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BAM `draft' Ong, Yong for training

A. Devaraj

IN an unexpected move, the BA of Malaysia (BAM) named Nusa Mahsuri discards Ong Ewe Hock and Yong Hock Kin in the national team together with former national players P. Kantharoopan and Wong Ewee Mun.

BAM president Datuk Dr Fadzil Che Wan explained that the duo have been invited to train with the national squad until they decide on their future.

Said Dr Fadzil: "The executive committee decided so since both have indicated interest to train with the national team."

He added that the two players are free to remain with the national team as long as they choose. "They are free to leave whenever they want."

The other players named in the men's singles are Lo Ah Heng and Wong Choon Hann.

Kantharoopan and Wong were dropped by BAM last year but proved themselves in the three-day trials recently where Wong emerged the winner and Kantharoopan finished third.

Lo finished second. Wong, who was in Jakarta for the Asian Cup, was exempted from attending the trials.

BAM also named Kwan Yoke Meng, Chen Changjie and Suffian Abu Bakar as the singles coaches for both the men and women.

There were no surprises in the men's doubles squad where five pairs were named instead of four. The fifth pair are Tan Kim Her and Lee Chee Leong.

The doubles coaches named are Chen Kang, Chen Hongyong, Soh Goon Chup and Rina Tan Sui Hoon.

BAM also picked two backup squads for the men.

Chief coach and director of coaching Morten Frost said he expects the players to push each other and work as a group."

The Backup A squad comprise five singles players and three doubles pairs while the Backup B have five singles players only.

On the training programme for the men, Frost said he and the other coaches are drawing it up now.

"The programme will be for three months and will depend on the tournaments. After three months, it will be reviewed."

As for the women's squads, Frost said, there will be a one-day trial tomorrow.

"We will name the women's squads later in the week," said Frost.

NATIONAL SQUAD - Men's singles and doubles: Ong Ewe Hock, Yong Hock Kin, Wong Choon Hann, Wong Ewe Mun, Lo Ah Heng, P. Kantharoopan, Cheah Soon Kit-Yap Kim Hock, Choong Tan Fook-Lee Wan Wah, Chew Chun Eng-Rosman Razak, Yap Yee Hup-Yap Yee Guan, Tan Kim Her-Lee Chee Leong.

Backup squad A: Jason Wong, Ramesh Nathan, Foo Yoon Keang, Ng Kean Kok, Mahathir Mustafa, Cheah Soon Thoe-Chang Kim Wai, Pang Cheh Chang-Khoo Boo Hock, Lim Theam Teow-Khoo Kok Keng.

Squad B: Yap Yong Jyen, Lee Tsuen Seng, Allan Tai, Siew Yian Wai, Sairul Amin Ayob.

COACHES - Singles for men and women: Kwan Yoke Meng, Chen Changjie, Suffian Abu Bakar.

Men's, women's and mixed doubles: Chen Kang, Chen Hongyong, Soh Goon Chup, Rina Tan Sui Hoon.

Academy coaches: Zhang Hong Yu, Sun Cheng Hua, Zhou Kejian, Kok Han Fong.

Academy co-ordinator: Abdul Rani Nasir.

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