

# HIS LEGACY LIVES ON

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(SPORTSWRITER & BUSINESS COMMENTATOR)

**H**esitate to call Tan Yee Khan (Datuk) statuesque, yet the word fits although it is usually reserved for tall and rather attractive women.

Tall, powerful, and commanding, he carried himself with a presence that filled the court. His entry was never arrogant, but confident — an athlete who knew his strength and used it with precision.

Watching him play was unforgettable. His style was nothing short of demolition, dismantling opponents with skill and force.

Yet off the court, Yee Khan was a man of conviction, often speaking his mind about how to excel on the world stage. He came from an era when badminton was still amateur, when prize money was scarce, but his belief was unwavering: there are no shortcuts to success.

I first knew Yee Khan as a spectator, later as a sports writer. Though I dabbled in the game myself, he was several leagues above me. By the time I spoke to him personally, dementia had begun to set in, but his generosity and warmth remained.

Those who knew him as fellow players often recalled his kindness, especially in his later years as a hotelier in Pulau Pangkor, where he ran the Seaview Hotel.

The late Tan Aik Mong often spoke fondly of Yee Khan's friendship and the welcoming atmosphere of his Seaview Hotel in Pangkor Island.

In 2019, Yee Khan suggested that Aik Mong and I visit Pangkor together.

Yee Khan would tease about my gait and bulk. Jokingly he would say, "There's no boat big enough to carry you there!"

We never made the trip, though I knew Pangkor's boats could carry even an elephant.

As a scribe, I count myself fortunate to have

enjoyed the company of Yee Khan on many occasions.

Each encounter reminded me of the rich badminton legacy that Yee Khan helped to build.

Tan Yee Khan's life was a blend of athletic brilliance, personal generosity, and enduring influence.

His presence on the court and his warmth of it remain etched in memory — a true giant of Malaysian badminton.



Tan Aik Mong  
(left) & Tan  
Yee Kha