

Big Win For MHS Badminton Team

- Jon Suydam

On January 6, 2013, the Marblehead High School Badminton Team won the Massbad High School Team Badminton Tournament. It was held at the Boston Badminton Club in Westborough, MA. We don't have a formal high school badminton team, even though Mr. Lavender offers it to us for one semester in gym. So, for this tournament, we formed our own high school team, as follows: freshmen Nathaniel Cayen and Nicole Frevold; sophomores Zhen Humenn, Wenny Niu and Ben Thorne; and juniors Alec Glass, Nik Hancke, Gwyn Higgins, Denis Kazakov, Critter Rodts, Jon Suydam, and Renee Torrie. Critter also acted as our team captain and coach.

Many kids don't know a lot about badminton, but it is actually the second most popular sport in the world, after soccer. Our team played against five other high schools that actually have badminton as an official school sport. The tournament went all day long, each of us playing several rounds of singles, doubles and mixed doubles. MHS moved through the rounds aggressively, and in spite of tough competition, MHS advanced to the finals against Newton North High School for the Title. This high school tournament gave us a chance to come together as one team. Often times you end up opposite the net from each other in other tournaments. Fighting for our high school to win against another local school was challenging and fun. I encourage athletes to give this sport a try. It's fun and it's a great work out. Badminton involves strong hand-eye coordination, endurance, speed and focus. If you are interested, you can read more about the Headers MassBad victory at www.marbleheadyouthbadminton.org.

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