Northeast Region Judy Devlin Fund for Excellence in Badminton

In honor of Judy Devlin, the best player trained within the Northeast Region of the United States, the Northeast Region Badminton Association (NER) is initiating the Judy Devlin Fund for Excellence in Badminton. This fund is intended to provide financial support to players – junior or adult – who have achieved a level of excellence in badminton and are in need of financial assistance to participate in the US Junior Nationals, Pan Am Junior Championships, World Junior Championships, U.S. Adult Nationals or other WBF and/or USAB approved major tournament or training program. Awards of $300, $600 or $1000 shall be granted based on the criteria below, subject to the resources available in the fund.

Judy Devlin (later Judy Hashman) is a former player who dominated badminton during her playing career, and won more major international titles than any other player of her era. Devlin was trained by her Irish-born father Frank Devlin starting at the age of seven in Baltimore, Maryland, and over time developed a badminton game notable for its power, accuracy, and consistency.

Devlin won 86 national and international titles, including 31 titles in the USA, 8 titles in Germany, 7 titles in Canada, 4 titles in Holland, 4 titles in Sweden, 3 titles in Ireland, 3 titles in Jamaica, 2 titles in Scotland, 2 titles at the European Badminton Championships, and a combined 19 titles in All England Open and English National competition. She competed before the establishment of an official world championships for individual players and before badminton's entry into the Olympic Games, but she was the third most successful player ever in the unofficial world championship of her time, the All England Badminton Championships, with 17 titles, 10 of them in women's singles and 7 in women's doubles. She played on U.S. Uber Cup teams that won three successive world championships (1957, 1960, 1963). From 1954 to 1967 Devlin dominated the women's singles event at the U.S. Open, winning 12 titles in 14 years, including 8 consecutive championships from 1956 to 1963. She has been inducted into the Halls of Fame of the Badminton World Federation, USA Badminton and the Women's Sports Foundation.

In establishing this fund for elite competitive events, the Northeast Region hopes to help promising players follow in Judy Devlin's footsteps. Criteria used for awards include:

- Demonstrated excellence in badminton, based on ranking or results.
- Contribution in promoting interest and participation in badminton.
- Exemplary sportsmanship attitude in training and competition.
- Volunteerism in support of badminton projects including tournaments, demonstrations, clinics, school clubs, etc.
- Financial need
- Level of Tournament and Event.
- Permanent resident in the Northeast Region.

The JUDY DEVLIN FUND relies on badminton organizations and individuals for sustaining it's ability to award funding to badminton players.   Contributions to the fund are tax deductible, and should be made via check made out to "Northeast Badminton Association" and sent to the Treasurer of the NER:

Arthur Schwartz
Bluestone Capital, LLC
The 21 Condominium, LLC
TD Condominium, LLC
3 Bessom Street #151, Marblehead, MA 01945-2371

Application for funding should be submitted by players/parents or their coaches to the Fund Chairperson and should be sent electronically ONLY. No mailed in applications accepted. The application form is interactive; just click on each box and fill out. Chairperson's e-mail is listed below.

The Committee will consist of at least 3 persons from the Northeast Region badminton community who will be named by the Board of the Northeast Badminton Association. The committee can choose to increase the number of committee members and may nominate individuals to serve with the approval of the Northeast Badminton Association Board. The Committee will select its Chairperson from its members.

The initial fund chairperson is Dee Colcord, and she can be reached at Dacolcord@aol.com, or 781-775-7142 (cell).