

Chong Wei, Dan's rivalry to spice up World Badminton Championships

World No. 1 Lee Chong Wei of Malaysia will look to renew his rivalry with defending champion Lin Dan of China when the World Badminton Championships begins here Monday.

Olympic champion Dan and Chong Wei share a sizzling rivalry and can run into each other in the men's semi-finals at the Gachibowli Stadium here.

Though Chong Wei is the top seed in the World Championships, Dan, who is seeded fifth, has been the Malaysian's worst nightmare.

Chong Wei has defeated Lin in their last meeting, the Swiss Open in April, but the Chinese ace has always enjoyed an upper hand in the major tournaments.

Wei, on the other hand, is still to win a World Championship or an Olympic gold. The 27-year-old's Olympic dreams were crushed by Dan in the Beijing final last year.

'It still hurts. I have not won a World Championship or an Olympic gold. That is a motivation for me this time,' Chong Wei told reporters.

Chong Wei, a bronze medallist in 2005 in Anaheim, said this time he is determined to better his best performance in the world meet.

The Malaysian will open his campaign against Germany's Dieter Dromke, and could meet his first big hurdle in Vietnam's Nguyen Tien Minh in the third round. Minh upset Chong Wei in the Singapore Open in June.

The draw, which has a heavy top half, could see Chong Wei face sixth seed Sony Dwi Kuncoro in the next round.

Dan will face a tough third round against teammate Bao Chunlai, and could then run into third seed Peter Gade of Denmark.

'He is not thinking too much about the draw. These things are not in our hand,' said Chinese coach Ly Yung Bo. 'If Lin plays to his potential he can go a long way in the tournament.'

In the women's singles, Mi Zhou of Hong Kong will look to fulfill her unfinished dream of a world title. Zhou, 30, is a former World No. 1 from China and now represents Hong Kong.

Malaysian Wong Mew Choo is in the same side of the draw along with China's Xie Xingfang and Wang Yihan.

The lower half of the draw has Wang Lin and Chinese Lu Lan along with Hong Kong's Wang Chen and Yip Pui Yin. Denmark's Tine Rasmussen and India's Saina Nehwal will be there to breach the Chinese wall.

The men's doubles top seed -- Markis Kido and Hendra Setiawan of Indonesia -- are not participating in the tournament.

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