



# **Li-Ning BWF Thomas & Uber Cup Finals 2014:**

## **Day 3 – Highlights**

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### **Session - 1**

Inspired by the presence of their legend Susi Susanti, Indonesia's Women overcame Singapore 4-1 in the Li-Ning BWF Uber Cup Finals 2014 today.

Korea were dominant over Australia (5-0) while in Thomas Cup Thailand ran into trouble against Singapore but prevailed 4-1 and Indonesia jogged past Nigeria 5-0.

### **Session – 2**

Denmark's young crop of Singles players ensured a Quarter-final place by beating Germany 5-0 in the Li-Ning BWF Thomas & Uber Cup Finals 2014 today.

Japan also triumphed, 4-1 over Malaysia, while in the men's Group B, Japan and Denmark swept aside Hong Kong China and England with identical 5-0 margins.

### **Session – 3**

France clinched a spot in the quarter-finals of the Thomas Cup at the Li-Ning BWF Thomas & Uber Cup Finals 2014 today.

**Super Saina Nehwal beats World Champion Ratchanok Intanon as Indian eves thrash Thailand. India topped Uber Cup Group with an unexpected rout of Thailand.**

China outclassed Chinese Taipei in the other Group tie while Hong Kong China dropped a match in an otherwise one-sided result over Canada.

## **HIGHLIGHTS:**

\* Indonesia's Women would have expected a harder challenge from Singapore. Lindaweni Fanetri powered past Chen Jiayuan 21-15 21-15 to give the lead for Indonesia, which was consolidated by Tiara Rosalia Nuraidah/Suci Rizky Andini over Vanessa Neo/Fu Mingtian, 21-14 21-15. Liang Xiaoyu raised visions of a fightback for Singapore with a combative performance over Bellaetrix Manuputty, 14-21 21-17 21-14. Singapore would have hoped for Yao Lei and Shinta Mulia Sari to challenge Greysia Polii/Nitya Krishinda Maheswari, but the Singaporeans could not raise their game to the required level. Maheswari and Polii fired winners at will while Yao and Sari were scratchy throughout the 21-11 21-8 loss. Maria Febe Kusumastuti closed out the tie beating Fu Mingtian 21-15 21-10. Former Olympic gold medallist Susanti's presence in the stands was obviously an inspiration.

\* Singapore's men were unlucky to fall 1-4 to Thailand. After Boonsak Ponsana had put Thailand ahead in the opening match, Singapore's Chayut Triyachart and Yong Kai Terry Hee held what appeared to be a decisive lead towards the end of the Men's Doubles clash against Sudket Prapakamol and Patiphat Chalardchaleam. The Thais however recovered from deficits of 14-18 and 18-20, eventually saving three match points to prevail 21-16 13-21 23-21. Singapore got a point in the next match when Thailand's Tanongsak Saensomboonsuk (*below*) retired after losing the first game 23-21 to Huang Chao. However, Singapore could not extend the contest into the fourth and fifth matches and Thailand finished comfortably ahead.



\* None of Indonesia's matches against Nigeria lasted over 23 minutes. Indonesia's top three – Tommy Sugiarto, Dionysius Hayom Rumbaka and Simon Santoso – accounted for Jinkan Ifraimu Bulus, Enejoh Abah and Victor Makanju with only Bulus getting into double digits in the second game. World champions Mohammad Ahsan/Hendra Setiawan played at half their pace but were still able to outclass Abah and Makanju 21-8 21-8 to close things out for the powerhouse.

\* Korea's women too were a class above Australia but the latter were close to winning a point. Tang He Tian and Renuga Veeran (**below**) pulled off a second-game win over Jang Ye Na/Kim So Young but could not sustain the momentum as they fell 21-8 20-22 21-15.



\* By the time Sandra-Maria Jensen (**below**) took the court against Germany's Anika Dorr, Denmark had clinched the tie. But Jensen had a point to prove as she had faltered in yesterday's match against Malaysia. The 20-year-old schoolgirl from Copenhagen recovered from a game down to beat Dorr 18-21 21-11 21-16. Line Kjaersfeldt overcame a stiff challenge from Karin Schnaase 23-21 21-18 in the opening singles to give Denmark the lead. It soon became 2-0 when Christinna Pedersen/Kamilla Rytter-Juhl won the match without breaking a sweat as opponents Johanna Goliszewski/Isabel Hertrich retired early into the first game. Another young Denmark recruit, Anna Thea Madsen, provided further evidence of her status as a talent to watch out for, keeping her composure at the end of the third game to win 21-14 12-21 21-17. Line Damkjaer Kruse/Marie Roepke made it 4-0 holding off a strong first game challenge from Birgit Michels/Carla Nelte, 21-19 21-11.



\* Japan's men were given something to think about only in the opening and closing matches of their Group B tie against Hong Kong China. Hu Yun and Ng Ka Long took a game off Kenichi Tago and Sho Sasaki respectively, but both were stopped 21-16 in the third. Hiroyuki Endo (**below**) and Kenichi Hayakawa held off a close challenge from Tang Chun Man/Lee Chun Hei, 21-18 21-19 before Kento Momota put the tie beyond Hong Kong China with a 21-9 21-14 rout of Wei Nan.



\* Denmark were just as dominant over England in the same group, winning the tie without dropping a game. In the first singles, Jan O Jorgensen (**below**) nearly blew his 18-12 lead in the first game as Ouseph pocketed seven points in a row to go up 19-18, but the Dane stopped him there and closed out the match in straight games, 21-19 21-17.



\* Japan suffered an unexpected reversal in their opener when Sayaka Takahashi was downed 22-20 21-19. Jing Yi but that's about as far as Malaysia got. The rest of the Japanese squad ensured there were no more surprises, with Akane Yamaguchi applying the finishing touches to the 4-1 score beating Lim Chew Sien 21-19 21-14.

\* France stole the show in the final session, displaying the same fighting qualities that had served them well in their upset of Chinese Taipei yesterday. They suffered a setback first up when Brice Leverdez, hero of their win over Chinese Taipei, could not extend Vladimir Ivanov in the opening singles. However, Lucas Corvee made it level pegging for the French by getting the better of Vladimir Malkov. Baptiste Carreme/Bastian Kersaudy **(below)** once again delivered for France, recovering from a game down to beat Anatoliy Yartsev/Rodion Kargaev. Thomas Rouxel had won a draining hour-long match against Chinese Taipei, but the young Frenchman showed no signs of fatigue as he took the court against Anton Ivanov. Rouxel maintained the attacking pressure right into the closing stages until Ivanov finally faltered.



\* Saina Nehwal produced one of her finest performances in recent times to guide Indian Women's team to a comfortable victory over Thailand and catapult the hosts to the top of Group Y in the Uber Cup Badminton tournament in New Delhi on Tuesday. It was vintage Saina on display here as the Indian rode on her array of shots and better court coverage to stave off the challenge from World champion Ratchanok Intanon 22-20 21-14 in the first singles to give India a brilliant start against Thailand. Malaysia Grand Prix Gold winner, PV Sindhu then resisted determined fightback by Porntip Buranaprasertsuk from 11-14 to 19-19 in the first game to eventually prevail 21-19 21-14 in a 37-minute match in the second singles to swell India's lead to 2-0.

2011 World Champions Bronze Medallist pair of Jwala and Ashwini, who recently won the Bronze at Asian Championship last month, came up with another superb show to thrash Duanganong Aroonkesorn and Savitree Amitrapai 21-16 21-13 in a 33-minute doubles match.



Thailand earned consolation victories in the next two matches to give the score some respectability at 2-3.

\* Canada's Rachael Honderich (**below**) grabbed the solitary point for Canada in the second singles with a creditable victory over Hong Kong China's Cheung Ying Mei. The Canadian led all the way in the third game to close out the match: 21-8 13-21 21-18. However, Canada lost the next three matches to finish bottom of the group behind India, Thailand and Hong Kong China.



\* China's men had a couple of hiccups against Chinese Taipei. Chai Biao and Hong Wei were taken to three games by Tsai Chia Hsin/Lee Sheng Mu. Olympic and World champion Lin Dan (**below**) lost the first game to Lin Yu Hsien but he had plenty in reserve to emerge victorious, 19-21 21-13 21-14.



After his win, Lin Dan said: "I couldn't play my best in my first game. It was a good test for me as there will be tougher opponents coming up. I just want to focus on this week and play well. I want to finish top eight by end of this year. I'm happy that in this place (Delhi), people are passionate about badminton and come to cheer for me. I really appreciate that."

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