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FOLLOWING
THE INTERNATIONAL
BADMINTON
TOURNAMENT ON LI

watch the **birdie** B2

 **FREE FUN** Family-friendly events in July exploreLI.com/kids



Newsday's tournament has brought out the competitive spirit in some famous Long Islanders. These celebs turned to social media to rally their fans to vote for them:

Mick Foley: Selfie promotion



MICK FOLEY

MICK FOLEY

WWE Hall of Fame wrestler and best-selling author STRATEGY A selfie with his kids. The Ward Melville High School alumnus posted this photo on his Facebook fan page, which has 1 million followers, along with the rally cry "WIN ONE FOR THE MICK-ER" to pull off a come-from-behind victory over Ashanti in Round 1 of the tournament with less than two hours before voting closed.

DEBBIE GIBSON

Pop singer

STRATEGY Play nice. The former Merrick resident tweeted about her close Round 1 matchup with Ralph Macchio by writing, "Can we tie? I love him!" In the end, she edged him out by only three votes.

Round 3 of voting is on now — go to newsday.com/tsli to join in.

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AFP/GETTY IMAGES/LIU JIN

Chou Tien Chen of Taiwan is seeded second at the U.S. Open Badminton Championships in Brentwood.

now, it's our serve

Watch shuttles fly as LI hosts badminton championships



BY STACEY ALTHERR
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We've had tennis and golf. Now, another U.S. Open is coming to Long Island.

After an 18-year run in Orange County, California, the Yonex U.S. Open Grand Prix Gold Badminton Championships come to the East Coast — specifically, Brentwood — for the first time.

About 30 countries will be represented in the tournament, according to officials, including teams and individuals from Denmark, Germany, France, Thailand, China and Japan. The event, part of

the larger Badminton World Federation's Grand Prix Gold Series competitions, has \$120,000 at stake.

"The U.S. Open is one of the most prestigious of the events," says Junichi Kasuga,

Yonex U.S. Open Grand Prix Gold Badminton

WHEN | WHERE Tomorrow-Sunday Michael J. Grant Field House at Suffolk County Community College's Brentwood Campus, 1001 Crooked Hill Rd. Advance tickets online.

INFO usopengpg.com

ADMISSION \$15-\$30 (\$10-\$15 school-age children)

deputy tournament director.

Among the players will be 2012 Olympic silver medalists Mathias Boe and Carsten Mogensen from Denmark, who are ranked third in men's doubles in the Federation.

The U.S. Open committee members hope the East Coast badminton tournament causes some buzz here.

"It's really big in Asia and also in Denmark," Kasuga says.

BADMINTON 101

This isn't the quaint game Long Islanders play in their backyards — it's a serious athletic event.

We call them "birdies" here in America, but all over the world, and in the professional badminton circle, those little white, webbed, rubber-tipped objects are called shuttles.

And those shuttles fly fast across the net, with mo-

plus coming up

TOMORROW
Summer Nights: Tanner Park

WEDNESDAY
"Sharknado" special movie screening

THURSDAY
Battle of the Bands

FRIDAY
Motorcycle-lovers show

exploreLI.com



Aubrey Peeples plays Claudia in "Sharknado," a Syfy original movie.



Danish Olympics stars Mathias Boe, left, and Carsten Mogensen will play.

ments of suspended animation. They can reach up to 200 miles an hour when hit by top athletes, Kasuga says.

Games go to 21 points, and players must win by two points — matches last anywhere from 30 minutes to an hour. The winner is determined by the best two out of three games. Tickets are good for all the tournament matches that day.

Howard Shu, 23, of Orange County, California, 69th in Federation rankings, says playing in New York will be a change of scenery for him and others from his team, and they'll face different players than usual.

"There'll be a lot of European players, because [the] East Coast is closer," he says. The U.S. Open, in general, is a fun event, he says. "It's always nice to play in your home

country and see who comes out to see us," he says.

IF YOU GO

The U.S. Open officials chose the Brentwood campus because of its spacious arena, as well as location.

The 57,000-square-foot indoor field house has room for 2,700 spectators. Early round play will be on multiple courts, shrinking to one court for Sunday's final matches. Yonex, a maker of badminton equipment, will set up a demo court for those who want to try the sport.

For those who get hungry between matches, a concession stand will be open for refreshments, including the usual fare of hot dogs, pretzels, candy, ice cream and soda, says Neftali Collazo, Suffolk County Community College director of special programs and events.

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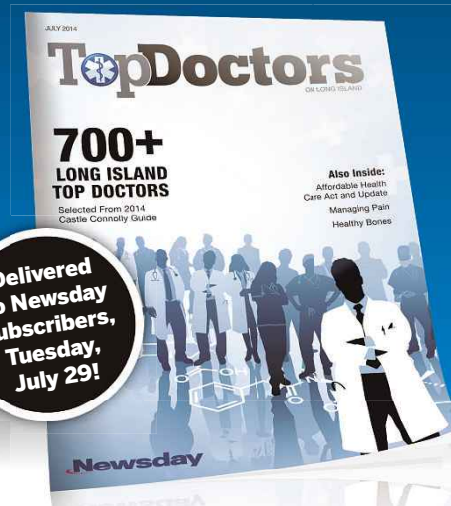
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