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Brian Yang VS. Li Shi Fen

Future stars battle it out in the first round of the 2019 Yonex Canada Open, presented by Sunlife.

The 2019 Yonex Canada Open, presented by Sunlife is proud to be hosting many top players in the world, including former Commonwealth, Olympic and World Champions. Among these top senior players are also many top junior players. The two standout young stars at this year's 2019 Yonex Canada Open, presented by Sunlife are Brian Yang and Li Shifeng, who have clashed in the first round.

We are lucky to have the 19 year old 2018 Youth Olympic Games men's singles champion from China, Li Shifeng. Li was the go-to men's singles player for China at the 2018 BWF World Junior Championships where they took home the gold in the mixed team event. Li also captured a bronze medal in the individual event. The rising star is beginning to make his mark in senior events as he was runner-up in both the 2019 Austrian Open and the 2019 Iran Fajr international earlier this year.

His opponent in the first round, Brian Yang, is currently ranked 4th in the BWF world junior rankings. He is also making a name for himself in senior level competition. Brian just came off a title at the Peru International, beating the #1 seed, Kevin Cordon in the final.

Li Shifeng started off very quickly, getting on the attack and forcing many errors from Brian. Shifeng was able to keep his focus, winning the first game handily, 21-11. The start of the second game was no different, as Shifeng got off to a quick start and was leading 11-6 at the mid-game interval. The crowd began to get into the match, cheering hard for the home favourite. Using the energy from the crowd, Brian found his game and was able to claw back to 16 all and make it an exciting affair. After taking the lead 19-18, he was able to give himself a game point at 20-19. Li was able to keep his nerve and clinch the second game 22-20 to take the match.

“ I didn't play my best but Li Shifeng was solid the whole match. He played well and did not allow me to play my game. I look forward to playing him in the future” Brian said after his match. We are looking forward to many exciting matches played by these two in the future.

Brian hits a net shot in his first round match against Li Shifeng from China at the 2019 Yonex Canada Open, presented by Sunlife.