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Updated: Aug. 18, 2005, 1:18 AM ET

Two American entries eliminated in second round

Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. -- Americans Tony Gunawan and Howard Bach reached the third round of men's doubles at the World Badminton Championships with a 15-5, 15-3 rout of the Czech Republic's Jan Vondra and Jan Frohlich on Wednesday.

Gunawan, who lives in Fullerton, Calif., won the 2000 Olympic gold medal in men's doubles for Indonesia.

Gunawan and Bach will face either eighth-seeded Chew Choon Eng and Choong Tan Fook from Malaysia or China's Sang Yang and Zheng Bo on Thursday.

Top-seeded Zhang Ning of China, the 2004 Olympic gold medalist and defending world champion in women's singles, reached the third round by beating Taiwan's Huang Chia-Hsin, 11-6, 11-2.

Second-seeded Xie Zingfang of China joined Zhang in the third round by beating Ukraine's Larisa Griga, 13-12, 11-2. Xie rallied to force a tiebreaking set in the first game.

Mia Audina Tjiptawan from the Netherlands, the No. 13 seed and the 2004 Olympic silver medalist, will play Xie after routing Slovenia's Maja Kersnik, 11-0, 11-2.

Zhang, seeded directly into the second round, had to adjust to an air conditioning system that affects the shuttlecock's flight.

"The venue is a little more windy than expected," Zhang said through an interpreter. "When you're in the match, you have to adapt to the environment simultaneously. I just tried to have better control of the shuttlecock and play fast."

In men's doubles, top-seeded Jens Eriksen and Martin Lundgaard Hansen of Denmark beat Pakistan's Wajid Ali and Omar Zeeshan by walkover. Ali and Zeeshan could not obtain visas.

Another top seed from China, the women's doubles team of Yang Wei and Zhang Jiewen, reached the semifinals by beating 12th-seeded Chien Yu-Chin and Cheng Wen-Tsing from Taiwan 15-6, 15-13. Yang and Zhang won the Olympic gold medal last year.

Two American entries were eliminated in the second round. Chicago's Shannon Pohl was routed in women's singles by Germany's Juliane Schenk,



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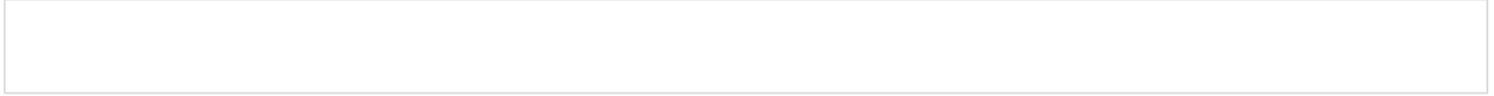
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11-2, 11-0. In mixed doubles, Khan Bob Malaythong of Orange, Calif., and Mesinee Mangkalakiri from Garden Grove, Calif., were swept by eighth-seeded Robert Blair and Natalie Munt of England 15-6, 15-3.



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