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PENANG | BADMINTON

PASSING OF A LEGEND

Former badminton great Eddy Choong dies

FORMER badminton great Datuk Eddy Choong passed away at 3pm yesterday in Penang.

He was 82.

This comes barely a few months after the passing of another badminton legend Datuk Punch Gunalan, who died on Aug 14.

Penang Badminton Association (PBA) secretary Tony Tan expressed his deepest condolences to Eddy's family, adding it was a great loss to both State and country.

"This is indeed a great loss to the world of badminton, and we at PBA are very sorry to hear about this," said Tony.

"As you know, he was a great player both in singles and doubles (with his brother the late David Choong), winning the prestigious All England title in the 1950s.

"Eddy also served as a PBA vice-president for a couple of terms and he was indeed a great inspiration."

Choong was admitted to



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hospital a month ago, according to family members.

Besides winning the All England singles title in 1953, 1954, 1956 and 1957, Eddy was also the Malaysian Open singles champion in 1957 and 1960.

Eddy was also a part of

the Badminton Association of Malaysia (BAM) set-up. He was a member of the think-tank group to develop the sport and was also a national coach himself.

BAM secretary Ng Chin Chai, who was also saddened to hear the news, said: "It is a great loss as he

was a national icon.

"BAM will send representatives for the wake and the funeral on Friday."

Datuk James Selvaraj said it was a very sad day for Malaysian badminton.

"He was one of the few players in the world to have won the All England titles in both the singles and doubles categories," he said.

"He likes to advice young players and during my playing days, Eddy's advice helped improve my game."

National singles coach Rashid Sidek said Eddy was one of the reasons he became a successful player.

"I have never worked with him but when I was playing, he used to give me lot of advice on how to become a champion," he said.

Rashid remembers one thing that Eddy used to say to him — there was no short cut to becoming a champion.

"To me he was the greatest player of his generation," he said.