

Lee Ho Ching, the Shining Light for Hong Kong in Wuhan

Winner of the Women's Doubles title with Ng Wing Nam at the recent GAC Group 2014 ITTF World Tour Qatar Open in Doha; Lee Ho Ching emerged as Hong Kong's most successful player on the first day of action, Thursday 20th March, at the GAC Honda Asian Cup in the Chinese city of Wuhan.

She finished in second place in her group behind China's Ding Ning, upsetting the order of merit to finish ahead of Korea's Seo Hyowon and Japan's Sayaka Hirano. Currently Lee Ho Ching stands at no.22 on the Women's World Rankings as opposed to Seo Hyowon who is at no.9.

Ding Ning, the top seed, is listed at no.2 with Sayaka Hirano being at no.25.

Impressively, Ding Ning remained unbeaten but Sayaka Hirano overcame Seo Hyowon in four games (8-11, 11-2, 11-7, 11-7), before losing to Lee Ho Ching by a similar margin (8-11, 11-2, 11-7, 11-7). The outcome rested on the concluding group stage matches, with Lee Ho Ching coming within a whisker of beating Seo Hyowon; she suffered defeat by the very narrowest of five games margins (11-3, 14-16, 6-11, 11-8, 12-10).

The result meant that Seo Hyowon, Lee Ho Ching and Sayaka Hirano all finished level with one win each. Games ratio decided; Lee Ho Ching led the group (5:4) finishing ahead of Sayaka Hirano (4:4) and Seo Hyowon (4:5).

Thus Lee Ho Ching advanced directly to the quarter-finals; Sayaka Hirano reserved a place in the Challenge round, whilst for Seo Hyowon it was farewell.

Likewise, Jiang Huajun secured third place in her group on games ratio. All three players suffered defeat at hands of China's Li Xiaoxia, the no.2 seed with Jiang Huajun beating Yu Mengyu in the vital concluding match in the group, having earlier suffered defeat against Chinese Taipei's Cheng I-Ching in five games (10-12, 11-5, 6-11, 11-8, 11-5).

Success for Cheng I-Ching against Jiang Huajun but later it was defeat in four games in opposition to Yu Mengyu (8-11, 11-4, 11-7, 11-6). Therefore, just as with Lee Ho Ching, games ratio decided the fate of Jiang Huajun; Yu Mengyu finished the best of the trio (5:4) with the next place going to Jiang Huajun (5:5). Cheng I-Ching (4:5) was the player to be eliminated. Jiang Huajun progressed to the Challenge round.

Meanwhile, in the Men's Singles event it was not good news for Jiang Tianyi; he finished in third place in his group behind Chinese Taipei's Chuang Chih-Yuan, Japan's Kenta Matsudaira and Korea's Kim Minseok.

Three defeats for Jiang Tianyi, it was two for Tang Peng who finished in third place in his group; just as with Lee Ho Ching and Jiang Huajun, games ratio decided his fate.

China's Fan Zhendong ruled supreme; he remained unbeaten to top the group. Tang Peng, after losing to Singapore's Gao Ning in five games (5-11, 6-11, 11-8, 11-8, 11-5), recovered to beat Chinese Taipei's Chen Chien-An in four games (6-11, 13-11, 13-11, 13-11). Defeat for Chen Chien-An but in a similar manner to Tang Peng, he fought back.

He overcame Gao Ning in three straight games (11-7, 12-10, 11-5). The win was sufficient to give Chen Chien-An second place; on games ratio (4:3), he finished ahead of Tang Peng (5:4) and Gao Ning (3:5).

Chen Chien-An advanced to the quarter-finals, Tang Peng to the Challenge round.

Men's Singles

Group A

Ma Long (CHN) bt Joo Saehyuk (KOR) 11-3, 11-4, 11-4; Jun Mizutani (KOR) bt Kim Hyok Bong (PRK) 12-10, 11-13, 11-9, 11-13, 11-8; Ma Long (CHN) bt Jun Mizutani (JPN) 11-9, 7-11, 11-5, 11-6; Kim Hyok Bong (PRK) bt Joo Saehyuk (KOR) 3-11, 11-6, 11-6, 12-14, 11-7; Ma Long (CHN) bt Kim Hyok Bong (PRK) 11-5, 11-1, 7-11, 11-5; Jun Mizutani (JPN) bt Joo Saehyuk (KOR) 11-5, 11-3, 11-8)

Group B

Fan Zhendong (CHN) bt Chen Chien-An (TPE) 8-11, 9-11, 11-8, 11-1, 11-8; Gao Ning (SIN) bt Tang Peng (HKG) 5-11, 6-11, 11-8, 11-8, 11-5; Fan Zhendong (CHN) bt Gao Ning (SIN) 11-6, 11-9, 13-15, 11-3; Tang Peng (HKG) bt Chen Chien-An (TPE) 6-11, 13-11, 13-11, 13-11; Fan Zhendong (CHN) bt Tang Peng (HKG) 11-9, 5-11, 8-11, 11-5, 11-5; Chen Chien-An (TPE) bt Gao Ning (SIN) 11-7, 12-10, 11-5

Group C

Chuang Chih-Yuan (TPE) bt Kim Minseok (KOR) 7-11, 11-8, 11-8, 11-9; Kenta Matsudaira (JPN) bt Jiang Tianyi (HKG) 12-14, 11-8, 11-3, 11-2; Chuang Chih-Yuan (TPE) by Kenta Matsudaira (JPN) 11-7, 16-14, 11-7; Kim Minseok (KOR) bt Jiang Tianyi (HKG) 11-7, 10-12, 6-11, 11-7, 13-11; Chuang Chih-Yuan (TPE) bt Jiang Tianyi (HKG) 12-10, 9-11, 12-10, 11-2; Kenta Matsudaira (JPN) bt Kim Minseok (KOR) 12-10, 11-9, 12-10

Group D

Nima Alamian (IRI) bt Chaisit Chaitat (THA) 11-3, 11-4, 11-3; Sharath Kamal Achanta (IND) bt Nima Alamian (IRI) 11-6, 11-5, 11-6; Sharath Kamal Achanta (IND) bt Chaisit Chatat (THA) 11-7, 12-10, 11-6

Challenge Round

Sharath Kamal Achanta (IND) v Kim Hyok Bong (PRK); Tang Peng (HKG) v Kim Minseok (KOR)

Women's Singles

Group A

Ding Ning (CHN) bt Lee Ho Ching (HKG) 11-9, 11-6, 11-9; Sayaka Hirano (JPN) bt Seo Hyowon (KOR) 8-11, 11-2, 11-7, 11-7); Ding Ning (CHN) bt Seo Hyowon (KOR) 9-11, 11-9, 11-7, 11-8); Lee Ho Ching (HKG) bt Sayaka Hirano (JPN) 11-8, 11-5, 8-11, 11-7); Ding Ning (CHN) bt Sayaka Hirano (JPN) 11-7, 11-5, 11-6); Seo Hyowon (KOR) bt Lee Ho Ching (HKG) 11-3, 14-16, 6-11, 11-8, 12-10)

Group B

Li Xiaoxia (CHN) bt Yu Mengyu (SIN) 11-7, 11-5, 11-4); Cheng I-Ching (TPE) bt Jiang Huajun (HKG) 10-12, 5-11, 6-11, 11-8, 11-5; Li Xiaoxia (CHN) bt Jiang Huajun (CHN) 11-9, 11-4, 7-11, 11-8); Yu Mengyu (SIN) bt Cheng I-Ching (TPE) 8-11, 11-4, 11-7, 11-6); Li Xiaoxia (CHN) bt Cheng I-Ching (TPE) 11-4, 12-10, 11-8); Jiang Huajun (HKG) bt Yu Mengyu (SIN) 11-9, 9-11, 11-7, 8-11, 11-7

Group C

Seok Hajung (KOR) bt Feng Tianwei (SIN) 11-13, 11-5, 11-8, 11-9; Ri Myong Sun (PRK) bt Kasumi Ishikawa (JPN) 10-12, 12-10, 5-11, 11-9, 12-10); Feng Tianwei (SIN) bt Kasumi Ishikawa (JPN) 11-7, 11-5, 11-2; Ri Myong Sun (PRK) bt Seok Hajung (KOR) 11-5, 13-11, 11-8; Ri Myong Sun (PRK) bt Feng Tianwei (11-4, 11-6, 9-11, 11-5; Seok Hajung (KOR) bt Kasumi Ishikawa (JPN) 6-11, 11-7, 11-7, 11-6)

Group D

Nanthana Komwong (THA) bt Ankita Das (IND) 11-4, 11-2, 11-7

Challenge Round

Jiang Huajun (HKG) v Nanthana Komwong (THA); Feng Tianwei (SIN) v Sayaka Hirano (JPN)



Lee Ho Ching (HKG)