





## Kwun's Column: How to avoid/identify fake Yonex badminton Rackets, part I

Yonex is the most popular badminton racket brand out there. Due to their popularity, there are many counterfeit Yonex badminton rackets in the market. Over the years we have seen many people gotten cheated by fake rackets. Here is how to identify and avoid getting cheated. Firstly, we want to make a distinction between fake racket and what we called Clonex rackets.



"Fake" are manufactured to look exactly like Yonex rackets, bearing the Yonex logo. The purpose of the fake is to fool consumer to believe that they are getting a genuine product.

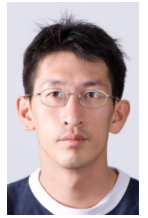
"Clonex" are non-Yonex branded rackets that are made to look similar to a Yonex, but not bearing the Yonex logo. Example of Clonex rackets are Winex, Apacs, etc.

If it is too good to be true, then it is." - The first criteria for determining if a racket is genuine Yonex is to look at the price. Don't be lured by the low price. Nobody will sell you a genuine racket at a loss. If you see a racket going for 60% of the original price or less, likely you are getting a fake product.

"Location, location" - Authorized Yonex dealers are the best places to get Yonex rackets; you are guaranteed to get the

real thing. On the other hand, don't expect to get the genuine one if you choose to shop at street corner vendor in China. Genuine Yonex in China cost as much as in the US so don't be fooled by the low price. eBay is also another dangerous place to shop for Yonex rackets. 90% of the rackets sold on eBay are fake.

Next month we will go into how to identify a fake racket from its physical property.



**Kwun Han**

Founder of the popular badminton website [BadmintonCentral.com](http://BadmintonCentral.com).



## GGBC Daddy and Me of The Month: Johnnie and Fiona

11-year-old Fiona has found a better social networking site than MySpace or Facebook. She enjoys visiting this site so much that she could spend up to 12 hours a day there. Her father, Johnnie, does not worry because the site is not in virtual space, but instead, in a real building, where kids can play and meet their friends. The "site" is GGBC.

stayed until 11PM!

For Fiona, concentrating on one sport for 12 hours is not a problem even though she is just 11 years old, unlike others of her age who have short attention spans. Not even adults can match her dedication to badminton. There were many times when her Dad wanted to leave the club for dinner, but she refused, instead asking him to bring food back to her.

When at the club, she always follows GGBC's rule for queuing, setting a good example for others. When asked about this, she said "You have to tie your hair, otherwise it might get in the ball." A considerate kid like this is hard to find.

Since it is difficult to get kids to play badminton these days, just how did Johnnie do it? As a badminton lover himself, he made it a point to take three of his children, Fiona and her younger sister and brother, to play with him. Of the three, Fiona showed the greatest interest in badminton and has improved steadily. Now she wants to play everyday.

"My way of encouraging their interest in badminton is to give them a chance to try it out to see if they like it," said Johnnie. He goes on to say, "It happened to be Fiona who liked badminton more than my other kids. Maybe she inherited my badminton gene? Badminton is my favorite sport. I don't want to play anything else."

Here is how Fiona describes why she enjoys badminton so much, "I get to play with my friends and to meet new friends. It is fun. I learn a lot from it. Even if none of my friends are there, I will still go to play."

When asked how she can stay at the gym for so many hours, she replied, "Because my friends are there. I play with them."

Fiona has a goal. "When I grow up, I want to be a professional badminton player and win some awards," she said. With this in mind, her Dad is thinking about registering Fiona for some upcoming tournaments. Good luck to her!



There is no doubt that GGBC has become a hot social networking site among kids and teenagers. Unlike the Internet, young people

have a legitimate reason to go to GGBC: to play badminton and learn teamwork.

Every weekend, Fiona and her Dad go to GGBC's facility in Oakland (G2) together. They usually arrive around noon and stay until the club closes. In fact, on the first few days that G2 opened, they were so excited that they arrived at 11AM and



## Tony Gunawan: Promoting Badminton into Mainstream

*How do you foresee the US promoting badminton into a more mainstream sport and finding more sponsorship etc..? What do you think needs to be done in order to create more interest and find more talent?*

**Well, lots of things need to be done. Winning a medal in Olympic is certainly one great way to promote the sport. Having more clubs open and more inter-clubs competitions (especially for juniors) is also one way to create awareness for**

**the sport being played competitively. Getting college scholarships will attract more junior players to compete too. Right now, the most important thing is to have more funding for top US players (both adults and juniors) to**

**compete internationally.**

Tony Gunawan, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 08

*Tony answers more GG questions in next months issues!*



## Tang's Badminton "HOMEWORK"



Hi, I am coach Jade Tang Jie Yun . I would like to introduce some techniques of badminton practice at home.

First, you can practice swinging the racquet anytime, anywhere. A good way to practice is to hang a shuttlecock, with a string, from the ceiling and take your practice swings hitting it. Practice the high clear

and smash. Always make sure to maintain the proper posture and racquet face position when practicing. Try for a goal of taking 300-500 practice swings a day. With repetition, you will gain more confidence with your strokes, and in a short six months, you will see the extra effort pay off in competition.

Second, when practicing a smash, it is a good idea to vary the strength of your stroke, sometimes strong, other times light, to see where the shuttlecock goes. When your posture or the racquet face position is wrong, the direction of the shuttlecock and the sound it makes provide the immediate feedback that you need to correct your swing.



Jade Tang Jie Yun was an ex-team member of the Guang Dong National badminton team in China from 1985 to 1996. She was also a member of China Junior Badminton Team from 1989 to 1992, China Badminton Team in 1993 and China National Badminton Team from 1994 - 1995.

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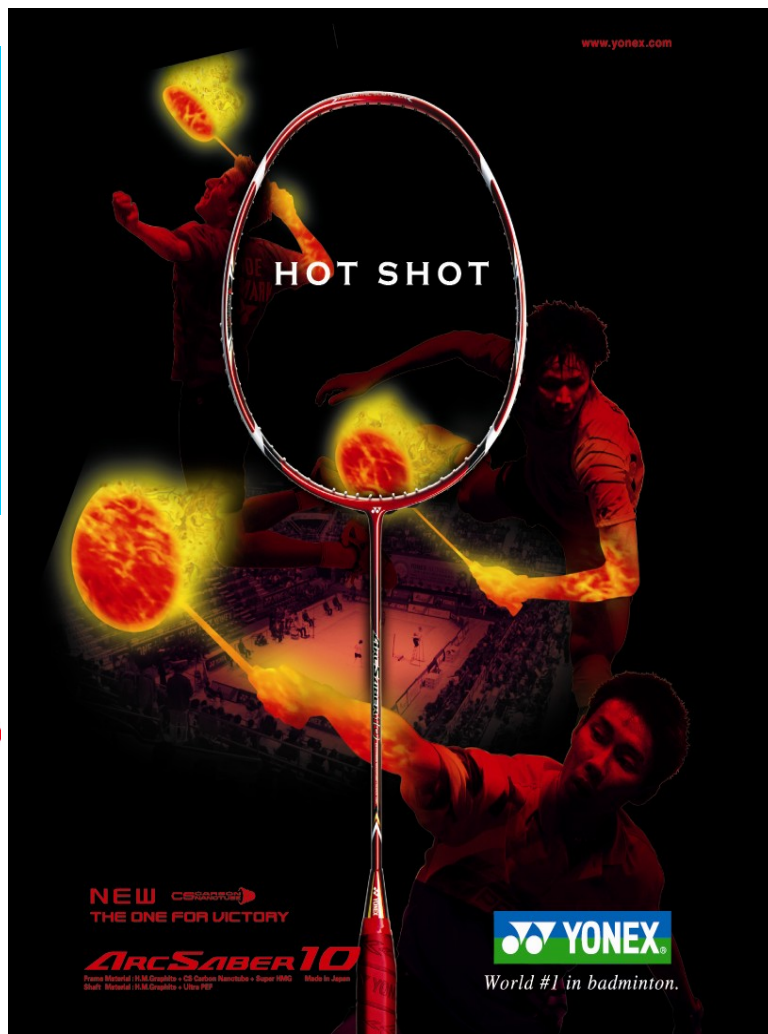
April 4th, Friday to April 6th, Sunday  
Venue : GGBC 1, Menlo Park

 **Inter-Club Tournament (Emeryville)  
GGBCS Little Star Friendship Tournament**

Date: April 27th, Sunday: 1:00PM to 4:00PM

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No holidays in April



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