



## Daren's plotting to displace Chong Wei

January 06, 2009 Categories: Badminton

If all goes well, fast rising shuttler Daren Liew could be the player most likely to displace world No 1 Lee Chong Wei. The boy from Cheras seems to think so. Bullish as he may sound, Daren has set a time frame to realise his dreams of being the country's No 1 player.

"I'm giving myself two years to chase this target," said Daren, who will turn 22 on Aug 6. Champions are not born, but they are made. And Daren knows very well that champions are made. He said: "I know it is going to be plenty of hard work and champions are made through such diligence. I have to thank my parents for giving me all the support."

Rekindling his early days with the badminton racquet, Daren was influenced by his elder brother Gavin, a former national player and father Liew Kim Wah. "They have always been my pillar of strength. Even my mum (Woo Yoke Bee) is supportive over my involvement in the sport."

If that was not enough, Chong Wei too sang praises to Daren during the training session in Bukit Jalil yesterday. The moral support from Chong Wei will go a long way to inspire Daren as he aims to make his mark in the near future.

The youngster will need to do the extras to outdo his fellow colleagues — Tan Chun Seang, Chong Wei Fong and Ariff Latif — who are also chasing a similar target.

Daren's start to his big plans begins with the Malaysian Open which starts today. He plays in the qualifying rounds at the Putra Stadium in Bukit Jalil. His opponent — Thailand's Tanongsak Saensomboonsuk and a win could see him play teammate Pei Wee Chung for a spot in the main draw.

A product of the Bukit Jalil Sports School, Daren believes he is able to net better results in his second attempt at the annual affair. "I made my debut in the Malaysia Open two years ago but lost in the second round qualifiers to (India's) Anup Sridhar. I didn't play last year due to a mix-up in the entry list. "I believe it will be different this time around and hope to make it to the main draw," he added