



Sindhu and Sameer emerge the best at Syed Modi 2017

Rakesh Rao : January 30, 2017



WINNING FEELING:P.V. Sindhu and Sameer Verma
delighted after winning the Singles Titles
at Syed Modi International Badminton Championships in Lucknow

LUCKNOW: All five finals ending in straight games meant excitement was at a premium. As it turned out, favourite P.V. Sindhu, National Champion Sameer Verma and the second-seed duo of Pranav Chopra and N. Sikki Reddy made the most of a depleted field and walked away victorious in the \$120,000 Syed Modi International Badminton Championship - 2017 here on Sunday.

Sindhu's triumph this week was never in doubt after Saina Nehwal's withdrawal on the eve of this Grand Prix Gold event. Sindhu stayed on cruise mode all week and ended her campaign past unseeded Indonesian teenager Greogria Mariska in 30 minutes.

After dropping the first point of the final, Sindhu never trailed as she gave the crowd what it had come to watch. In any case, a clash involving World No. 9 Sindhu and her 120th-ranked rival was expected to be a mismatch.



“First the Premier Badminton League and now a Grand Prix Gold Title, I’m glad to start the year with victories,” said Sindhu, before rushing to the airport.

Sameer and B. Sai Praneeth are sparring partners at Hyderabad. Having lost a close National final to Praneeth in February 2015, Sameer settled the scores in style for the \$9000 winner’s share.

Sameer, trailing 5-14 in the first game and 5-11 in the second, shifted gears to slow down the pace. He kept the shuttle in play, mixed up his attacking forehand with some

very consistent retrieving from the backhand court. Sai, like in the opener, seems to lose belief in his ability to close out the game.

Late in the second game, Sai didn't even reach the shuttle on his forehand, giving an indication of a troubled shoulder. Sensing his chance, Sameer broke away from 14-14 to make it 20-14. Sai saved two Championship-points before Sameer's forehand smash settled the title.



Second seeds Pranaav Jerry Chopra and N Sikki Reddy, who had won Grand Prix titles at Brazil and Russia, also lay claim to their maiden GPG Title in Mixed Doubles after beating compatriots Ashwini Ponnappa and B Sumeeth Reddy, seventh seeds, 22-20 21-10 in the finals.

After some thrilling moments in the first game, the final turned out to be damp squib once the Pranav-Sikki duo rallied from 11-17 to snatch the game and led 16-6 in the second.

Earlier, Denmark expectedly won the Women's Doubles and Men's Doubles Titles in keeping with their rankings. The World No. 2 Kamilla Rytter Juhl and Christinna Pedersen needed 38 minutes to pack off Ashwini-Sikki pair 21-16, 21-18.

Then, World No. 3 Mathias Boe and Carsten Mogensen dismissed Chinese Taipei's Lu Ching Yao and Lu Ching Yao 21-14, 21-15.

The Results (all finals):

Men's Singles: Sameer Verma bt B. Sai Praneeth 21-19, 21-16.

Women's Singles: P.V. Sindhu bt Gregoria Mariska (Ina) 21-13, 21-13.

Men's Doubles: Mathias Boe and Carsten Mogensen (Den) bt Lu Ching Yao and Yang Po Han (Tpe) 21-14, 21-15.

Women's Doubles: Kamila Rytter Juhl and Christinna Pedersen (Den) bt Ashwini Ponnappa and N. Sikki Reddy 21-16, 21-18.

Mixed Doubles: Pranav Chopra and N. Sikki Reddy bt B. Sumeeth Reddy and Ashwini Ponnappa 22-20, 21-10.
