



## **Li-Ning BWF Thomas & Uber Cup Finals 2014:** **Day 2 – Highlights**

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### **Session - 1**

**On the Men's side, Indonesia and Thailand had no problems in dealing with Singapore and Nigeria respectively, with identical 5-0 scores in the first session on the second day at the Li-Ning BWF Thomas Cup Finals 2014.**

**China were undisturbed in a 5-0 whitewash of England while Chinese Taipei overcame Russia 4-1 in Uber Cup action.**

### **Session - 2**

**Denmark's Women escaped from a tight spot against Malaysia in a match of the Li-Ning BWF Uber Cup Finals. The Danes just about scraped through 3-2, but Group favourites Japan had no such problems as they blanked Germany 5-0.**

**In the Men's section, Korea proved too strong for India, winning 3-2, while Malaysia registered a 4-1 score over Germany**

### **Session - 3**

**Brice Leverdez inspired France to an upset over Chinese Taipei in the Men's Group at the Li-Ning BWF Thomas Cup Finals 2014 today.**

**China cruised 5-0 over Russia in the same Group, while India and Thailand proved their superiority over Hong Kong China and Canada with scores of 4-1 and 5-0 respectively.**

## **HIGHLIGHTS:**

\* Although Thailand's victory over Nigeria was never in doubt, the Nigerians did give a good account of themselves in a couple of matches. After Boonsak Ponsana started the ball rolling for the Thais with a clinical 21-15 21-7 victory over Jinkan Ifraimu Bulus, Thailand's second singles player Tanongsak Saensomboonsuk ran into some trouble against Enejoh Abah. Abah proved a feisty opponent against the left-hander, as he recovered from a first game loss to take the second 21-17. Saensomboonsuk did not allow the match to slide any further as he closed it out, 21-17 17-21 21-8. Thailand clinched the tie with Suppanyu Avihingsanon cruising past Victor Makanju, 21-7 21-14. Bulus and Ola Fagbemi entertained the crowd with their resistance to experienced Thai pair Sudket Prapakamol/Nipitphon Puangpuapech. For fleeting moments they matched the Thais with their robust attacking play, but were unable to prevent the inevitable, 21-16 21-16.

\* Chinese Taipei's women, minus their best player Tai Tzu Ying, had suffered an upset to England yesterday. Tai returned to work today and ensured there were no other surprises in store as she led the Team to a one-sided win over Russia. Evgeniya Kosetskaya and Ekanerina Bolotova provided the consolation win for Russia in the first doubles, 21-23 21-17 21-12, over Wang Pei Rong/Kuo Yu Wen.

\* China's women recorded their second 5-0 result in a row, routing England without losing a game. The world's top three women – Li Xuerui, Wang Shixian and Wang Yihan – wrapped up their contests in under 31 minutes, while the doubles pairs of Bao Yixin/Tang Jinhua and Zhao Yunlei/Wang Xiaoli took slightly longer in clearing England's resistance.

\* Indonesia's Thomas Cup campaign started on the right track, despite their top singles player Tommy Sugiarto losing a game to Singapore's Derek Wong. Sugiarto overcame the setback to win the contest over Wong, 21-11 17-21 21-15. Indonesia had no further problems in the rest of the tie and comeback man Simon Santoso clinched the final point beating Lee Kwan Ting Sean 21-16 22-20.

\* The Denmark-Malaysia Uber Cup match was poised on a fine edge all through. Tee Jing Yi set Malaysia on the right path, closing out her opening singles against Line Kjaersfeldt 21-14 22-20. Denmark's Christinna Pedersen and Kamilla Rytter Juhl paid Malaysia back in the same coin, taking just 33 minutes to destroy the challenge of Vivian Hoo/Woon Khe Wei, 21-17 21-10. The pivotal singles match between Denmark's Anna Thea Madsen and Yang Li Liang turned out to be a cracker of a match, ending in a climactic tussle. Madsen, playing with confidence despite her inexperience, surged to a 19-15 lead, but then watched Yang claw level. The Dane kept her head to nail the last

two points and give her team a 2-1 lead. Although Marie Roepke and Line Damkjaer Kruse were ahead of Lee Meng Yean/Lim Yin Loo in ranking and experience, the Malaysians gave them a fright. They stuck close to the Danes in the third game and were tied at 19-all, but Kruse and Roepke shot past them in the end to clinch the match 19-21 21-16 21-19. The last match featured two youngsters – Sandra Maria Jensen against Malaysia’s Lim Yin Fun. The match was as tense as the preceding ones and as it drew to a close, the tension started to show with both finding it difficult to keep the shuttle in play. Ultimately, it was Jensen’s reluctance to attack under pressure that did her in and Lim emerged victorious, 21-15 14-21 21-19.

\* Japan’s all-round strength powered them past Germany, with only the opening singles offering some solace to the Germans. Karin Schnaase took a game off Minatsu Mitani but it was all downhill from there for the Germans. World Junior champion Akane Yamaguchi completed the formalities for Japan by beating Alina Hammes 21-9 21-17.

\* India’s tie against Korea hinged on the opening singles between Srikanth Kidambi and Son Wan Ho. With Korea packing too large a punch in their doubles, India had to win all the three singles matches. Srikanth had a 2-0 record going into the match, but he couldn’t pull it off today. Son held him off, 17-21 21-12 21-18, and even though Kashyap Parupalli won the second singles over Lee Dong Keun to make it 1-2 for India, Korea wrapped up the tie when Kim Ki Jung/Kim Sa Rang blitzed Akshay Dewalkar/Pranaav Jerry Chopra, 21-16 21-16.

\* Malaysia clinched their second match in a row beating Germany 4-1, but the tie was closer than the score suggested. Lee Chong Wei was untroubled by Marc Zwiebler, but Tan Boon Heong/Tan Wee Kiong were tested by Johannes Schoettler/Michael Fuchs in three close games. Chong Wei Feng then pulled off a great escape against Dieter Domke from 13-19 and match point down in the second game before edging past in the third, 19-21 22-20 23-21.

\* Leverdez brilliantly handled his twin responsibilities in singles and second doubles. He held off Chou Tien Chen in the opening match, coming from behind to cinch the final game in a tightly-fought match, 21-19 11-21 21-19. Hsu Jen Hao levelled scores for Taipei, overcoming Lucas Corvee in another three-game encounter, 17-21 21-16 21-10. Tseng Min Hao and Liao Min Chun swung the tie Taipei’s way with a comfortable 22-20 21-13 verdict over Gaetan Mittelheisser/Bastian Kersaudy, 22-20 21-13. The second singles was again as tight as the first. Thomas Rouxel edged past Taipei’s Shih Kuei Chun in the second and third games to bring France back into the tie: 20-22 21-19 21-19. However, the Frenchmen made light of the difference in ranking with a stunning 21-14 13-21 21-14 result.

\* Russia's Men sparkled on occasions in their tie against China. Vladimir Malkov and Anton Ivanov, despite losing their singles to Chen Long and Du Pengyu respectively in straight games, had their moments with their aggressive game. Russia came closest to bagging a point when European champions Vladimir Ivanov and Ivan Sozonov matched Liu Xiaolong/Qiu Zihan until late in the third game, but the Chinese kept their slate clean with a 19-21 21-17 21-18 victory.

\* India's had a surprisingly easy tie against Hong Kong China in Group Y. Saina Nehwal, Ashwini Ponnappa/Jwala Gutta and Sindhu PV made it 3-0 for India before Chan Tsz Ka and Tse Ying Suet earned a consolation win for Hong Kong China over Sikki Reddy/Pradnya Gadre.

\* Thailand were similarly untroubled by Canada. Porntip Buranaprasertsuk led the Thai challenge in place of Ratchanok Intanon and earned the first point against Joycelyn Ko, 21-8 21-10. Canada were able to take a game off Thailand in the second doubles, but Sapsiree Taerattanachai/Puttita Supajirakul shrugged off the setback against Grace Gao/Rachael Honderich, 21-15 21-23 21-14.

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