



Li-Ning BWF Thomas & Uber Cup Finals 2014: Day 4 – Highlights

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Session - 1

Indonesia's Men and Women had contrasting results in their final Group matches at the Li-Ning BWF Thomas & Uber Cup Finals 2014 today. While Indonesia's Men topped Group A with a 4-1 result over Thailand, the Women were unlucky to fall by the same score to Korea in Group X.

The other two ties in the morning session were one-sided affairs: Singapore enjoyed 5-0 margins over Australia (Uber Cup Group X) and Nigeria (Thomas Cup Group A).

Session – 2

Malaysia's innovative tactics helped them shock Korea 3-2 and top Group C in the Li-Ning BWF Thomas & Uber Cup Finals 2014 today.

India finished third in the same group after a close 3-2 result over Germany, while in Uber Cup Group Z, Malaysia and Japan enjoyed one-sided wins over Germany and Denmark respectively.

Session – 3

Takuma Ueda guided Japan to a thrilling 3-2 win over Denmark in Group B of the Li-Ning BWF Thomas & Uber Cup Finals 2014.

The last group matches played out today with Hong Kong China beating England 3-2, also in Group B, while in the women's section, China yet again registered a 5-0 result – this time over Chinese Taipei – in Group W while England emerged runners-up in the same group after beating Russia 4-1.

HIGHLIGHTS:

* Indonesia's men suffered an unexpected early setback, with No.5 Tommy Sugiarto falling to Boonsak Ponsana for the first time since 2005. However, Thailand could not match Indonesia's depth. World champions Mohammad Ahsan/Hendra Setiawan took less than half-an-hour to flatten Wannawat Ampunsuwan/Nipitphon Puangpuapech, 21-15 21-14. The next three matches too went Indonesia's way, with Simon Santoso wrapping up the tie, 21-13 21-13 over Thammasin Sitthikom.

* Korea's Women were favourites against Indonesia, but the challengers gave the higher-seeded Koreans a run for their money. Sung Ji Hyun overcame a testy phase against Lindaweni Fanetri to clinch the opening singles, but Korea ran into trouble in both their doubles. Jang Ye Na/Kim So Young (**below**) recovered from a game behind to hold off Nitya Krishinda Maheswari/ Greysia Polii, 12-21 21-18 21-18. After Bae Yeon Ju made it 3-0 for Korea, Jung Kyun Eun/Kim Ha Na ran into the feisty duo Tiara Rosalia Nuraidah/Suci Rizky Andini. Although behind in the rankings by 48 places, the Indonesians threw themselves into the contest with gusto, with Andini in particular firing smash after smash from the back and nearly taking the contest away from the No.8 Koreans. Korea had four match points, but watched in desperation as Andini and Nuraidah inched to within a point. A misunderstanding between the two saw Jung/Kim clinch the final point for a 20-22 22-20 21-19 victory.



* Singapore's women earned a consolation win over Australia to finish third in Group X. Chen Jiayuan swept aside Tara Pilven (**below**) in the opening match before Yao Lei/Shinta Mulia Sari enjoyed a 21-18 21-12 verdict over Renuga Veeran/Tang He Tian. Liang Xiaoyu put the tie out of Australia's reach by beating Verdet Kessler 21-10 21-15.



* Singapore's men too finished third in their group, getting the better of Nigeria without dropping a game. The longest match of the five was the third singles, in which Sean Lee (**below**) spent 28 minutes outplaying Victor Makanju 21-18 21-12. Sean Lee later combined with Huang Chao to win the fifth point for Singapore, 21-10 21-12 over Jinkan Ifraimu Bulus/Ola Fagbemi.



* It was the Malaysia-Korea tie that was the highlight of the session. World No.1 Lee Chong Wei was his usual self in breaking open Son Wan Ho's defences in a 21-17 21-17 result. Just as they had in an earlier tie against India, Malaysia innovated with their doubles combinations, pairing Tan Boon Heong with Hoon Thien How and Hoon's regular partner Tan Wee Kiong with Goh V Shem. Lee Yong Dae and Yoo Yeon Seong had their hands full against Tan/Hoon but made it level pegging for Korea after a narrow 21-19 21-19 win. The pivotal third match rested on Chong Wei Feng for Malaysia and Lee Dong Keun for Korea. Chong Wei Feng has had an exceptional tournament with wins over India's Kashyap Parupalli and Germany's Dieter Domke, and the Malaysian once again stepped up to the plate with a 77-minute victory over Lee Dong Keun. Malaysia fielded their second innovative combination – Tan Wee Kiong with Goh V Shem – in the second doubles against established pair Kim Ki Jung/Kim Sa Rang. The experiment worked wonders as the world No.4 Koreans were shocked 21-17 21-19 by the scratch combination. Soo Hwang Joo ensured a second point for Korea beating Goh Soon Huat 23-21 21-15.

* Japan's all-round strength was on display in their tie against Denmark. Minatsu Mitani gave the Japanese a lead, which was built upon by Misaki Matsutomo/Ayaka Takahashi, who got the better of Christinna Pedersen/Kamilla Rytter-Juhl after a year. Sayaka Takahashi made it 3-0 for Japan holding off Sandra-Maria Jensen 21-16 11-21 21-11. After Marie Røpke/Line Kruse pulled one back for Denmark, Akane Yamaguchi survived stiff resistance from Mia Blichfeldt **(below)** 21-9 16-21 21-18 to make it 4-1 for Japan.



* Tee Jing Yi won her third straight match of the competition, leading Malaysia to a 5-0 whitewash of Germany in Uber Cup Group Z. Tee outplayed Karin Schnaase in the opening singles which set the tone for the rest of the team. Not even the experienced German duo of Birgit Michels/Karin Schnaase could pull things around for the Germans as they were beaten 21-13 21-19 by Amelia Alicia Anscelly/Soong Fie Cho.

* India's Thomas Cup team, which had disappointed the crowd despite high expectations, managed to finish third in Group C, with Guru Sai Dutt winning his third straight match. Germany had the advantage after Dieter Domke got the better of Kashyap Parupalli in the second singles, but Akshay Dewalkar/Pranaav Jerry Chopra brought India level before Guru Sai Dutt **(below)** once again rose to the occasion against Lukas Schmidt, 14-21 21-19 21-19.



* The Japan-Denmark tie was a high-intensity clash. Kenichi Tago struck first for Japan with a commanding show of pace and power over Jan O Jorgensen. The Japanese shot off to a big lead early in the match and never let it slip as Jorgensen struggled to contain his rival's explosive bursts. Denmark's doubles pair Mads Conrad-Petersen/Mads Pieler Kolding surprised world No.3 Hiroyuki Endo/Kenichi Hayakawa in three games before Kento Momota gave Japan the lead by beating Viktor Axelsen 21-19 21-19. Keigo Sonoda and Takeshi Kamura might have fancied their chances against scratch combination Carsten Mogensen and Joachim Fischer Nielsen **(below)**, but the Danes blew them apart with a near-perfect display. With the adventurous Fischer constantly making forays at the net, and Mogensen firing smashes from the back, it was smooth sailing all the way for the Danes, 21-13 21-13. Takuma Ueda prevented a sticky situation for Japan by closing out his contest against Emil Holst in straight games, 21-13 22-20.



* England finished second in Uber Cup Group W after an authoritative performance over Russia. Ksenia Polikarpova won the second match to bring Russia level at 1-1, but it was downhill for Russia from there. Following Fontaine Mica Chapman's victory in the opener, Panuga Riou, Gabrielle Adcock/Lauren Smith and Heather Olver/Kate Robertshaw **(below)** ensured a 4-1 score for England. The most exciting of these matches was the fifth match, which Olver/Robertshaw won after saving match point against Anastasia Chervaykova/Ekanerina Bolotova, 21-15 19-21 23-21.



* Chinese Taipei's campaign ended with a 0-5 rout at the hands of China. Except Pai Yu Po, none of the Taipei players could stretch the Chinese. Li Xuerui set the pace for China, shutting out Tai Tzu Ying 21-16 21-12 in 30 minutes. The rest of China's formidable squad brooked no resistance. Pai Yu Po **(below)** took a game off Wang Yihan in the final match, but that's about as far as she could go with Wang winning 18-21 21-17 21-11.



*In the Thomas Cup, Hong Kong China relegated England to bottom of Group B, with their three singles players coming good. Wei Nan, Wong Wing Ki and Ng Ka Long were straight-games winners over Rajiv Ouseph, Rhys Walker and Sam Parsons respectively. England asserted their doubles strength through Chris Adcock/Andrew Ellis and Chris Langridge/Peter Mills.
