

Donald K Smythe (19-

Don Smythe of the Boulavard Club in Toronto, an ex-Canadian football youthful half-back, burst on the badminton scene in Ontario in 1951. During the next seven years he took the badminton world by storm with his power, speed, and stamina. Lacking a good backhand, Don developed round the head strokes that carried him to the championship podium many times. He was seen as Canada's fastest court coverer.

After copping the provincial doubles crown in 1951, Don dominated the provincial and national scenes in both singles and doubles during the next four years. He won consecutive singles titles in the provincial and national championships, 1952, 1953, 1954 and 1955.

Don claimed five provincial doubles titles with two partners, Bud Porter and Bill Purcell (1953 through 1957). He also won five national doubles titles in 1952, 1953, 1954, 1957 and 1958.

To round out Don Smythe's remarkable achievement, he entered the All-England Championships in 1953 and reached the finals, losing to Eddy Choong of Malaysia, who was considered the world's best player.

Don represented Canada and was a tremendous competitor on three Thomas Cup teams, 1951-52, 1954-55 and 1957-58. In the 1951-52 tie played in Calgary, Don won all three of the matches in the 6-3 loss to the U.S.A. In the 1954-55 draw played in Winnipeg. Don won a singles match in the 5-4 loss to the U.S.A. In his last Thomas Cup involvement in 1957-58, he captained the Canadian team. Unfortunately, the U.S.A. demolished Canada 9-0.

Don Smythe was one of Canada's most dynamic and personable champions.