

Indian challenge wilts at BWF finale

Dubai, December 20, 2014: The Indian challenge ended on the penultimate day of the BWF Destination Dubai World Superseries Badminton Finals being held at the Hamdan Sports Complex.

Saina Nehwal started off well before succumbing in three sets against Chinese Taipei's Tai Tzu Ying 21-11, 13-21, 9-21, while K Srikanth fought well in the first set before caving in to a 21-18, 21-9 defeat against world champion Chen Long of China in the Men's Singles.



Facing Tai for the ninth time, Nehwal was in control in the opening set that she went on to win 21-11, but Tai fought back to draw level winning the second set 21-13. The third turned out to be a formality of sorts as Tai steamed ahead to win quite comfortably 21-9.

Nehwal was reflective after coming so close to her maiden appearance in the Superseries final. "She [Tai] is in good form at the moment. Maybe I could have played safer and avoided the unforced errors," Nehwal told media.

Stepping in at the last minute as the ninth-ranked player, Tai was pleased at making her second straight entry in the finals. The 20-year-old had lost to China's Shixian Wang in straight sets last year. "It is time to make up for that loss this year," Tai said.

The Chinese Taipei player will take South Korea's Sung Ji Hyun, a 21-13, 21-13 winner over fast-improving Akane Yamaguchi of Japan.

Later in the evening, World Champion Chen Long got the measure of K Srikanth before powering his way to an easy win over the fifth-ranked Indian. Srikanth started off well, mixing aggression with deft touch at the net and was surprisingly up 11-5 at the first set change-over. And just when it looked like Srikanth would walk away with the first set as he led 18-15, the Chen drew on all his experience and took the set 21-18.

In the second set, Chen was the master we know him to be as his opponent made more unforced errors than he can remember. All of a sudden the next king in the making in the sport after the magnificent emperor Lin Dan, Chen was all over the place, to compound Srikanth's woes. Chen led 13-6 in the second session, then 16-7, to stamp his class for a 21-9 win (2-0).



"Chen is in a league of his own but I have the confidence to overcome him one day as I keep learning every day. I have to concentrate a lot harder and try to keep my top 10 status intact for the moment," said Srikanth.

Chen said: "Srikanth plays a unique type of game and this unsettled me initially. For the final I have a different approach in mind which should be more positive from the beginning."

Semi-finals Results

Women's Singles: Tai Tzu Ying (Chinese Taipei) bt Saina Nehwal (India) 11-21, 21-13, 21-9

Women's Singles: Sung Ji Hyun (South Korea) bt Akane Yamaguchi (Japan) 21-13, 21-13

Mixed Doubles: Zhang Nan/Zhao Yunlei (China) bt Chris Adcock/Gabrielle Adcock (England) 21-9, 21-12

Women's Doubles: Misaki Matsutomo/Ayaka Takahashi (Japan) bt Luo Ying/Luo Yu (China) 21-14, 13-21, 21-14

Men's Singles: Chen Long (China) bt K Srikanth (India) 21-18, 21-9
