





## Kwun's Column: The Mystery of the Yonex Racket Code

Has anybody wondered what the strange looking code on a Yonex racket mean?

All Yonex rackets manufactured after around year 1999 have two sets of code. The codes are near the shaft and cone junction. eg. 6013263 270376US.

The numeric code on the shaft is the sequentially increasing unique serial number.

The code on the cone is the date and distribution code. The date code tells us the manufacture date of the racket in the format:

DDMMYx, where DD=day, MM=month, Y=year. eg. 270376 = March 27, 2007. The two characters following is the distribution code. This is the location where the racket is being distributed to. Many people mistaken this as the manufacture location, this is absolutely not true. The

manufacture location is printed as "Made in Japan/Taiwan/China" on other parts of the racket.

Check your Yonex racket to find out what date they are manufactured. If the date specified does not make any sense, eg. 802892SP, then that means that you might have a fake racket in your hand.

The last bit of mystery is the last number on the date

code DDMMYx. The "x" is an unknown value whose meaning we have not been able to decipher. If someone can figure it out, feel free to email me. There are many theories, but none has been proven yet.



**Kwun Han**

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



## A COUPLE WHO PLAYS TOGETHER...STAYS TOGETHER



What are the benefits of playing badminton? It is fun, good exercise, and you may just find your soul mate!

Yan was born in China and his wife, Mai, was born in Vietnam. They are now a couple, and they have badminton to thank for bringing them together. In 2000, they were both playing badminton at Evergreen Valley College, but had not yet met. During a break in play, Yan heard Mai say to someone, "I don't speak Cantonese"

with a non-native Cantonese accent. He thought it was interesting and decided to approach her. They talked for a while and at the end, Yan asked for her email, and she gave it to him.

Yan pursued Mai vigorously and she fell in love with him in three short months. They dated for six years after that and last year, they were married.

They enjoy playing badminton together. Yan is not only Mai's playing partner, but also her coach. "It

takes patience for a couple to play together", both said. Mai appreciates that even though Yan is a much better player, he never gets upset with her. When asked whether he gets upset when Mai misses a shot, Yan said "I have become used to it, so it is OK."

"You simply can't take the anger home," said Mai. "Yan encourages and praises me when I hit a good shot. We enjoy playing together and it brings us much closer."



## Sally's Badminton: I AM A BADMINTONHOLIC!

I always questioned people with an addiction. HOW does anyone get addicted to ANYTHING? Well, now I know. I must finally admit, that I've become, what Kwun called last month, "A Badmintonholic". There should be a "Badmintonholics Anonymous Association", for those of us who swat the birdie restlessly during our sleep, keep playing when our legs feel like jello, & most exhilarating, play till 3:00AM at any 24 hour convenience club such as VRC in Vancouver, BC. These might be negatives to being a badmintonholic but I'd like to share the many benefits!

I find this game totally twilight zone. What other game is so accessible for all levels? Can save you from skin can-

cer? Anti-Seasonal, rain, sleet, snow, cold...? Doesn't need a small village to play like soccer, baseball, basketball etc? Meet so many friends you can't remember all the names. Makes you laugh or cry so hard your stomach hurts. Puts a little puddle around your feet in 5 minutes? Be D- level, & partner with Olympian level (God willing of course), and makes you think YOU had something to do with WINNING the game! Makes you skinny without jumping around in the same spot for 45 minutes, or running alone against a TV or traffic.

I find this game equally mentally stimulating. The art of anticipation or reflex was never in my dictionary. After badminton, my reflexes act

on turbo. Once, someone knocked a cup over and I grabbed it faster than the Matrix guy I swear! Mike once told me he felt Jinsong had mastered anticipating 4 shots ahead, meaning he had to know FOUR shots ahead, what the next 4 shots would be, and his body would BE THERE, to get those shots. That's why those guys are so darn fast. Gotta THINK FAST! Ah.. but how?? Well.. I'm trying to manage 1 shot ahead but hey.. that's progress! I know badminton is 85% mental because when I serve during a tournament I notice that my hands are shaking. That means my brain must be shaking as well as my legs, and that's before I even start the game!

But whatever it is about this

obsession... It is one I truly ENJOY and hope will last as long as my body and mind can handle the excitement. And I do wish to find more Badminton-holics to share experiences of our adrenaline pumping, mind boggling addiction! I'm just grateful I'm not addicted to ... Chocolate or something! :) )



**Sally Yeh**

Sally Yeh is the current official Ambassador of the HKBA, HK Badminton Association, and BWF Badminton World Federation.



## GG Coaching Tips: Lili's Power



Why don't you have power on your smash or clear? There are two main effects that prevent you from getting with power:

1. Grip: One common mistake is people always position their "V" (between the thumb and the index finger)

along the wider side of the handle.

The correct grip is the shake hand grip. Put the palm of the hand against the face of the racket and then slide it down to the grip.

The second mistake is holding your racket too tight or too loose. Much of the power comes from holding

the racket with the slightly loose grip and squeezing the fingers as you hit. If the grip is too loose, the racket will move as you hit the bird. If the grip is too tight, you can't squeeze the fingers as you hit.

2. Movements: Let's focus on the last part of your movement. They are forearm, wrist, and fingers movements.

First you extend your arm in the throwing motion, and as you hit the bird you squeeze the fingers but you don't over snap your wrist.

There are also other factors which can affect the power, like the right foot uses, lack of the arm strength, wrong timing, and body position, etc.



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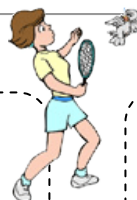
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## Events & Holidays



### Special Event, Demo Night

#### Black Knight Demo Night (Menlo Park) :

March 4th, Tuesday: 6:00PM to 9:00PM

#### Wilson Demo Night (Emeryville) :

March 7th, Friday: 6:00PM to 9:00PM



### Inter-Club Tournament (Menlo Park)

#### GGBCS Gold Friendship Tournament

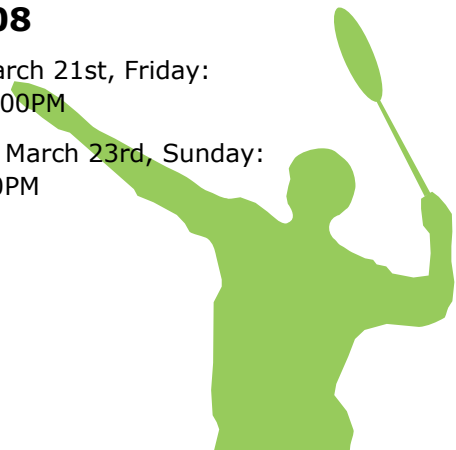
Date: March 30th , Sunday: 1:00PM to 4:00PM



### Holidays Operation Hours in March, 2008

Good Friday, March 21st, Friday:  
10:00AM to 11:00PM

Easter Sunday, March 23rd, Sunday:  
9:00AM to 9:00PM



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