Add New Games to Your List of Sunshine Sports

Jeannette Woodward
Iowa State College

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Add New Games to Your List of

Sunshine Sports

Jeannette Woodward offers tips on how to play popular games for warm days

FORE! Serving! Batter up! College women don new slacks and streak to a tennis court or golf course whenever time permits. They'll even try vigorously to make the dormitory baseball team! These sports have held the limelight for a long time but now there are some "background" games demanding their share of attention. The fact that most of these unheralded sports are less expensive and require expert skill explains their rapid rise in general popularity.

Badminton is a game that has traveled a long way since grandmother's day and one which is fast making a reputation for itself among sport fans. This game was played first in India under the name of "poona." At an early age it moved to England and was given its present name. At the close of the World War badminton crossed the Atlantic to Canada and finally entered the United States.

Although originally a "he man" sport, during the gay nineties badminton was considered a "sissy game." It was known as battledore and shuttlecock. For some time it remained in the atmosphere of tea tables, dress suits and bustle skirts. Later it traveled through armories, gymnasiums and summer camps and finally came home to be played in the backyard.

This sport requires skill and speed. It resembles tennis but has several advantages over this well known sport. The equipment is less expensive, only a small playing area is needed and the game can be played indoors or out with equal enjoyment.

If one already has a tennis court, the only extra equipment needed will be posts, bats and balls. The new posts should be long enough to have the top of the net 5 feet and 1 inch from the ground on the ends and 5 feet high in the center. The court size is 44 by 20 feet for a doubles game and 44 by 17 feet for singles.

Another old-timer but a newcomer to your list of "the" sports is deck tennis. It is a particularly good game to play on a windy day when one can't play badminton. Deck tennis looks easy and rather silly the first time one sees it played; however, it has many hidden charms.

The game is most often played on shipboard but it can be played anywhere and especially well on that versatile tennis court or the back yard. The equipment is simple to construct—tapes, net, two posts and a ring are all that is necessary.

The rings or grommets can be made at home with minimum skill. Grommets are made in sailor fashion of single strands of rope. When the grommet is completed, dip it in varnish and then sew on a covering of cotton or duck. The varnish "sets" the ring and holds the cover on. One can play without the cover on the rings but to keep smooth hands it is better to use it. A standard rubber ring can be purchased for a nominal price at any sporting goods store.

One of the newest sports to rate as a "hit" is shuffleboard. Shuffleboard was popular back in King Henry the Eighth's time. The shipping companies revived it for the amusement of their passengers.

Today equipment is much simpler and can be easily made at home. You who have a cement walk or drive, a long porch or tennis court at home have a layout ready for shuffleboard. For those who haven't such facilities, there is a lawn variation. The other equipment—cues, disks and targets is not expensive and can be used in other games.