

Clementi girls stay victorious

Veteran coach praised as school celebrates the unique 40-year unbeaten record of its all-conquering girls' badminton squad

The mighty Clementi Secondary School's girls' badminton team has continued its 40-year unbeaten record.

The school's Grade B girls' badminton squad yet again emerged as champions in the recent inter-school badminton competition organised by the Hong Kong Schools Sports Association.

The crucial victory enabled Clementi to gain the unique feat of retaining the girls' overall team title for 41 years in succession.

The squad, captained by Chu Ching-ngai, Fung Man-lan and Chan Wai-yu, edged out Wesley College in straight sets at Harbour Road Indoor Games Hall to the elation of honorary coach, Chan Kai-yim.

"The girls played wonderfully. They are all at their peak and each squad member is a great player in her own right," Chan, himself a former Clementi pupil in the 1950s, said.

Clementi's emergence as a dominant power in the local

secondary school badminton scene has been attributed to Chan's inspiration.

He regards Clementi as his second home and his dedication as an honorary coach of the school badminton team has long earned him the respect of the whole school.

"His presence is a great inspiration to the boys and girls under his guidance," said Ching Ngai, a key player in the Grade B squad.

In both Grade A and C tournaments, the girls made it to the final round and finally settled for second position in the competition.

These results, together with the Grade B championship, gave the Clementi girls an overall top score of 38 points - 10 ahead of their rivals, True Light Girls' Middle School.

Thanks to this victory, Clementi has been able to claim the overall team title for the 41st time since 1956.

The boys, though outshone by their female counterparts in overall achievements, saw their efforts pay off in the 1994-95 and the 1995-96 seasons when



Triumphant... Clementi Secondary School's badminton players just cannot lose their winning streak.

they finally clinched the overall team titles for the first and second time since 1956.

In the season ending December 1996, the boys' Grade A squad finished second, while the Grade C team finished fourth in the competition.

The aggregate results saw Clementi boys' team at second spot in the overall team standings, with 26 points, one point behind champion St Joseph's College.

In last year's inter-school Jing Yung badminton competition run by the Hong Kong Schools Sports Association, the girls once more came to the fore with O Siu-tsang and Leung May-wah, both seventh formers, clinching the Girls' A Grade doubles championship.

Chan Wai-yu of 4M and Chan Fai-wing of 4S carried off the girls' Grade B doubles title.

Shau Kei Wan triumph over the weathermen

Competitors and spectators defied the weathermen to turn out for Shau Kei Wan Government Technical Secondary School's 31st Annual Athletic Meet.

The forecasters had predicted cold, rainy conditions for the day of the events.

But organisers went ahead with the event at Siu Sai Wan Sports Ground in unexpectedly fine weather, despite the gloomy forecasts from the Royal Observatory.

Guest-of-honour Leung Ho Chow-sim, chairwoman of the parent-teacher association presented medals, trophies and pennants to the winners.

Fourteen school records were broken as each athlete competed in high spirits for their house. Island House won the overall championship and School House emerged as the best cheering team.

RESULTS: Boys' Individual Championship: Grade A Lee Fook-hong (Choa House); Grade B Lee Hing-keung (Denmark House); Grade C Tsang Way (Choa House)
Girls' Individual Championship: Grade A: Wong Hing-ye (Island House); Grade B: Lee Hau-ye (Denmark House); Grade C: Chan Wing-yung (Denmark House)