Warrior Badminton Club hosts first Winter Tournament

The Winter Tournament took place over the course of one week, and winners received donuts as the prize.

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STAFF WRITER

Warrior Badminton Club hosted its first Winter Tournament during lunch in the South Gym Nov. 4 to Nov. 8.

Founded this school year by President Yoyo Zhang, Troy Badminton Club hosts practices every other Friday during lunch in the South Gym. Members participate in practices ranging from freeplay to competitive games.

Club Vice President Aiden Lim proposed the idea for a club tournament in September and board members began discussing logistics. Publicist Kate Chen and Secretary Dina Zhang decorated posters advertising the tournament while Y. Zhang and Treasurer Audrey Donn made registration forms. Lim oversaw the tournament organization and made brackets for the order of teams. Signups opened for members on Oct. 21.

During the organization process of the tournament, the board faced scheduling issues. The original plan was to host the games from Oct. 28 to Oct. 31, but the club members had scheduling conflicts, so Badminton Club board members moved the tournament to the following week.



PHOTO BY ANASTASIA EFREMOVA

FORMIDABLE FINALISTS: *Sissi Feng, Junting Li, Tiger Chen and Bonmin Gu face off in the last game of the tournament.*

The tournament consisted of six teams in pairs playing matches against one another each day, with the winning team advancing to the next game. If a team did not arrive fifteen minutes before the lunch period ended, they automatically forfeited. The team with the most points won a match if it was not completed by the end of lunch. At the end of the week, the team who won the most games won the tournament.

Teams played the first two rounds up to 15 points, and every day after that increased by 5 points. In preparation, board members had to thoroughly plan rules and regulations for the tournament, D. Zhang said.

"For the past couple of weeks, we have been making teams," D. Zhang said. "[Then], we made a bracket, so people know who they are playing against, [along] with a schedule [for each team]."

The winners of the 2024 Badminton Winter Tournament were Tiger Chen and Bonmin Gu, who played the final game on Nov. 8 against Sissi Feng and Junting Li, winning the thirty-point match and coming first in the tournament.

The board faced challenges on the first day with some players not being present for their games. Board dealt with the problem by disqualifying those people and creating new brackets with the players present. Going forward, the club plans to send out confirmation emails to the participating teams before the tournament starts. In the future, Badminton Club hopes to get more teams to participate, Lim said.

"I would love to continue [the tournament] in the future," Lim said. "Some changes I am making are making the brackets easier to understand, [as] it was a little confusing [this time]."

Badminton Club aims to host at least two tournaments per school year, as well as collaborate with other schools' Badminton clubs and teams to provide students with a more engaging experience.

The club will be hosting a fundraiser to finance more tournaments in the future. The Winter Tournament itself is free of charge to all members, as the club tried to make it as accessible as possible. The Winter Tournament was created to promote badminton as a sport, Y. Zhang said.

"The goal of the tournament is to keep our members motivated through competition," Y. Zhang said. "[And] to encourage people to join and play [in our club]."

According to D. Zhang, joining the club can expose people to the fun of badminton and lead them to find enjoyment and discover a new interest in the sport.

"I never really got into badminton before this, but now I have discovered a new hobby," D. Zhang said. "Originally I joined [the] club to support my friend, the president, but now I think badminton is a very fun sport, and I want more people to join in on the fun."