies. "I started attacking straight away, which helped me gain points," he said.

Sameer was lagging behind in the first game but did well to catch up and level at 14-all. He then completely dominated the game and raced ahead to seal the game by conceding just one point. Sameer had the upper-hand in the second game and Vittinghus simply couldn't catch up.

He will take on his friend R.M.V. Gurusaidutt in the Men's Singles second round on Thursday.

**A sizeable crowd turned up to watch two-time Olympic Champion Lin Dan and India's Saina Nehwal play, and they were not disappointed.**

Lin Dan comfortably won against Tzu Wei Wang of Chinese Taipei in a match that lasted 32 minutes. Some crafty strokes were enough for Lin to take a good lead against his opponent.

**"I did my best in the second game. My younger opponent also did his job well. I will do my best in every match and hope that I can satisfy my fans with my game," Lin said.**

**Women's Singles top seed Saina barely broke a sweat while playing 16-year-old qualifier Riya Mukherjee. The Hyderabadian was happy that she was able to wrap up the match quickly with a 21-5, 21-13 win, though she lauded Riya's effort in the second game where she gave some tough fight.**

All England finalist Saina will next take on compatriot Ruthvika Shivani Gadde, who beat qualifier Rucha Nikam 21-7, 21-6.

**Meanwhile, other top seeds Jan O. Jorgensen, Carolina Marin, Kidambi Srikanth, Parupalli Kashyap and Viktor Axelsen won their matches, though Men's Singles fourth seed Chou Tien Chen of Chinese Taipei was not that lucky.**

**World No. 4 Srikanth saw off Thailand's Tanongsak Saensomboonsuk 21-17, 21-16 without much ado in the opening round of the Men's Singles main draw at the Siri Fort Sports Complex.**

**Commonwealth Games champion Parupalli Kashyap got into good rhythm after recovering from a hamstring injury with a tricky 16-21, 21-19, 21-18 win over Chinese Taipei's Hsu Jen Hao. He next meets Chinese qualifier Xue Song, who beat fourth seed Chou Tien Chen of Chinese Taipei.**

**Commonwealth Games Bronze Medallist Gurusaidutt, who fought his way through the qualifiers on Tuesday, pulled off a stunning 21-14, 17-21, 23-21 victory against South Korea's Lee Dong Keun to advance to the second round.**

"I am quite happy that I was able to balance my attack-defence shots well. Though I attacked initially, I started trailing towards the end of second game. I could see Dong rushing into it later, so I decided to play defensively," Guru said. He was happy that he is doing well after his long absence due to injuries.

Celebrated Women's Doubles pair of Jwala Gutta and Ashwini Ponnappa, however, failed to breach the Chinese wall as they fell 16-21 18-21 to sixth seeds Ou Dongni and Xiaohan Yu in the opening round.

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