

## Local Residents to Compete in World Badminton Championships in Anaheim

**August 8**—Khan “Bob” Malaythong, a 24-year-old resident of Orange, will compete with other members of the U.S. National Badminton Team in the **XIV World Badminton Championships** at the Arrowhead Pond of Anaheim to be held August 15 through 21. The event will be aired on ESPN 2.

Originally from Laos, Bob has dedicated life to the sport of badminton. He and his doubles partner, Raju Rai, are the current adult U.S. and Pan American champions, a title won in Barbados in May. They are ranked 22nd in the world. Both reside in Orange and attend Santiago Canyon College.

Bob and his partner have a great chance of making the 2008 U.S. Olympic Badminton Team. Like all Olympic hopefuls, Bob has prepared for years for something that may never happen. He left home at the age of 14 to live at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs and has trained 5 to 6 hours a day, 5 days a week for the past 10 years. He travels frequently (playing in eight countries last year) and is a part-time student.

Bob receives some funding as a U.S. National Team player, and sponsor Don Chu and his family (owners of the Orange County Badminton Club in Orange) help to pay for his tournament costs. He takes coaching jobs to make ends meet, including the local Villa Park High School badminton team that dominates the CIF championships.

In 2006 Bob plans to transfer to Cal State Fullerton as a kinesiology major. He hopes to end his playing career on a high note by competing in the 2008 Olympics, then making the transition to coaching full-time, perhaps for the U.S. National Team.

Santiago Canyon College is a public community college of Rancho Santiago Community College District which serves the residents of Anaheim Hills, Irvine, Orange, Tustin and Villa Park. The college provides education for academic transfer and careers, courses for personal and professional development, and customized training for business and industry.

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