



Loh Kean Yew reaches Asian Games badminton final after beating Yoo Tae-bin

Description

Loh Kean Yew beat South Korea's Yoo Tae-bin 21-19, 19-21, 21-12 in the men's singles semi-final at Ichinomiya City Municipal Gymnasium on Monday, 28 September 2026, to become the first Singaporean to reach an Asian Games badminton final.



Loh Kean Yew after beating Yoo Tae-bin in the Asian Games men's singles semi-final in Ichinomiya on 28 September 2026. Photo: SNOC / Eng Chin An via ActiveSG Circle

World number 13 Loh needed 69 minutes to see off the unseeded 22-year-old, who had already dumped out Lin Chun-yi, Shi Yu Qi and Kodai Naraoka on his way to the last four. Yoo took the second game after Loh had edged a tight opener, then the Singaporean pulled clear in the decider and closed it

out 21-12.

The win guarantees Loh at least a silver. Before this Games, the republic's only Asian Games badminton medal was a women's team bronze at Doha 2006. His quarter-final win over world number 1 Jonatan Christie, which ended a 10-match losing run against the Indonesian, had already secured Singapore's first Asian Games men's singles badminton medal.

Final against Kunlavut Vitidsarn on Tuesday

He faces Thailand's world number 2 Kunlavut Vitidsarn in Tuesday's final. Loh holds a 2-8 head-to-head record against the Thai, though he won their last meeting in January in three games. Kunlavut also beat him in the 2022 SEA Games final.

• Obviously happy to make the final of the Asian Games, but I need to stay focused for tomorrow's game, Loh said after the semi-final. The Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games run from 19 September to 4 October 2026.

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