



## **Li-Ning BWF Thomas & Uber Cup Finals 2014:** **Day 1 - Highlights**

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### **Session - 1**

**In Thomas Cup Denmark got off to a strong start beating Hong Kong China 4-1 in an opening Group B encounter of the Li-Ning BWF Thomas & Uber Cup Finals 2014 today.**

**The other tie from the same group ended with Japan easing past England with an identical score.**

**In Uber Cup Indonesia and Korea blanked Australia and Singapore with identical 5-0 scores. Singapore however pushed Korea harder than the 5-0 score suggested.**

### **Session - 2**

**England's Women pulled off a surprise 3-2 win over Chinese Taipei in Group W at the Li-Ning BWF Thomas & Uber Cup Finals 2014 today.**

**The upset was among the highlights of a session in which Korea's Men were nearly upstaged by Germany but survived with a 3-2 margin.**

**Their Group C counterparts Malaysia outplayed India 4-1, while in Group W of the Uber Cup, China blanked Russia 5-0.**

### **Session - 3**

**Thailand's Women battled past stubborn Hong Kong China in the opening day's final session of the Li-Ning BWF Thomas & Uber Cup Finals 2014 today.**

**In the Uber Cup India humbled Canada 5-0.**

**In the Thomas Cup Group D, China powered past France 5-0 and Chinese Taipei recovered from a match down to beat Russia 4-1.**

## **Super Dan at work**

The fans were waiting for the celebrated Lin Dan to display his magic on the court. He emerged late in the evening and showed his French opponent Lucas Claerbout a thing or two in shuttle tricks. He finished it 21-5, 21-11 but it was incidental.

The array of skills that Lin showcased were enough to make the spectators jump off their seats in excited animation. And his deceptive drops also made their jaws drop. It was clear, Super Dan means business.

The day went according to the script as top stars like China's Chen Long, Li Xuerui, Wang Yihan, Malaysia's Lee Chong Wei and Germany's Mark Zweibler flexed their muscles to subdue rivals.

In a Thomas Cup tie, Korea had to twice come back from behind to beat Germany 3-2. In the Uber Cup, defending champions China, Japan, Korea and Indonesia sailed through their opening encounters.

## **HIGHLIGHTS:**

\* Denmark emerged comfortable winners over Hong Kong China despite the absence of doubles stalwart Mathias Boe. Jan O Jorgensen led the way in the first singles with a rout of Hu Yu, 21-11 21-16. Hong Kong China sprang a surprise in the second singles. Wei Nan made light of the 20-place ranking difference with No.15 Viktor Axelsen. Wei never let off the attack through the match, winning the match with surprising ease over the Swiss Open champion, 21-14 21-16. Joachim Fischer Nielsen admirably filled in for Mathias Boe as the duo ground out a hard-fought victory over Tang Chun Man/Lee Chun Hei in the second doubles, 21-13 19-21 21-16. Denmark got an unexpected bonus in the third singles tie. Young Emil Holst, ranked 53, punched above his weight against No.32 Wong Wing Ki and brought down the higher-ranked player, 21-14 15-21 21-9.

\* Rajiv Ouseph stormed to a 21-9 first game win over Kenichi Tago in their first singles encounter. Ouseph looked sharp and decisive even as Tago appeared shaky and under pressure. The England player had match point in the second, but Tago kept his nerve and evaded his rival's grasp; the third game was won comfortably: 9-21 22-20 21-13. England again had a glimmer of hope in the following Men's Doubles match. Chris Adcock and Andrew Ellis equalled a first game deficit against Hiroyuki Endo/Kenichi Hayakawa, but were overpowered in the third: 21-7 18-21 21-8. Japan clinched the tie in the second singles, a match featuring two young players. Kento Momota overpowered Rhys Walker 21-10 21-14 to make it 3-0. England earned a consolation victory when Chris Langridge/Peter Mills breezed past Noriyasu Hirata/Hirokatsu Hashimoto in the second doubles, 21-10 21-13, before Japan wrapped up the tie 4-1 with Takuma Ueda dominating Sam Parsons, 21-9 21-7.

\* Singapore were unlucky to finish 0-5 against Korea. Asian champion Sung Ji Hyun won a narrow first singles against Chen Jiayuan 21-16 15-21 21-18. Bae Yeon Ju made it 2-0 beating Liang Xiaoyu 21-8 21-16, but the following match was much tighter. Doubles specialist Fu Mingtian gave a good account of herself in the third singles against Kim Hyo Min before going down, 13-21 21-19 21-16. Jang Ye Na/Kim So Young had it easy against Yao Lei/Shinta Mulia Sari, 21-16 21-13. The final match again was a tight contest, with Jung Kyung Eun/Kim Ha Na prevailing over Vanessa Neo/Fu Mingtian 21-15 20-22 21-16.

\* Indonesia were comfortable all through against Australia, losing just one game in five matches. Lindaweni Fanetri beat Tara Pilven 21-16 21-11 in the first singles. Australia's Tang He Tian/Renuga Veeran gave the Indonesians something to think about by clinching the second game against Rizki Amelia Pradipta/Pia Zebadiah Bernadeth, but the Indonesians proved superior in the end, 21-15 17-21 21-8. Bellaetrix Manuputty took 23 minutes to get past Verdet Kessler, 21-12 21-12, before Adrianti Firdasari made it 4-0 by beating Joy Lai 21-10 21-12. Indonesia completed the rout when Tiara Rosalia Nuraidah/Suci Rizki Andini made it past Verdet Kessler/Jacqueline Guan, 21-10 21-9.

\* Chinese Taipei were without No.7 Tai Tzu Ying, and her absence showed. Pai Hsiao Ma led the charge for Chinese Taipei against England's Fontaine Mica Chapman. The match was closely contested in the first but Chapman exerted her authority in the second to take the match 22-20 21-9. Gabrielle Adcock and Lauren Smith had lost an earlier match to Cheng Wen Hsing/Hsieh Pei Chen, but the England duo turned it around this time to prevail: 15-21 21-15 21-13. Lee Chia Hsin reduced the deficit for Chinese Taipei by beating Sarah Walker in three games but she could not prevent England from taking the tie as Heather Olver/Kate Robertshaw decimated Wang Pei Rong/ Kuo Yu Wen 21-13 21-13. Pai Yu Po won the final singles for Chinese Taipei against Nicola Cerfontyne.

\* Korea's men nearly suffered the fate of Chinese Taipei's women. Marc Zwiebler gave the Germans a sound start beating Son Wan Ho 21-18 21-17. Then Michael Fuchs/Johannes Shoettler nearly ambushed Lee Yong Dae/Yoo Yeon Seong, eventually faltering late in the match: 21-11 8-21 21-19. Dieter Domke made it 2-1 for Germany beating Lee Dong Keun. Korea's depth in doubles came to their rescue, with Kim Ki Jung/Kim Sa Rang holding off Andreas Heinz/Max Schwenger in 33 minutes and Hwang Jong Soo wrapping up the win beating Lukas Schmidt 21-15 21-16.

\* China began their title defence of the Uber Cup with a 5-0 whitewash of Russia in Group W. Li Xuerui was held up by Natalia Perminova in the first game but duly completed the rout 21-17 21-10 in the opening singles match. Wang Yihan made it 2-0 with a 21-13 21-13 verdict over Anastasia Chervaykova. Sun Yu clinched the tie beating Evgeniya Kosetskaya 21-11 21-9 in under 30 minutes. Bao Yixin/Tang Jinhua and Olympic champions Zhao Yunlei/Tian Qing were similarly untroubled by their doubles opponents.

**\* India fell short to Malaysia in a Group C match of the Thomas Cup. World No.1 Lee Chong Wei gave Malaysia a 1-0 lead with a characteristic display of pace and precision against Srikanth K. Tan Boon Heong/Hoon Thien How were again too strong for Sumeeth Reddy/Manu Attri. After the next two matches went Malaysia's way, the attention shifted to Guru Sai Dutt (below) against Daren Liew. The tenacious Sai Dutt made Liew pay for his inconsistent play and surged to a 18-21 21-13 21-19 win in over an hour.**



**"I'm glad I pulled off this match," Sai Dutt said. "I've lost many matches from close positions in the third game. Even though it did not alter the result of the tie, I was determined to win because it might make a difference to our group standings."**

**\* The Thailand-Hong Kong China tie swung either way before Busanan Ongbumrungpan clinched the decisive victory in the final match. World champion Ratchanok Intanon put the Thais ahead with a comfortable victory over Yip Pui Yin, 21-9 21-13, in 38 minutes. Hong Kong's Chau Hoi Wah/Poon Lok Yan brought their country right back into the reckoning, taking even lesser time in getting past Savitree Amitrapai/Duanganong Aroonkesorn 21-18 21-15. Nichaon Jindapon 21-11 21-12 over Cheung Ying Mei) and Chan Tsz Ka/Tse Ying Suet (21-15 15-21 21-15 over Thailand's Kunchala Voravichitchaikul/Sapsiree Taerattanachai) took the tie to a climactic fifth match, in which Ongbumrungpan proved too strong for Chan Hung Yung. The Thai took 38 minutes to decimate Chan's challenge: 21-12 21-16.**

**\* India, meanwhile, had far too many weapons for Canada to counter. With two top ten players leading the challenge for the hosts, Canada could register their opposition only in the last match, in which Grace Gao and Rachael Honderich could take a game off Sikki Reddy and Pradnya Gadre. Saina Nehwal and Sindhu PV gave India a 2-0 lead beating Joycelyn Ko and Rachael Honderich respectively. Asian bronze medallists Ashwini Ponnappa/Jwala Gutta were similarly untroubled by Bruce Alex/Phyllis Chan, 21-11 21-12, before Thulasi PC made it 4-0 with an aggressive performance over Brittany Tam, 21-11 21-13. Gadre and Reddy lost a close first game but ensured the whitewash with a 20-22 21-18 21-16 score.**



\* China started their defence of the Thomas Cup without allowing any unpleasant surprises. World No.2 Chen Long and No.6 Du Pengyu helped China to a 2-0 lead in the singles against Brice Leverdez and Lucas Corvee respectively before Fu Haifeng/Zhang Nan's 21-16 21-14 result over Gaetan Mittelheisser/Bastian Kersaudy. World and Olympic champion Lin Dan breezed in and out of his appointment with Lucas Claerbout in the third singles (21-5 21-11) and Liu Xiaolong/Qiu Zihan warmed up for harder battles ahead with a 21-14 21-18 verdict over Baptiste Careme/Lucas Corvee.

\* Vladimir Ivanov was the ace in Russia's pack but Chinese Taipei's overall strength proved superior. Ivanov gave Russia the lead by beating Chou Tien Chen 21-18 21-17, but it was downhill for Russia from there. Chen Hung Ling/Lu Chia Pin made it 1-1 beating Anatoliy Yartsev/Rodion Kargaev 21-19 21-18. Hsu Jen Hao survived testing moments in the second singles but overcame Vladimir Malkov 21-13 23-21. The second Men's Doubles was a tight encounter, with Lee Sheng Mu/Tsai Chia Hsin prevailing over Ivanov/Ivan Sozonov 21-19 14-21 21-10. Chinese Taipei made it 4-0 through Lin Yu Hsien's 21-11 21-11 result over Anton Ivanov.

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