

- Webster That's a rather difficult thing to do, Jim, in a few words, but I'll do the best I can. Badminton is played on a court similar to a tennis court, although the badminton court is considerably smaller, and while played both outdoors and indoors, the indoor game is the most popular. The net is about 5 feet high, which is much higher than the tennis net. Instead of rubberized balls, a shuttlecock is used, consisting of a cork head about the size of a quarter in which 16 feathers are inserted in a conical shape. The common name for the shuttlecock is "Bird", since its flight through the air is similar in a way to a winged fowl. The rackets are similar to a tennis racket except that they are much smaller and lighter.
- Raport You stated that the rackets are lighter. What is the average weight of a racket, Webster?
- Webster The average weight of a tennis racket is about 13 ounces, and the badminton racket will average about 5 and a quarter ounces. The bird in play must be stroked on the fly and not allowed to touch the floor, which constitutes the big difference between badminton and tennis.
- Raport People often confuse aerial darts with badminton. In fact, my first experience in Kansas City with the game found the group there playing aerial darts and they were calling it badminton. Aerial darts is quite a good game, but it does not require and one cannot develop the same technical skill that a person can develop in badminton. The aerial dart game is played with a paddle and a heavy bird weighing about twice, or three times, as much as a badminton shuttlecock. This game also requires more space for a playing court. Up to a certain point in the game progression in the technique of the game seems to cease; whereas, in badminton even the world's professional and amateur champions are still improving their game. But please don't misunderstand me; I think aerial darts is a fine game. However, I am quite convinced that badminton is a much better game. Now, Webster, you're a golfer, and you've done a little swimming, as well as having played considerable tennis. How does badminton stack up with these sports as an athletic exercise?
- Webster I've done a turn at most all branches of athletics and I think badminton is comparable to both swimming and tennis for exercising all the muscles of the body, although it accomplishes the work-out in a little different way. Bending, stretching, stepping and swinging are the main actions involved.
- Raport Would you say badminton was a strenuous game?
- Webster Well, that depends on how one plays it. If one is going in for tournament play, particularly singles, more stamina is required than a casual observer might guess. In fact, I have heard many persons call it a "sissy" game, but once get such a person on the court and let a good player run their pants off and they soon change their mind.
- Raport Bruce, what is your opinion of the game for a person of middle age?
- Bruce I don't object to being called "old" in the sense of number of years; in fact, I am a grandfather and it will not be many years until my two grandchildren will be taking up the game. One of the nice features of the game is the fact that old and young can play and enjoy themselves to the fullest extent. I find the business men abhor calisthenics and