

Striving Towards a Modern Coastal Metropolis

Top National Badminton Tournament Opens in Ningbo

By Dong Na

On the morning of August 6, the National Badminton Championships kicked off at the Ningbo Olympic Sports Center. This is the first time that Zhejiang is hosting the elite tournament, drawing the best players from 25 provinces and cities across China and captivating a vast community of badminton enthusiasts.

The Nation's Finest Athletes in Ningbo for a Fierce Showdown

The tournament, a pivotal platform for the national team selection, is the highest-level competition of its kind for badminton in China. Over 550 top-tier players from across China are gathering in Ningbo, igniting a fierce competition. Among them is Zhu Haiyuan, the Ningbo athlete who won the men's team championship in the National Badminton Team Championship earlier this year.

On the inaugural day, 142 matches were played across nine courts in the main stadium of the Ningbo Olympic Sports Center.

Zhou Xinyu, a male singles contender born in Jiangbei District of Ningbo in 2002, clinched victory for the Zhejiang team in the opening match.

"This tournament is the most important match of the year for me. I have to give my all in every match, regardless of the outcome." Competing on his home turf, Zhou felt the warmth of his hometown resonating through the stadium environment and tournament services.

The 2023 National Badminton Championships span eight action-packed days, culminating in the grand finale on August 13, when the crowning of champions in men's singles,



The National Badminton Championships kick off at the Ningbo Olympic Sports Center.[Photo by Zhuo Xuan, Zhang Kaikai]

women's singles, men's doubles, women's doubles, and mixed doubles will take place.

Surging Public Enthusiasm

As early as the end of June, the announcement of the National Badminton Championships in Ningbo sparked tremendous excitement among badminton fans.

The 800 full pass tickets quickly sold out; early bird tickets for the finals were all snapped up within just one day of release.

Liu, a college student, had been waiting for the sales of the tickets of the finals well in advance. Though an amateur, he eagerly anticipated witnessing this pinnacle clash among bad-

minton maestros.

For some parents, the event carries special significance, allowing them to share important moments with their growing children. "My child has been passionate about badminton for three years. In the first year, my child went to Ningbo Olympic Sports Center to play badminton six times a week. I hope watching this tournament could inspire my child to love the sport more and to understand the value of persevere!" said one citizen.

Sports epitomize a wholesome and enriching pursuit, intricately tied to the holistic growth of individuals. Irrespective of vocation or age, every individual can harness vigor, vitality, and elation from engaging in sports activities.

Such a perspective forms the cornerstone of Ningbo's concerted emphasis on hosting premium events and the launch of its "Sports Ningbo" initiative.

Seizing Opportunities from High-Profile Events

The surge of visible traffic and revenues during sporting events propels multifaceted urban development. Major tournaments offer a chance for Ningbo to cultivate its sports culture, while granting both domestic and international audiences a glimpse of the city's vibrant history and legacy. The exemplary manufacturing industry of Ningbo serves as a testament to how major tournaments drive sporting goods

manufacturing and the stadium sector.

Cities can learn a lot from hosting major sporting events. From setting up regulations to managing crowds and fostering commercial development, these experiences offer valuable insights for cities looking to optimize their stadium use and improve local event branding.

Beyond expanding a city's horizons, high-profile events have another role to play: enhancing public satisfaction with the city's sports facilities and services. The more a city hosts such events, the greater its expertise becomes. Similarly, the more that local athletes compete at the highest levels, the greater their likelihood of gaining personal growth and success.

SPOTLIGHT

Fresh Seafood from East China Sea Arrives at Ningbo Market

By Gou Wen

On the evening of August 7th, more than 40 refrigerated trucks loaded with shrimp and crabs rolled into the Ningbo Aquatic Products Wholesale Market. Vendors, who had long been awaiting this moment, let out shouts of joy. As the cargo was being unloaded, the aroma of seafood filled the air. It's harvest time!

The partial lifting of the annual fishing ban this year was postponed for a week to August 6th, due to a typhoon. On the evening of the 6th, some vessels had already returned to port with their haul. Late on the 7th, transporter ships began docking, transferring their load to trucks headed straight to markets.

However, fresh sea crabs were in short supply. Only a couple of merchants were offering wild swimming crabs, caught that very night, in the Wholesale Market's trading area, and their prices were not modest.

In contrast, iced swimming crabs were more readily available and affordable. Chen Tao, a vendor, pointed out that they are a popular choice among customers.

More than 1,500 crates of iced swimming crabs, priced at over 40 yuan/kg—cheaper than the same period last year—arrived on the night of the 7th. Within an hour of the market opening, most of the crabs were sold. "We anticipate that the quality of the second batch of swimming crabs in mid-August will be better, and the price will be more budget-friendly," Chen mentioned.

Cai Linting, head of the general office of the Ningbo Aquatic Products Wholesale Market, explained that due to the typhoon's impact, this year's first batch of fresh swimming crabs from the East China Sea was relatively smaller in quantity and came with higher prices.

With more fishing boats expected to dock soon, the supply of seafood will gradually increase. Prices will likely drop in mid to late August, offering citizens more affordable and delightful options. After the fishing ban fully ends on September 16th, the seafood variety will diversify, and prices will become even more consumer-friendly.

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双语汇 Different Tongues

渔山列岛：海钓爱好者的天堂

By Xu Zhuowei

渔山列岛被誉为“亚洲第一钓场”，位于宁波市象山县，是休闲、度假、海钓、游泳、野营的好地方。

Revered as "Asia's Premier Fishing Ground", the Yushan Islands are located in Xiangshan County, Ningbo. This locale offers an ideal setting for vacations, sea fishing, swimming, camping, and beachcombing.

列岛海蚀地貌景观以及丰富的岛礁资源使之成为多种海洋生物资源的聚集地，除了一些常见鱼类外，还有真鲷、黑鲷、石斑鱼、鲈鱼等名贵鱼种。四面八方的海钓爱好者纷至沓来。

The distinctive coastal

erosion landscape and numerous islands and reefs create a perfect home for diverse marine life. Alongside common fish species, there are rare species such as the red sea bream, blackhead seabream, grouper, and sea bass, attracting fishing enthusiasts from across the globe.

岛上景点丰富多样，有灯塔、礁石、仙人桥、渔村等。清晨可以在海边观赏如诗如画的日出，到了夜晚还有热闹欢快的篝火晚会。

The Islands feature a plethora of attractions, including lighthouses, reefs, the "Immortal's Bridge", and fishing villages. Mornings offer picturesque seaside sunrises, while nights come alive with lively bonfire festivities.



The Yushan Islands./渔山列岛。 [Photo by Yang Zhonghua, Xu Neng] 杨忠华 徐能 摄