

POST'S
GUIDE
to the
PAN AM
GAMES



BADMINTON

GUIDE TO THE GAMES

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Venue

Atos Markham Pan Am/Parapan Am Centre.

Venue acronym

MAR

Landmark status

Medium

This venue was built specifically for the Games and includes a triple gymnasium and an Olympic-sized pool. Following the Games, it will become a multi-purpose community centre. In addition, it's located near downtown Unionville, which colleague Eric Koreen points out was a stand-in for the fictional town Stars Hollow during the shooting of the pi-

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lot for the TV show *Gilmore Girls*.

Other events at venue

Table tennis (including Parapan Am) and water polo

Transit options

From the Union Station GO bus terminal board the 71C Lincolnville bus and exit at YMCA Boulevard and Kennedy Road (stop called Markham) and walk a short distance to the venue. From Downsview Station, board the 71F Stouffville GO bus (toward Centennial).

For exact directions, try:

Triplinx.ca

[TTC trip planner](#)

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Schedule

July 11 Rounds of 64 and 32 matches

July 12 Round of 16

July 13 Quarter-finals

July 14 Semifinals

July 15 Men's and women's doubles finals

July 16 Men's and women's singles finals, mixed doubles final

[See the full competition schedule at the Pan Am website](#)

How it works

Thinking of the breezy, relaxed game played at the cottage won't help here. World-class badminton has players moving cross the court at a rapid pace with the shuttlecock reportedly able to travel faster than 300 km/h.

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Like tennis, players use a variety of shots — forehand, backhand, overhead smash — to move their opponent around the court and set up for a winner.

Nations competing

18

Canada's team

Alex Bruce, Toronto; Phyllis Chan Vancouver; Andrew D'Souza, Ottawa; Rachel Honderich, Toronto; Michelle Li, Markham, Ont.; Toby Ng, Richmond, B.C. (Before the Games, Adrian Liu, Prince Rupert, B.C., and Derrick Ng, Richmond, B.C., were disqualified from competition for breaking world badminton federation entry rules).

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Tournament format

Following a qualification round, the singles draw is cut to 32 competitors while the doubles event begins at the round of 16. Players (or partners) advance by winning their match until the field is narrowed to the semifinalists. Winners of the semifinal play for the gold and losers of both receive a bronze medal.

Results from 2011 Pan Ams

Women's singles

1. Michelle Li, Canada; 2. Joycelyn Ko, Canada; 3. Claudia Rivero, Peru and Victoria Montero, Mexico

Men's singles

1. Kevin Cordon, Guatemala; 2. Osleni Guerrero, Cuba; 3. Daniel Paiola, Brazil and Charles Pyne, Jamaica

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Women's doubles

1. Alex Bruce, Michelle Li, Canada; 2. Iris Wang, Rena Wang, U.S.; 3. Grace Gao, Joycelyn Ko, Canada and Eva Lee, Paula Obanana, U.S.

Men's doubles

1. Howard Bach, Tony Gunawan, U.S.; 2. Halim Ho, Sattawat Pongnairat, U.S.; 3. Adrian Liu, Derrick Ng, Canada and Lopez Andres, Lino Munoz, Mexico

Mixed doubles

1. Toby Ng, Grace Gao, Canada; 2. Halmi Ho, Eva Lee, U.S.; 3. Rodrigo Pacheco, Claudia Rivero, Peru and Howard Bach, Paula Lynn Obanana, U.S.

Why it's worth watching

Badminton may not be among the top-watched sports in North

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America but it's hugely popular in Asian countries — and for good reason. It can match the intensity of a tennis match but badminton is even faster — it's the quickest of the racket sports — and rallies tend to last longer than those in tennis. Canada's badminton team is hoping to showcase the sport at the Games and demonstrate it's more than just a backyard pastime.

Competition outlook

Most of the world powers in badminton are Asian nations. Within the Americas, the United States and Canada are the top two, ranked 17th and 18th respectively. In the 2011 Pan Am Games, Canada and the U.S. tied with six medals each, but Canada edged

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the Americans with three gold medals in the event. The disqualification of the 2011 men's doubles bronze medallists for Canada will hurt the medal count.