

February 19, 2009

## Eagles Badminton Earn Back-To-Back Silver Medals



(Surrey, BC) – With the 2008-2009 British Columbia Colleges’ Athletic Association (BCCAA) badminton season now in the books, the Kwantlen Eagles can look back at a history making performance.

The badminton team, featuring a mix of veterans and rookies, established themselves as a dominant force in the BCCAA as they proceeded to win a second consecutive silver medal at the BCCAA badminton championships in Kamloops last weekend. In addition, the Eagles squad also earned a record number of individual medalists with four different medalists.

“Obviously I’m happy with our performance and the outcome” commented head coach Dave Cruthers. “With Douglas [College] in our league, we were up against one of the strongest team in the country and we knew it was going to be tough to beat them. However, I knew from the beginning of the season that we had the potential to earn another medal.”

Leading the way for the Eagles was rookie sensation Peter Huang (Taiwan) and third-year Leah Rihela (Surrey). The pair earned a silver medal in the mixed doubles event, losing in three close games (21-18, 18-21, 16-21). Despite participating primarily in men’s singles throughout the year, Cruthers decided to play Huang in mixed doubles. “We decided that playing Peter in mixed doubles gave us a best chance to win a gold medal” remarked Cruthers. “After winning the first game, I thought that our change in strategy had paid off; but in the end, Douglas showed why they are the champs.”

In addition to Huang and Rihela’s silver medal, the Eagles also earned three bronze medals. Gurdeep Basran (Langley) earned a bronze medal in women’s singles, repeating her performance from last year’s provincial tournament. The Eagles were able to score their second bronze, in men’s doubles, through the efforts of Simon Wu (Taiwan) and Willis Kwee (Richmond). The Eagles’ last medal was collected in the women’s doubles event as Grace Whang (Surrey) & Asami Sugisaki (Japan) battled to a third game heartbreaker (22-24, 21-17, 15-21) against a team from the tournament hosts, Thompson Rivers University.

For the complete results from the BCCAA provincial championship, visit [www.bccaa.ca](http://www.bccaa.ca)

Final results from the BCCAA provincial championship:

<b>Team</b>	<b>Final Rank</b>	<b>Total Points</b>
Douglas	1	1318
Kwantlen	2	928
VIU	3	784
TRU	4	742
Langara	5	572
Capilano	6	285

**BCCAA Medalists**

Peter Huang & Leah Rihela – Silver – Mixed Doubles

Gurdeep Basran – Bronze – Women's Singles

Simon Wu & Willis Kwee – Bronze – Men's Doubles

Grace Whang & Asami Sugisaki – Bronze – Women's Doubles