

2018 Butterfly Canadian Senior Championships
July 8, 2018
Day 3



The Precipice of Seniority: U21 Singles Conclude

The U21 Singles categories have always been a point of great interest for spectators and supporters. Besides the revered Men's and Women's singles events, which open the gates to players of all age groups, the U21 categories have always been a focal point of interest due to their challenging nature. The addition of seniors who have recently graduated from their junior days lead to very interesting matches.

In the U21 Men's Singles event, Terence Yeung (ON) fought his way through many well known, respected opponents to secure himself the gold medal. Clearly pleased with himself, he says he didn't expect to win the event prior to entering it, and his own victory came as a (pleasant) surprise to him. "There were so many top players [but] I just had to believe in myself."

The path to gold wasn't easy for Yeung. Seeded 4th initially, he had to first overcome first seed Bryan Ho (AB) in the semi finals before defeating friend and provincial teammate Alexander Bu (ON) in the finals. When asked how he managed to overcome higher ranked opponents, Yeung says, "I just had to focus on the match and not focus on how much higher rated my opponent is than [I am]. It doesn't matter who my opponent is; as long as I do my best, it's fine."

And playing a teammate who you train with, and whose strengths and weaknesses you're familiar with, is no easy task either. "I knew how to play him [so] I just focused on [strategy]," says Yeung. He adds that they targeted each other's weaknesses during the match, being so familiar with one another's styles.

Meanwhile, the women's category was a repeat of the U18 Girls Finals: a showdown between Patrina Hui (BC) and Ivy Liao (BC). In the end, it was Liao who succeeded in repeating her success during the Junior championships.

Playing the same person twice within the same tournament can be tricky. On how she maneuvered the complications that come with this, Liao says "There have been difficulties, so for this one, I just thought I should give it my best shot and not give myself so much pressure."

She claims that she has already achieved what she aimed for. "To play my best. I think it's really hard to achieve, but I think I've gotten it."

Previously during the year, Liao suffered a setback when she didn't qualify for the Youth Olympics. Even so, her spirit hasn't dampened.

"The road to Buenos Aires has definitely taught [me] a lot. And through those experiences, through those losses and wins that [I] went through, [I've] definitely grown a lot in [my] game, both mentally and skill-wise. So it's really nice to see how all that contributed to [my results] in this tournament."