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## Duo will be first Americans to have shot at world title

Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. -- Tony Gunawan and Howard Bach became the first Americans to have a shot at a world badminton title by winning the men's doubles semifinals Saturday night in the World Badminton Championships.

The 13th-seeded team of Gunawan, from Fullerton, Calif., and Bach, of San Francisco, swept No. 4 Luluk Hadiyanto and Yulianto Alven of Indonesia, 15-9, 15-13.

Second-seeded Candra Wijaya and Sigit Budiarto of Indonesia, who won the world championship in 1997, will try to stop Gunawan and Bach in the finals Sunday.

Wijaya and Gunawan won the 2000 Olympic men's doubles gold medal for Indonesia.

In an earlier semifinal game, Wijaya and Budiarto recovered from a 9-3 deficit to defeat No. 9 Chan Chong Ming and Koo Kien Keat from Malaysia, 15-9, 15-11.

In the women's doubles final, Olympic champions Yang Wei and Zhang Jiewen of China rallied in both games to take the world title away from China's Gao Ling and Huang Sui with a 17-16, 15-7 victory.

Top-seeded Yang and Zhang recovered from a 7-4 deficit in the first game and a 7-1 deficit in the second against second-seeded Gao and Huang, who won the two previous world championships.

In men's singles, top-seeded Lin Dan of China will face Olympic champion Taufik Hidayat of Indonesia in the final.

Lin earned a 15-9, 13-15, 15-11 semifinal victory over No. 3 Peter Gade of Denmark, and No. 6 Hidayat swept No. 5 Lee Chong Wei of Malaysia, 15-3, 15-12.

The women's singles final will match second-seeded Xie Xingfang of China against top-seeded teammate Zhang Ning, the defending Olympic and world champion.

Zhang swept No. 6 Xu Huaiwen from Germany, 11-7, 11-9, but Xie had to come from behind for a 2-11, 11-5, 11-6 victory over Taiwan's Cheng Shao-Chieh.

No. 11 Xie Zhongbo and Zhang Yawen of China kept No. 15 Daniel Shirley



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and Sara Runesten-Petersen from making New Zealand's first appearance in a final with a 15-8, 15-8 semifinal victory in mixed doubles.

Xie and Zhang will face No. 4 Nova Widiyanto and Lilyana Natsir of Indonesia, who nearly wasted a 12-0 lead in their third game against No. 7 Sudket Prapakamol and Saralee Thungthongkam of Thailand before winning 15-9, 3-15, 15-10.



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