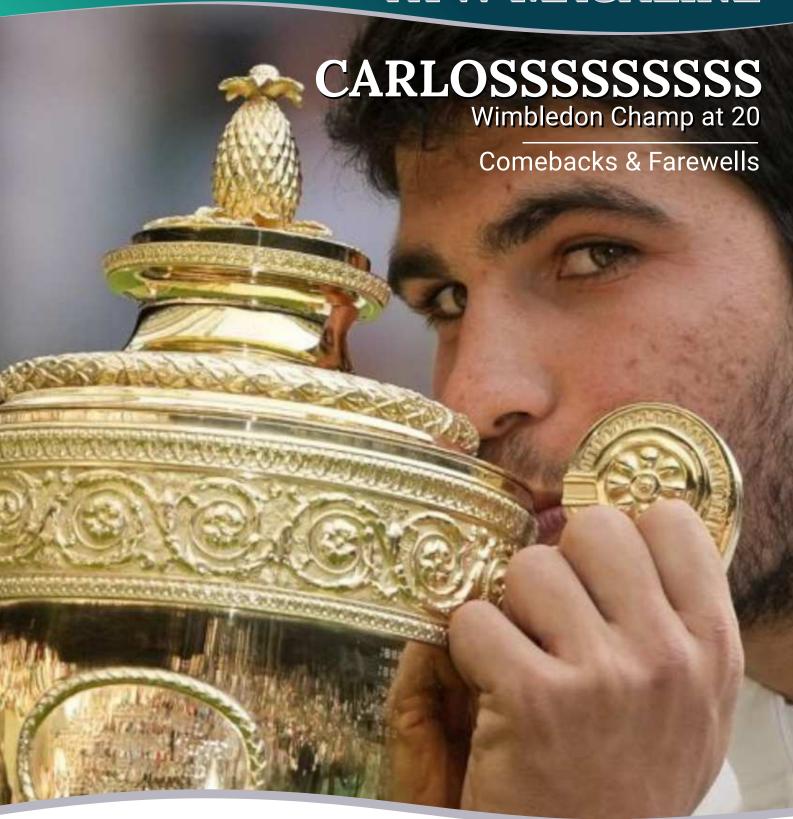
GRSA-INTERNATIONAL.COM / JULY 2023



GRSA INTERNATIONAL **ATW MAGAZINE**





TEN EARS
and slill champion



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GRSA members have a number of benefits, some appear here in the magazine and online, check out our community.

Unforgettable Upsets in Wimbledon History: Nadal, Agassi, and Hingis Stunned by Underdogs

The hallowed grounds of Wimbledon have witnessed some of the most remarkable upsets in tennis history, where even the most celebrated champions have fallen victim to shocking defeats in the early rounds. Let's delve into the annals of this prestigious tournament and revisit five extraordinary upsets that left tennis fans in awe.

Steve Darcis Shocks Rafael Nadal (2013)

It was a momentous day at the 2013 Wimbledon Championships when unheralded Steve Darcis sent shockwaves through the tennis world by ousting two-time Wimbledon champion Rafael Nadal in the opening round. Nadal, who had been enjoying a splendid season with a remarkable 22-match winning streak, was the clear favourite entering the match. Yet, Darcis, displaying exceptional skill and determination, handed Nadal a resounding defeat in straight sets (7-6, 7-6, 6-4). This unexpected triumph marked the pinnacle of Darcis's career, a monumental achievement given his underdog status and limited success leading up to the tournament.

Doug Flach Overcomes Andre Agassi (1996)

In 1996, the revered Andre Agassi, the third seed at Wimbledon, encountered an unforeseen challenge in the form of Doug Flach, a relatively unknown player ranked 281st in the world. Having battled through the qualifying rounds, FLACH defied all odds by prevailing over Agassi in a captivating four-set match (2-6, 7-6, 6-4, 7-6). The victory served as redemption for Flach, who had suffered a devastating defeat at Wimbledon the previous year. This enthralling upset showcased the unpredictable nature of tennis, with Flach summoning his finest performance to topple the former Wimbledon champion.

Jelena Dokic Stuns Martina Hingis (1999)

Martina Hingis, an indomitable force during the late arrived the 1999 Wimbledon 1990s. at Championships as a formidable contender. Fresh off her triumph at the Australian Open earlier that year, she seemed destined for another deep run at Wimbledon. However, Jelena Dokic, ranked 129th in the world, had different plans. In a display of sheer brilliance, Dokic dismantled Hingis with a lopsided scoreline of 6-2, 6-0, in a mere 54 minutes. This astounding upset saw Dokic sweep aside the Swiss star, winning 11 consecutive games to secure an emphatic victory.







4. Ivo Karlovic Upsets Lleyton Hewitt (2003)

Defending champion Lleyton Hewitt suffered an unprecedented fate at the 2003 Wimbledon Championships when he became the first reigning champion in the Open Era to exit the tournament in the opening round. Ivo Karlovic, a relative unknown with only two main tour victories to his name, seized this opportunity to make history. In a stirring comeback, Karlovic rallied from a set down to deliver a stunning 1-6, 7-6, 6-3, 6-4 victory over Hewitt. This remarkable triumph not only propelled Karlovic into the spotlight, but also served as a testament to the unpredictability and relentless competition at Wimbledon.

5. Peter Doohan Overcomes Boris Becker (1987)

Boris Becker, seeking his third consecutive Wimbledon title in 1987, entered the tournament as the top seed and a dominant force on the grass courts. However, Peter Doohan, armed with an unyielding belief in his abilities, managed to pull off a momentous upset. Despite a meager 1-4 record at Wimbledon, Doohan drew inspiration from his earlier victory in the first round of the tournament. With unwavering determination, he triumphed over the teenage prodigy Becker, emerging victorious with a captivating 7-6, 4-6, 6-2, 6-4 scoreline. Doohan shattered Becker's 15-match winning streak at Wimbledon and etched his name in tennis history. Sadly he passed away this month in 2017, July 21st.



These five unforgettable upsets serve as a testament to the captivating drama and inherent unpredictability of Wimbledon. They remind us that in the world of tennis, even the most accomplished champions must be prepared for the unexpected challenges that lie in wait on the illustrious grass courts of the All-England Club.

Nepo Baby Tennis Players Nature or Nurture?

So what is the definition of a "nepo baby tennis player"? (Nepotism – "Undue favouritism towards one's relations")



Well, in this case, it is a player who has the benefit of strong familial links (usually parents) with the tennis world and who therefore has access to all those advantages which allow that player to gain the edge over his/her other competitors.

High-profile names who have been attributed with this, perhaps intentionally pejorative moniker, are Stefanos Tsitsipas, Ben Shelton, Sabastian Korda, Casper Ruud, Brandon Holt, Andy and Jamie Murray, Taylor Fritz and Elizabeth Mandlik - each of whom has at least one parent who was a professional.

But what exactly are these so-called advantages that can put the player ahead of the pack?

Nurture.

Being the progeny of talented parents – and where the young player exhibits signs of outstanding tennis ability – means that the parents can implement their knowledge of how to gain access to tennis resources albeit financial or via a network of pre-existing contacts in the coaching field.

The young player will receive intensive early years training to assess their actual talent and, during the course of their coaching, avoid developing any bad habits or pitfalls on the court. The player will be sent to tennis academies and camps for extended visits and competitive tournaments where their psychological and physical well-being will be constantly appraised and monitored. In many cases, the vested-interested parents will accompany their child to offer guidance, support and encouragement and in return, it is recognized that most child prodigies will have a great desire to please their parents and want to excel for them.

Nurture - for the non - nepo players

While nepo-babies represent only a small number of world-class players – what they do have in common with the rest is that none of the top 100 players comes from an impoverished background. One thing for sure is that if an aspiring young player doesn't have support from their family, the going will be very tough. Competing at top level requires grit, determination and sacrifice not only from the player but from the family as well. When there is a potential world-class athlete in their midst, the family must do everything in their power to bring that prodigy to the attention of those who know how to nurture their talent and finance the development of their ability. They may not have the same "know-how" as the nepo-parents familiar with the workings of the tennis world – but they do have to be able to commit wholeheartedly towards the future of their offspring.

Nature

"You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make it drink."

The parents of nepo-babies may indeed have a fervent desire for their child to succeed – to perhaps reach or exceed the heights they never attained for themselves. But whilst they may throw every resource, offer every incentive and give every advantage – at the end of the day, it comes down to the individual – do they have what it takes to succeed? The player may well have inherited their parent's superb athletic genes but this in itself is no guarantee of success.

What binds every uber-ambitious player – whether nepo or not – is a mighty mental attitude – a ruthless, unremitting, unquenchable desire to win which is encoded into the very essence, the very DNA of the player. It is what makes them get up, dust themselves off and try and try again after suffering a brutal beating. It is having that incredible strength of character, mental steel and single-minded discipline, co-existing with the unshakeable belief in their own ability to conquer despite the injuries, the disappointments and the defeats.

Combine those characteristics with outstanding reflexes, exceptional spatial awareness, supreme fitness, incredible strength and 100% commitment and you get a formidable competitor.

One who can thank their family for their love and support but thank only themselves for their achievements.

Alcaraz, Rune, and Eubanks: Wimbledon's Youthful Surprises and Age-Defying Feat

The 2023 Wimbledon Championships witnessed a mix of youthful talent and age-defying performances that left tennis fans in awe. Carlos Alcaraz and Holger Rune, both 18 years old, made their mark as the youngest players to reach the quarterfinals. Meanwhile, 27-year-old Chris Eubanks surprised everyone with his debut at this stage of the tournament. Let's dive into their remarkable journeys and the impact they've had on the tennis world.

Alcaraz and Rune: Youthful Pioneers

Carlos Alcaraz and Holger Rune, at just 18, showed maturity beyond their years at Wimbledon. Alcaraz displayed tenacity and belief in his match against Matteo Berrettini, impressing with his powerful groundstrokes and serving prowess. Rune's versatility and bold shot selection helped him defeat experienced opponents, making him a formidable force.

Eubanks: The Ageless Trailblazer

Chris Eubanks, a 27-year-old American, defied expectations with his first-ever Grand Slam quarterfinal appearance. Known for his powerful serve and all-around game, Eubanks proved that age is no barrier to success. His achievement serves as an inspiration, highlighting the importance of perseverance and self-belief, as no less than a year ago he was a commentator for Tennis Channel. He struggled to break into the Top 100, but turned things around after winning his first ATP title in Mallorca earlier this year.

The Impact and Legacy:

Alcaraz, Rune, and Eubanks have left a lasting impact on the tennis world with their Wimbledon breakthroughs. As the youngest quarterfinalists, Alcaraz and Rune have shown that age is not an obstacle to success. Their remarkable performances have positioned them as rising stars to watch in the future.

Meanwhile, Eubanks' feat as a 27-year-old debutant in the quarterfinals has captured global attention, emphasizing the enduring spirit of the game. His journey resonates with fans worldwide, reminding us that determination knows no age limits.

The 2023 Wimbledon Championships provided captivating moments as young talents Alcaraz and Rune made their mark, while Eubanks defied age conventions. Their stories showcase the beauty of tennis, where youth and experience converge to create unforgettable moments.

As we celebrate the triumphs of these exceptional athletes, we look forward to their future endeavours and the impact they will continue to make on the tennis world. The blend of youthful enthusiasm and age-defying performances at Wimbledon serves as a reminder that the sport knows no boundaries, and dreams can be realized at any age.

A Tale Of Two Tennis Legends: Caroline Wozniacki's Comeback And Feliciano Lopez's Farewell

In the ever-dynamic world of tennis, stories of comebacks and farewells captivate fans and leave an indelible mark on the sport. Today, we bring you a double dose of tennis news that will have you reaching for your racket and shedding a tear. From Caroline Wozniacki's triumphant return to Feliciano Lopez's heartfelt retirement, join us on this journey as we explore the contrasting chapters of two tennis legends.

Caroline Wozniacki: A Remarkable Comeback to the Tennis World

In the realm of sports, comebacks are often seen as a testament to resilience, determination, and unwavering passion. One such captivating comeback story is that of Caroline Wozniacki, the Danish tennis superstar who recently announced her return to the court after a well-deserved break. With her unwavering spirit and remarkable achievements, Wozniacki has etched her name in the annals of tennis history. Now, as she prepares to embark on her comeback journey, fans and enthusiasts are eagerly awaiting her triumphant return.

Rekindling the Fire:

After bidding farewell to professional tennis in early 2020, Wozniacki took some time off to focus on personal endeavours and spend quality time with her loved ones. However, the fire within her never truly diminished. It was only a matter of time before she would once again grace the court with her exceptional talent, much to the excitement of her fans.

A Stellar Career:

As a former World No. 1 and Australian Open champion, Wozniacki's career has been nothing short of extraordinary. Throughout her illustrious journey, she has consistently displayed a blend of tenacity and finesse that propelled her to the forefront of women's tennis. With 30 WTA singles titles, two Olympic medals, and numerous other accolades to her name, Wozniacki's impact on the sport is indelible.

Wozniacki's Comeback Schedule:

The excitement surrounding Wozniacki's return is amplified by the tournaments she has chosen to include in her comeback schedule. Eager to test her mettle against topranked players, Wozniacki has added the prestigious WTA 1000 tournament to her itinerary. Can she regain her form and outperform her competitors in the face of fierce competition?

In addition to the WTA 1000, Wozniacki has also received wildcards for other notable tournaments, solidifying her presence in the tennis world. What challenges will she encounter on her comeback journey? Can she overcome them and reclaim her spot at the pinnacle of the sport?

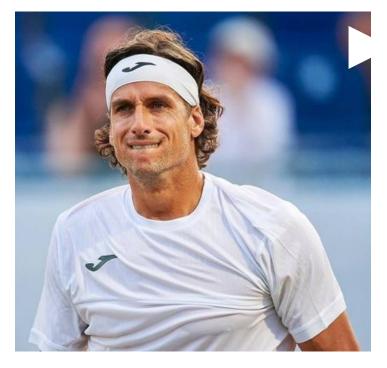
Anticipation for Wozniacki's Return:

As Caroline Wozniacki prepares to make her much-anticipated comeback, the tennis world is buzzing with excitement. Fans, fellow players, and pundits alike eagerly await her return to the court. How has she evolved during her time away? What new strategies and skills will she bring to the game?

Wozniacki's charisma, grace, and unrivalled work ethic have always made her a fan favourite. Will her comeback reignite the passion and fervour that surrounds the sport? Can she inspire a new generation of tennis enthusiasts with her remarkable resilience?

Wozniacki's Caroline comeback to professional tennis is a testament to her unyielding dedication, indomitable spirit, and love for the game. As she steps back onto the court, she carries with her a legacy of exceptional achievements and a legion of loyal fans eagerly awaiting her return. The tennis world is poised to of a true witness the resurgence champion. How far will Wozniacki go in her comeback journey? Only time will tell, but one thing is certain: her journey will be nothing short of inspiring.





ever-evolving world the professional tennis, retirement marks the end of an era for some of the sport's most beloved and respected athletes. One such player bidding farewell to the courts is Feliciano Lopez, the Spanish tennis maestro known for his stylish play and infectious enthusiasm. After an illustrious 26-year career, Lopez has decided to hang up his racket, leaving behind a remarkable legacy and a lasting impact on the sport. As fans and fellow players come to terms with the news, it's time to reflect on the journey of this extraordinary athlete and celebrate his remarkable achievements.

A Lifetime of Dedication:

Feliciano Lopez's decision to retire comes after decades of unwavering dedication to the sport he loves. With a career spanning over a quarter of a century, Lopez has established himself as one of Spain's most successful and respected tennis players. Known for his elegant left-handed strokes and powerful serve-and-volley style, Lopez's contributions to the game will be remembered for years to come.

A Glittering Career:

Lopez's retirement marks the end of a career filled with remarkable accomplishments. Throughout his journey, he has captured seven ATP singles titles and six ATP doubles titles, earning the admiration of fans and peers alike. His most memorable moment came in 2019 when he triumphed at Queen's Club, becoming the oldest champion in the tournament's history. Such milestones are a testament to Lopez's enduring talent and determination.



A Legacy of Sportsmanship:

Beyond his on-court achievements, Feliciano Lopez will be remembered for his unwavering sportsmanship and infectious personality. Throughout his career, he exemplified the values of fair play, respect, and camaraderie. His warm smile and affable nature endeared him to fans across the globe, making him a true ambassador for the sport.

Retirement on a High Note:

Lopez's decision to retire was not an easy one, but he leaves the game on a high note. His final tournament appearance took place at the Mallorca Championships, where he showcased his signature style and entertained the crowd with his graceful strokes. Though he was unable to secure a victory, Lopez's presence on the court reminded spectators of his incredible contributions to the sport over the years.

A Fond Farewell:

As news of Feliciano Lopez's retirement spreads throughout the tennis community, tributes pour in from players and fans alike. The Spaniard's impact on the game extends far beyond his achievements on the court.

Looking Ahead:

While Feliciano Lopez may be retiring from competitive tennis, his love for the game will undoubtedly endure. It is not uncommon for retired athletes to remain involved in the sport as coaches, commentators, or ambassadors. As Lopez embarks on the next chapter of his life, it will be intriguing to see how he continues to contribute to the tennis world and inspire future generations.



Feliciano Lopez's retirement marks the end of a remarkable career filled with passion, skill, and sportsmanship. His elegant style of play and infectious personality have made him a fan favourite, and his contributions to the sport will be cherished for years to come. As the tennis world bids farewell to this legendary player, we celebrate his remarkable achievements and wish him the very best in all his future endeavours. Thank you, Feliciano Lopez, for your remarkable career and the joy you brought to tennis fans around the world.



As Caroline Wozniacki prepares to script her comeback story and Feliciano Lopez bids farewell to a remarkable career, we find ourselves at the crossroads of exhilaration and nostalgia. These two tennis icons, with their contrasting paths, have left an indelible mark on the sport. Their stories remind us that tennis is a beautiful symphony of resilience, passion, and human connection. As we bid farewell to one and welcome back the other, let's cherish every moment, game on and adiós, dear legends!



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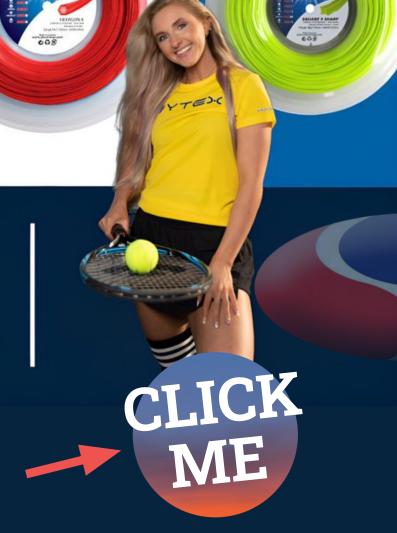




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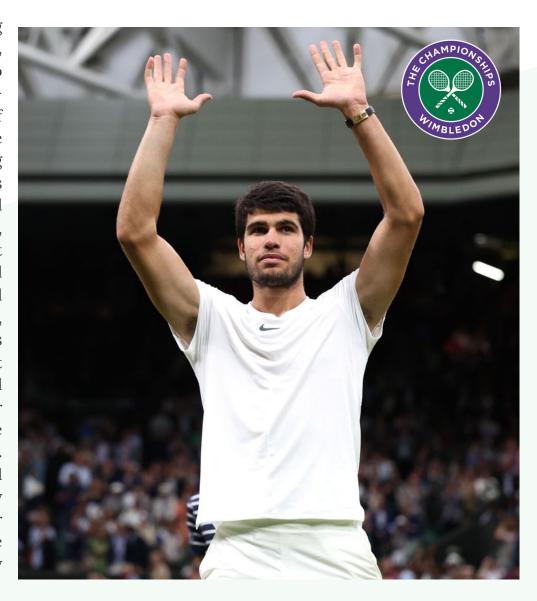
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ENHORABUENA GARLOS

In recent years, Novak Djokovic has reigned supreme in men's tennis, thwarting the aspirations of younger challengers at major tournaments. However, Carlos Alcaraz stands out as a different breed. His unmatched skills on the court and unwavering mental strength set him apart. Just a month after succumbing to the intense pressure of facing Djokovic at the French Open, Alcaraz displayed remarkable resilience, overcoming a set deficit and delivering a phenomenal performance to defeat the top-seeded Djokovic 1-6, 7-6 (6), 6-1, 3-6, 6-4 and claim his inaugural Wimbledon title.

The match was nothing of astonishing, short requiring Alcaraz summon immeasurable selfbelief and produce shots of highest calibre the throughout five grueLling sets. Reflecting on his victory, Alcaraz expressed gratitude, stating, his "Winning is fantastic, but even if I had lost, I would have been immensely proud of my incredible journey, making history in this magnificent tournament and competing in the final against a legend of our sport. It's an incredible feeling, a dream come true. Playing on such grand stages is amazing, especially for a 20-year-old. I never expected to reach this stage so quickly. I'm genuinely proud of myself."



While Alcaraz's career trajectory had already been impressive for someone so young, his performance at Wimbledon surpassed the deafening hype surrounding him. His ability to learn, adapt, and improve with each match is truly astonishing. Less than four weeks ago, Alcaraz was merely trying to figure out how to navigate the grass-court season, adjusting his game to account for balance and movement. He almost faced defeat against Arthur Rinderknech, ranked 83rd in the world, at Queen's Club.



Since then, Alcaraz has been on an unstoppable streak, learning from every match and securing 12 consecutive victories across Queen's Club and Wimbledon. Notably, he became the first player to defeat Djokovic on Centre Court in a full decade since Andy Murray accomplished the feat in the 2013 final. Alcaraz expressed his newfound love for grass, declaring, "I have fallen in love with grass right now."

At the age of 20, Alcaraz became the third youngest player ever to win the Wimbledon men's singles title, following in the footsteps of Boris Becker and Björn Borg. This victory marked his second Grand Slam title, making him the first emerging male player since Stan Wawrinka in 2015 to claim multiple major titles. By putting an end to Djokovic's four-year reign at Wimbledon, Alcaraz prevented the 36-year-old from equaling Roger Federer's record of eight Wimbledon titles.

Djokovic, despite his disappointment, expressed gratitude and acknowledged the tight matches he had won in previous years. He stated, "Once the emotions settle, I must still be very grateful because I have triumphed in many closely contested matches in recent years. For instance, in the 2019 final against Roger, when I faced match points. Perhaps I should have lost a few finals that I managed to win. I believe it all balances out."

In the initial stages of the match, it seemed that Djokovic's experience would prevail as he overwhelmed Alcaraz with his depth and retrieval skills. After just 27 minutes, Djokovic claimed the first set with a commanding 5-0 lead. However, Alcaraz gradually found his rhythm, and the intensity soared in an incredible second set filled with high-octane rallies. Alcaraz's confident play led to Djokovic committing unforced errors, culminating in a backhand return winner on set point, met with thunderous applause from the crowd.

With a set under his belt, Alcaraz's game flourished. He discovered newfound effectiveness on his serve, earning more free points, and his explosive forehands went unanswered. Dominating the set, Alcaraz endured a gruelling 26-minute game at 3-1, featuring 13 deuces and seven break points. Eventually, Alcaraz broke Djokovic's serve, securing a decisive double break.



Points winners: 98 - Total unforced errors: 85 Total points won: 334 - Total double faults: 10

Match Time: 4h 43m





As expected, Djokovic mounted a strong response in the fourth set, showcasing his exceptional return skills and breaking Alcaraz's serve to take a 3-2 lead. Energized and focused, he forced a fifth set.

Facing the greatest player of all time in the final set, Alcaraz refused to back down. After missing a breakpoint in the opening game, he promptly saved one himself through an extraordinary display of defence, forcing Djokovic into a drive volley error. As the intensity reached its peak, a breathless exchange on Djokovic's serve at break point concluded with the Serbian star falling, recovering, and witnessing Alcaraz deliver a sublime backhand passing shot winner. Alcaraz celebrated his 2-1 lead, while Djokovic vented his frustration by cracking his racket against the net post.

Against the backdrop of Djokovic's reputation as the finest returner in tennis history, renowned for his ability to mount comebacks from any situation, Alcaraz pressed forward relentlessly. He summoned powerful serves and unleashed massive forehands whenever necessary. When he stood at the baseline with a 5-4 advantage, there was no trace of fear or nerves. In a mesmerizing game, featuring audacious drop shots and a lunging volley winner, Alcaraz served out the match of his life, securing a well-deserved victory.

Markéta Vondroušová: A Triumph at Wimbledon 2023 Paves the Path to a Glorious Future

In the realm of prestigious tennis, where traditions intertwine with unparalleled athleticism, a tale of triumph unfolded at the revered grass courts of Wimbledon. Markéta Vondroušová, a luminary of grace and tenacity, etched her name in the annals of history as she emerged victorious in the ladies' championship of Wimbledon 2023.

With her enchanting prowess and unyielding spirit, Vondroušová weaved a captivating narrative throughout the tournament. Each elegant swing of her racket reverberated with unwavering determination, captivating the hearts of the spectators who bore witness to her remarkable journey. The grass beneath her feet seemed to yield to her masterful command, echoing the resounding cheers that enveloped the hallowed arena.

In an exquisite display of skill and finesse, Vondroušová outshone her worthy adversaries, showcasing her ability to seize pivotal moments with calculated precision. The final showdown was an awe-inspiring spectacle, as she gracefully outmaneuvered her opponent, leaving a trail of wonderment in her wake.

This monumental triumph at Wimbledon sets the stage for Vondroušová's illustrious future, an ascent to even greater heights. With her unwavering focus and a gaze fixed firmly on the horizon, she embarks on a promising journey, guided by the echoes of her resounding victory.

As the tennis world reverberates with her name, Vondroušová embodies the spirit of a champion—unyielding, graceful, and poised for boundless achievements. Her extraordinary triumph at Wimbledon 2023 serves as a testament to her indomitable spirit and relentless pursuit of excellence.

In the aftermath of this momentous victory, the world awaits with bated breath, eagerly anticipating the continued brilliance of Markéta Vondroušová as she carves her path through the captivating realm of tennis, destined to leave an indelible mark upon the sport's tapestry.







born: June 28, 1999 **Height**: 1.72 m

Height: 1.72 m Sets dropped during Wimbledon: 2

COMING VERY SOON







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In the Room

With Richard Parnell

Photos from all levels of tournaments are of interest

Here at GRSA HQ, in Spain, we are often sent photos, by members or managers, from different events around the world, whether it be from a Grand Slam, Master 1000 or similar event. However, photos from events around the world don't always have to be from the ATP or WTA tours.

I personally, would like to invite all stringers of any level stringing at whichever level event, to send us the photos and a little text explaining the following; where the event is, event level, how many rackets strung, which machine was used, dates and duration of the service.

I believe that grassroots events whether they are a club championship, ITF juniors or other, help build stringers towards the goal of stringing at tour events. The stringing service at the smaller events is often more complicated than the larger events. There are less people to handle the different tasks and it means that one person often has to know how to cover all aspects including front desk, accounts, timelines and of course, the stringing.

Please feel free to send us through your photos showing you behind the machine, smiling hopefully, with any other views that let your fellow stringers see your work environment and setup.

Please send the material to: online@grsa-international.com

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When my heart rate is so high, I seem to be able to play even better, without making bad decisions. It almost switches the mind off, so that I can play more instinctive tennis.

Cameron Norrie

Badminton is recognized as the world's fastest sport.

Yes, that's right. Shuttlecocks can travel at insane speeds. They are considered to be the fastest moving object among all sports. Although they are very light in weight, they are constructed with a cork weight bearing at the bottom of the shuttlecock. This unique construction has allowed the birdie to reach speeds higher than 300 mph (482 km/h) – which is faster than any other object in sports.

2

Tennis is the fourth most popular sport in the world.

Being one of the oldest and most popular racket sports, tennis has garnered the attention of over a billion fans and players around the world. According to World Atlas, tennis is the fourth most popular sport behind football, cricket, and field hockey.

3

The first yellow balls on the tennis court.

Although now we are used to seeing yellow tennis balls in professional tennis matches, that wasn't always the case. The optic yellow tennis balls were first introduced to professional tennis in 1972. The ITF (International Tennis Federation) concluded that the yellow balls would be most appropriate for visibility on television; and this worked out well for the 1986 Wimbledon tournament, which was the first to be televised.

4

The Hourglass Court.

Tennis boasts a captivating history, and amidst its many intriguing developments, one of the most notable was the introduction of the hourglass court. Back in 1874, Major Walter Wingfield sought to patent a game he named Sphairistike, derived from the Greek term for "playing at ball." Drawing inspiration from the more intricate standard tennis, The Hourglass Court as the Brits referred to it, he implemented several modifications, many of which endure to this day.

One of these innovative changes was the hourglass-shaped court, characterized by its smaller size and the convergence of borderlines towards the net posts at the mid-line. While it added a unique twist to the game, the hourglass court's reign was relatively short-lived. By 1877, it had phased out, eventually yielding to the prevailing rectangular courts that remain the standard in modern tennis. Despite its departure from the tennis scene, the legacy of the hourglass court lives on as a fascinating chapter in the sport's evolution.

REAL ESTATE GROUP



The Team from MINT Real Estate, celebrated the opening of their flagship branch in the 'Jewel of Mijas'. Centrally located, it's without doubt a key, strategic, addition to the Group's already thriving operation based in La Cala de Mijas.

With over 25 years of experience gained within the Real Estate sector on the Costa del Sol, the Team at MINT prides itself on offering expert, friendly professional, advice and support. Whether you're purchasing, selling or simply wanting to check out what's currently 'hot' on the Costa del Sol, MINT has thousands of properties for your perusal, from Malaga to Manilva, we have it covered.

Through our handpicked network of Partners, MINT's services can cover your requirements to take the stress and worry out of buying or selling your dream home in the sun Whether you need an airport pick-up, to our reputable trusted international legal partners to take care of small print and technicalities, we are on hand to support you 7 days a week...

We're extremely proud & excited to share our latest opening, not least, we look forward to showcasing how MINT serves you!

FEATURED

This development is a modern, functional residential complex ideal for living. The promotion consists of 41 homes with 2 and 3 bedrooms, distributed in two low-rise buildings: ground floor, first floor and second floor. All the homes have a southeast orientation.

REAL ESTATE GROUP

The Estepona West area is a very recent urban development, known for its beaches, golf courses, spectacular views and the services it offers its residents. We are, without a doubt, facing one of the locations with the highest quality of life in Europe, where you can enjoy the sun and the mild Mediterranean temperatures.







The development enjoys a privileged location in the Arroyo Enmedio area, just minutes from the beach in a quiet semi-urban setting. This growing area stands out for its wide range of services: from international schools to shopping centres, including a recently opened hospital and extensive sports areas and green spaces.

A 5-minute walk takes you to the famous Arroyo Vaquero beach, which stretches for more than 2.5 kilometres. Within a radius of 20 kilometres, there are 30 golf courses for you to enjoy a great sporting moment with family or friends.



Immediately adjacent to the complex are two of the best golf courses in the area: Azata Golf and Valle Romano.

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In a world where countless cats and dogs are abandoned and left to fend for themselves, the tireless efforts of organizations dedicated to their rescue, nurture, and re-homing are invaluable. **Adoptas.org** is one such organization, working diligently in Spain to provide a second chance for these vulnerable animals. We aim to shed light on the remarkable work carried out by **Adoptas.org**, with the involvement and support of renowned tennis player **Alejandro Davidovich Fokina**. Furthermore, it emphasizes the urgent need for public support and donations to help save the lives of these deserving animals.

Alejandro Davidovich Fokina: A Champion for Animal Welfare

Beyond his accomplishments on the tennis court, Alejandro Davidovich Fokina demonstrates a profound compassion for animals. His partnership with Adoptas.org exemplifies his commitment to making a difference in the lives of abandoned cats and dogs in Spain. Fokina's involvement serves as a powerful reminder that individuals, regardless of their field, can contribute to animal welfare and promote a more compassionate society.

Adoptas.org: Rescuing, Nurturing, and Re-homing Abandoned Animals

Adoptas.org is an organization at the forefront of animal rescue in Spain, tirelessly working to provide a lifeline to abandoned cats and dogs. Their dedicated team goes to great lengths to rescue animals from precarious situations, providing them with much-needed care, nourishment, and medical attention. Once rescued, the cats and dogs are placed into foster homes or shelters, where they receive nurturing and rehabilitation. Working diligently to find suitable forever homes, matching the animals with caring adoptive families who can provide them with the love, care, and security they deserve. **Adoptas.org**, through their efforts, have saved countless lives.

By supporting **Adoptas.org**, you become an integral part of the rescue mission. Your donations can help fund medical treatments, provide food and shelter, and support the ongoing efforts to find permanent homes for these animals. Together, we can create a compassionate community that values and protects the well-being of all living creatures.



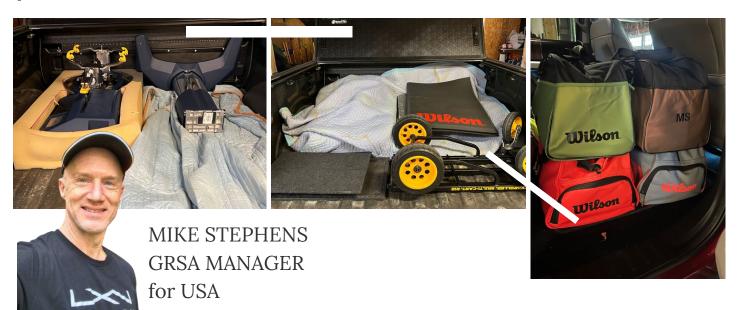
Check out their new-look website, but more importantly, see the animals they are looking after and helping re-home, you might find the one!

A Day in the life of a junior tournament stringer, with Mike Stephens

Tournament: Level 1: USTA Boy's 14 National Clay Court Championships, held at the Westgate Tennis Center in Dothan, AL.

Dothan is about a six hour drive from my home in Chattanooga, TN. I decided to take this tournament because it is a 192 player main draw with a constellation draw and a 128 team doubles draw. I knew there was a local stringer who could back me up so I decided to do the tournament alone.

I loaded up the stringing machine, string and the necessary items I need for this level tournament. I have been asked so many times what things I need to take to do a jun're tournament. One of the great things about GRSA is that our certifications cover these types of questions.

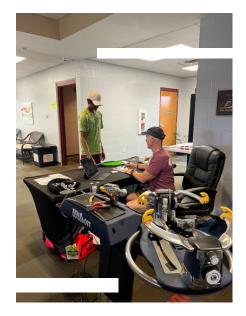


Registration is on a Saturday so I made the decision to drive down on Thursday to set up. I have learned that on large draw tournaments, the key is not getting behind from the beginning as catching up is almost impossible for the first few days.

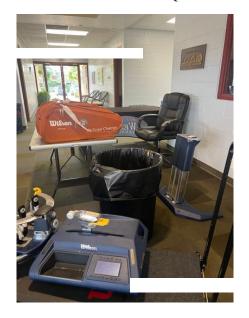
After setting up my machine on Thursday, I retire to the hotel and get a good night's sleep as I know this will be my last full night of sleep for several days.

Friday is the practice day before registration and only 18 rackets came in that day. Fortunately for me, they all came in fairly early in the day allowing me to finish them before leaving for the hotel. Saturday is the day before the tournament starts and as expected the highest number for my 9 days. 58 rackets were dropped off for stringing. Many of these came in after 3:00 pm and I knew by 4:00 that I would not finish all of the rackets before leaving for the hotel.



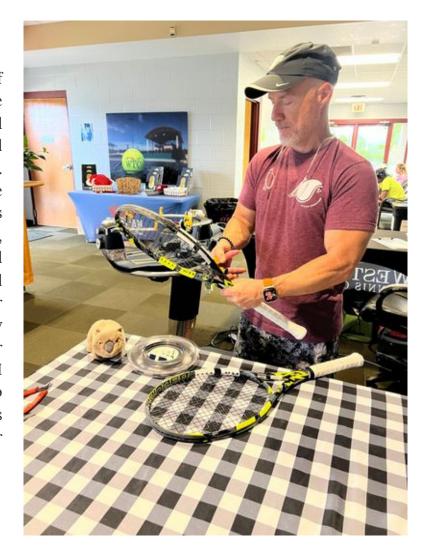






So many people focus on the actual stringing, but one of the most important elements of doing a tournament is the interaction with the player when they drop off rackets. In my experience, there are some critical pieces of information you need to get from the player at this time. We all know that the desired tension is important, but I record the time and date of drop off and I ask the player when they play, not when they want the racket because all players want them at 7:00 in the morning. Fortunately the draw with times was posted and the players knew when they were playing. The reason I record the time of drop off is because that will coincide with the time of payment and this can be beneficial for linking it to my point of sale system and the credit card payment. In terms of payments, I accept Apple Pay, Venmo, credit cards and of course, cash.

I have the rackets organized by time of play the next day and I only work on the rackets with the earliest of requested times of play. I decided to go to the hotel at 11:30 pm with 23 rackets unstrung. The earliest time of pickup for these racquets is noon. I know more racquets will be dropped off the morning of play, but I feel like I have a successful path and getting all rackets strung in time for all matches. I also know the local stringer will be joining me on the first day of play which will help me tremendously. Over the course of the first few busy days, I relied on my friend who was there to back me up on the heavy days. He was able to string 40 racquets for me over the course of the first 4 busy days.





Throughout the course of a year, I will string many different levels of tennis tournaments ranging from a small Level 2 junior event to a grand slam. Strangely enough, the college and junior events can be the most challenging as there isn't a large support team backing you up. At the grand slam level, I arrive at the event with my tools and the clothes I need. I know my only duties will be to string and stencil.

At a college event or junior event where I am the only person, I have to bring everything I could possibly need for all aspects of the stringing process. At the grand slam level, there will be around 18-20 stringers. A large number of rackets can easily be divided between stringers and finished in a relatively short period of time. If 20 rackets arrive late in the day with only 1 stringer, that can easily be 5 to 6 hours of work.

Another difference at the junior level is the payment process. I have adopted a pay-at-drop-off policy for all junior events. The process of dropping off the racket and paying for the service can take at least 3 minutes to complete. Over the course of the tournament, I will take in around 200 rackets. This is about 600 minutes of just doing the paperwork and collecting the payment. That is 10 hours spent not stringing rackets. If you have the ability to have someone help with the processing of rackets, this can be very beneficial.

A junior tournament is quite different from a grand slam. Trying to do an event by yourself requires efficiency in all aspects of the stringing process. Contrary to a grand slam, there isn't a team for checking in rackets and removing strings.

After 10 days in Dothan, the tournament has come to an end and it is time to take down the machine and pack up everything in the truck. After checking out of the hotel, I get on the road for my journey home. I am tired, but it was a very rewarding tournament.







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Stringer Solutions Power Pads



Firstly, I think that an explanation of what exactly is a "Power Pad" and what it is used for, would be a good start.

What is a Power Pad – A power pad is a small square thin block of leather (rubber has been used before as well but isn't common) that sits between the string and the frame. Certain players swear by them and have pretty much used them throughout their whole careers. Notably, Pete Sampras and Roger Federer are probably the highest profile "power pad" users.

What does a Power Pad do? – A power pad is used to round out the angles of the string going into and out of the grommets when using a very thin string at high tensions. Basically, it is there to help with shear breakage of the string, due to sharp turns in the grommets. A perfect example of the use of the power pad is the Babolat Pure Drive, from a few years back, the 4th main string had a sharp angle going up to the 5th main and we had a few instances where a player was popping strings on the outside of the frame in this area. Leather Power Pads were put between the string and the grommet strip and made the angle of the string less severe and solved the problem.

Power Pads were used a lot in conjunction with very thin natural gut, as gut is used less now, power pads are seen less as well.

Once a player gets used to seeing the power pads in his racket he often doesn't change back and even if he may change frames for one that doesn't have any angles that need "rounding out", he will carry on using the power pads because of habit.

In the stringing room of a tour event, if a racket is handed in by a player, that has power pads, the strings holding the power pads are normally not removed so that the stringer can see the exact placement and replicate accordingly.

Remember - The difference is in the small details.

Any personal tips to help your fellow stringers? Let us know and get them published in the Stringer Solutions part of the GRSA ATW Magazine.

The GRSA Certified Competition Stringer and GRSA Certified Competition Master Stringer are unique to GRSA International. (Presential & Online)

There was a definite gap in the certification pyramid, between the shop stringer certifications & tour stringer certifications, and after much thought, GRSA designed a certification level that prepares a stringer for what they will find when they start stringing at different professional events. This certification level fits perfectly between the Pro Master (technique-based exams) and the Tour certifications (Speed and consistency exams). As this certification level includes information on how to act and approach a professional event, this certification level must be passed before moving on to the Tour level certifications.

There are two levels, in keeping with the other GRSA certification levels.

GRSA Certified Competition Stringer & GRSA Certified Competition Master Stringer

Here are the instructions for the Competition level exams:

GRSA Certified Competition Stringer

This exam doesn't have a written part and is purely practical.

a) String a racket ATW with a monofilament string in 45 minutes – All strings are nice and straight.

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- b) Change the pallets & butt cap on a HEAD (or similar frame) in 30 minutes.
- c) Install base grips (right-hander) and over-grips on 2 frames making them look identical (matched) in 20 minutes.

Apply the base grip to two rackets in an identical manner for a right-handed player (counterclockwise wrap). Then install an over grip on each of the rackets, again making them identical and wrapped for a right-hander.

GRSA Certified Competition Master Stringer Exam

This exam has a written part and a practical part.

- a) A multiple-choice written exam of 40 questions in 60 minutes.
- b) String 2 frames ATW with a Monofilament in 60 minutes All strings are nice and straight.
- c) Install base grips (for left-hander) and overgrips on 2 frames making them look identical (matched) in 30 minutes.

Apply the base grip to two rackets in an identical manner for a left-handed player (clockwise wrap). Then install an over grip on each of the rackets, again making them identical and wrapped for a left-hander.

Both of these exams can be taken online and when you sign up for the exam, you will receive a study guide to help with the written exam. The exams will be marked from the usual MP4 format videos sent through to GRSA HQ.

Each exam can be done online and costs 120€, however, we have created a Competition Stringer Bundle for both levels, at 220€ - Contact us for the bundle!

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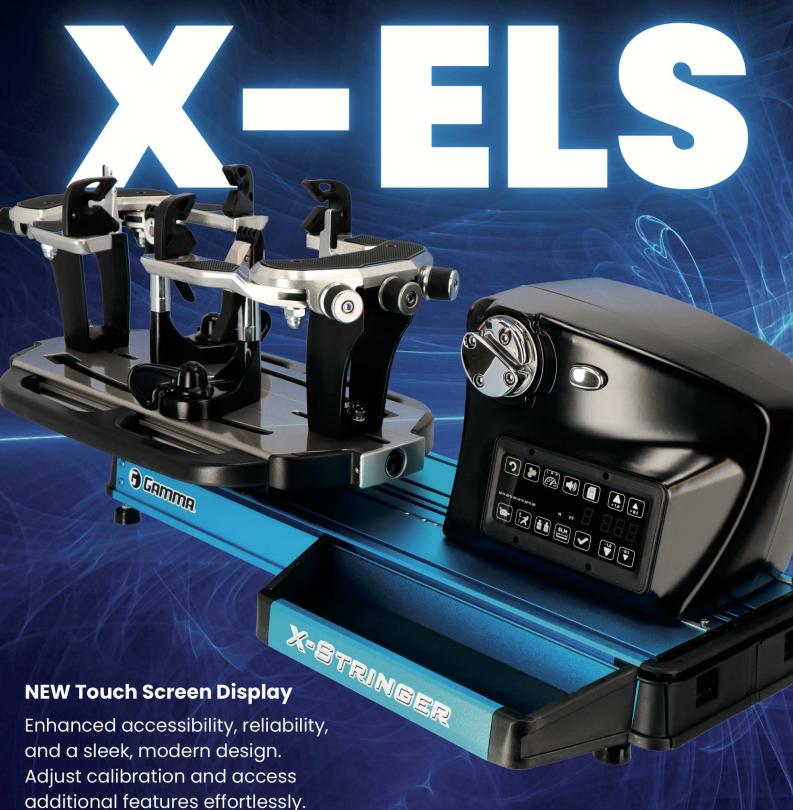


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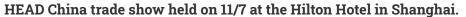
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GRSA AROUND THE WORLD









- Total attendance: 120pax tennis, padel and pickleball dealers, over 2 full days of activities and events
- Focus is mainly on tennis but we want to emphasise on our expertise on pickleball and padel as well
- Head is now the official ball for all padel coaches certification program and Padel Tour league run by the China Tennis Association
- We also introduce the rest of the Head license products to the racket sports dealers – to showcase the strength of the brand/company in China



GRSA Manager for China Rafa Madrid attended, representing the close relationship with **HEAD China** & **GRSA International**, with more wonderful things to come from this relationship.





IMPORTANT GRSA NEWS

GRSA are proud to announce a major step forward in stringer education. In a groundbreaking initiative, **GRSA & PTR** are launching an exclusive offer to all **PTR** members that will give coaches and players around the world the opportunity to become part of the world of stringing.

This initiative is about providing people with the chance to generate a new income source and bring stringing out of the darkness and into a more globally aware industry.

The extensive reach and important work by **PTR** from years of dedication shows just how committed they in providing the very best products, services, courses and partnerships to their members all over the world.

More information will be reaching **PTR** members very soon, so if you're involved with **PTR**, you're going to be very happy.





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OrangeCoach is the premier online coach recruitment platform in the international tennis industry, proudly connecting coaches and employers of all levels, across the globe. We also provide user benefits and discounts that are specifically tailored to the global tennis coaching market.

The OrangeCoach automated jobs platform is unique to the tennis industry and has contributed to the professionalisation of recruitment of tennis coaches across the world. The sophisticated automation allows coaches to be immediately matched with suitable vacancies that meet the criteria they selected at the time of registration. Employers equally have the peace of mind that they only receive suitably qualified candidate applications for their adverts. Some might say, the perfect match!



You can register for free. GRSA Coaches can benefit from a credit discount of 20% with the code: $G^*20\% OrngC$

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Due to our partnership with GRSA, we are pleased to offer all GRSA members a 30% discount on all TOALSON products, all you have to do is enter the promotional code: GRSA when purchasing on our website. CLICK HERE



Aster Poly string

The tennis string Aster Poly is a very fast tournament tennis string with extremely long durability and best playability with incredible acceleration, control, and enormous spin.

EYE RACKETS

by NICK DOWN

This is a relatively new brand of rackets. They are, as an entire brand, on the Non-Standard list of rackets because of the unusual arrangement of having a single loose grommet in each hole of the racket and no bumper strip at all. If all of the models had what I'll term as an ordinary bumper strip, only the rackets with a generic fan pattern would be listed, but as it is all models are on the list. The challenge is in removing string and re-stringing the racket without losing any grommets, or at least losing as few as possible. This article is about getting the string out and then back in, without losing any grommets not how to re-string each model.



One method that has proved to be a success is to cut the strings in the stringbed in the normal way, then only partially push the strings from inside the hoop outwards so that a series of loops are present outside the hoop. (The racket will look as if it's had a bad haircut!). If the action of pushing the strings has loosened or dislodged any grommets, at this stage, they won't be lost but they will be sitting in the loop of string outside the frame. Simply push them back into the hole. Then to remove the string completely, pull the strings back through the frame from within the hoop, having first cut the loop outside the hoop.

Whilst installing strings, when pushing strings from inside the frame to outside the frame and then pulling the remaining length of string through, putting a slight angle on the string so that it gently forces the grommet against the frame, will usually stop the grommet from dislodging. When outside the hoop completely, pushing the string through a grommet and hitting the grommet by accident will just push it further home. The grommets will only be dislodged when being pushed from inside the hoop to outside. The grommets have nothing inside the hoop to prevent dislodging.



On most rackets that need a hard weave at the throat, if that is not done, then there may as well be no bottom cross string. On some models there won't be any contact between the bottom cross string and the main strings. Following any of these methods will afford any stringer opportunities to not spend time buried in a bin looking for lost grommets.

When installing main strings, a stringer is likely to have a "spare" hand as opposed to installing cross strings where a "spare" hand has the job of fanning strings. When there is no "spare" hand, it is important to remember the correct method of installation so as not to end up searching for them.

Eye-rackets sell sets of grommets that will fit all rackets in their range. I always have a set or two laying about. They are useful for any racket, not just eye-rackets, in fact, no stringer should be without one.





Also, throughout all methods described above, remember that equally important is maintaining surveillance on all of the grommets; i.e. keep watching them!

Next month:- Pro Kennex Twister and Booster wraparound bridge.



Egyptian Squash Star Nour El Sherbini Reflects on Successful 2022/23 Season

Egyptian squash player Nour El Sherbini has had an outstanding season, reaching six finals out of the ten events she competed in during the 2022/23 season. She emerged victorious in five tournaments, including the prestigious Tournament of Champions, the British Open, and clinching another World Championships title. We had the opportunity to catch up with the seven-time World Champion to discuss her recent achievements and more.

Expressing her satisfaction with the season, El Sherbini stated, "I'm thrilled with the season overall. It has been much better than the previous one, and I managed to finish the season by winning four tournaments, three of which were major events. Winning these significant titles has always been my goal, and I believe I achieved it this season."



El Sherbini also shed light on her dedication to improving her defensive skills, stating, "Improving my defensive game was an area I wanted to focus on. I constantly strive to identify my weaknesses and work on enhancing them. This season, made notable in my movement, improvements allowing me to retrieve more shots. Given the physical nature of the game today, it's crucial to be on the same level as your opponents. I made slight adjustments to my movements, and I believe they have paid off."

Reflecting on her understanding of her own body and her approach to maintaining balance and preventing injuries, El Sherbini remarked, "I have been trying to understand my body better. I aim to move more strategically on the court rather than running aimlessly. While I still face knee problems, I am cautious and do my best not to exacerbate them. I strive to have only the knee issue without additional injuries. Achieving this balance is extremely challenging, but I constantly consider strategies to maintain control and balance in my body. This season, I focused on understanding how my body works, avoiding excessive strain, and allowing ample time for rest. This way, I can approach training and competitions in good shape and injury-free. It has been an advantageous season for me in terms of grasping the workings of my body."



When discussing her form throughout the season, El Sherbini admitted that she faced a slow start but found her rhythm and gained confidence as the season progressed. "I didn't begin the season very well, but starting from the US Open, I began to find my rhythm and feel more confident. I became more comfortable on the court, playing better squash and moving more effectively. I'm particularly satisfied with my performance in the second half of the season compared to the first. When I compare playing against Nouran [Gohar] in the US Open final to our subsequent encounters at the Tournament of Champions, British Open, and World Championships, I can observe my increased confidence in both my playing and movement. Nouran has been consistently strong throughout the season, reaching several finals, which highlights her abilities. However, I'm delighted to have defeated her in the three major tournaments I won. It demonstrates that I am playing well and moving in the right direction towards my goals."

When asked about her favourite moments from the season, El Sherbini highlighted the Tournament of Champions and the British Open. "The Tournament of Champions was special as it was the first Platinum event in a while. I played exceptionally well, and it marked a turning point in my season. Additionally, the British Open final against Nouran was one of my standout performances. Furthermore, the Tournament of Champions semifinal against Hania [El Hammamy] was remarkable. Losing to both of them in our previous encounters and then defeating them in the subsequent tournaments felt different and special. I vividly recall the TOC semifinal, where I was incredibly focused and determined not to lose. The memories of our previous match, the Hong Kong Final, remained in my mind throughout. Overcoming that mental challenge was significant. The British Open final holds similar sentiments for me."



Addressing the prospect of matching Nicol David's World Title record and becoming the greatest female player of all time, El Sherbini remained focused on her immediate goals. She shared, "I don't want to burden myself with such thoughts. I prefer to concentrate on the upcoming tournaments and approach each World Championship as if it were my first. I don't want to feel obligated to win an eighth World Championship or continuously break records. Dwelling on these expectations would hinder my performance. Winning a seventh World Championship is already an incredible achievement for me, and I will certainly aim to win the eighth. However, my focus lies on the tournament itself rather than solely breaking records. It's crucial for me to prioritize winning the event and not be consumed by external pressures."

El Sherbini expressed her aspiration to be regarded as the best female player in squash history, concluding, "To finish my career with everyone acknowledging me as the greatest female player ever would be a dream come true. It would be an immense honour, and I would cherish that recognition for the rest of my life. Playing squash has been my lifelong pursuit, and I have dedicated years of hard work to become the best in my sport. To hear people say those words to me is something I have always envisioned and desired."





On July 4, the International Tennis Federation (ITF) received a letter from the ANOC President and General Secretary Beach Games, officially announcing the cancellation of the ANOC World Beach Games (AWBG) in Bali, Indonesia. The decision came as a surprise, considering there were only four weeks remaining until the scheduled start of the Games. Despite assurances received until last week regarding the progress of preparations, no prior warning was given, leaving everyone involved deeply disappointed.

The news of the cancellation has had a significant impact on the players and all those who dedicated their time and efforts to organizing this event. Immediate steps were taken by the ITF to inform the players and key stakeholders about the unfortunate turn of events. Meanwhile, the ITF is actively seeking further clarification on the circumstances leading to this disappointing outcome.

The ITF has been a strong supporter of the ANOC World Beach Games since its inception and recognized its potential following the successful inaugural event in Doha in 2019. However, the future of the Games remains uncertain in light of this recent cancellation. The ITF intends to engage in constructive discussions with all relevant stakeholders to determine the course of action and ensure the continued growth of Beach Tennis through this important event.

As we stand now, ten days after this unexpected announcement, the disappointment lingers, and efforts are being made to address the repercussions of the cancellation. The focus shifts toward learning from this experience and finding ways to prevent similar situations in the future, while preserving the significance and value of the ANOC World Beach Games.

In a remarkable feat, Mauritius achieved a significant milestone by securing its first-ever gold medal at the African Beach Games held in Hammamet, Tunisia. The dynamic duo of Sophie Catherine Alleaune and Françoise Bancilhon emerged victorious in the women's doubles category, surpassing Mauritius' previous silver medal achievement in the men's event during the inaugural edition in Cape Verde back in 2019.

The Mauritians displayed exceptional prowess, triumphing in all four of their matches against formidable opponents from Algeria, Tunisia, Kenya, and Morocco. However, their path to victory was not without challenges, as they had to rally from a set down and claim victory in a match tiebreak against both Kenya and Algeria.

On the men's side, Algeria's resounding triumph ensured their position at the top of the medals table as the Games concluded, with an impressive tally of 15 gold medals and a total of 34 medals overall. This outstanding performance allowed Algeria to surpass their second-place finish in 2019 and etch their name in history.

The gold medal victory by Said Sahtali and Hichem Yasri marked the final triumph for Algeria, crowning a historic week for the nation in beach tennis.

"The Beach Tennis competition of the second African Beach Games took place in a very friendly atmosphere, and the level of all participating teams was highly competitive," remarked Hichem Riani, CAT General Manager. "Congratulations to all the winners."

All participating nations were generously provided with SANDEVER Superkits, each consisting of one court, four paddles, and six stage 2 balls. These comprehensive kits equip nations with the necessary resources to nurture and develop the sport of beach tennis.

During an exhilarating showdown in Cesenatico, Venezuela's Patty Diaz and Brazil's Rafaella Miiller secured their maiden world title as a formidable duo, overpowering Ariadna Costa Graell and Elena Francesconi with a commanding 6-1, 6-1 victory. The resounding scoreline may suggest a lopsided contest, but for Diaz and Miiller, the triumph brought an overwhelming sense of relief.

Reflecting on the achievement, Miiller expressed her elation, stating, "This tournament victory is particularly special for Patty, and I couldn't be happier for her. It's been an emotional journey for both of us this year."

Diaz echoed the sentiment, saying, "I'm absolutely thrilled. It's a whirlwind of emotions. This victory was something I deeply desired. I'm incredibly happy and proud that we were able to handle the pressure and stay focused. The support from everyone was tremendous, and we managed to rise to the occasion."

In parallel fashion, the men's final mirrored the women's narrative, as two players who had previously fallen short in the last two editions finally triumphed in the World Championship.

Mattia Spoto, who had previously claimed silver in the past two years, and Nico Gianotti, the 2022 runner-up, culminated a flawless week in northeastern Italy by clinching their first world title. They defeated the formidable duo of Michele Cappelletti and Antomi Ramos with a convincing 7-5, 6-2 victory.

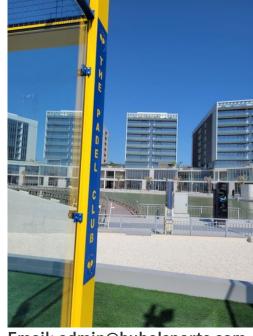
Gianotti expressed his jubilation, remarking, "After the heartbreak of last year's final and Matti's experience two years ago, winning this title feels truly incredible. Following our loss in the Gran Canaria final, our confidence had taken a hit. However, we displayed incredible form throughout this entire week, not dropping a single set. We are overjoyed with this achievement—it's an indescribable feeling."



ISPORTS

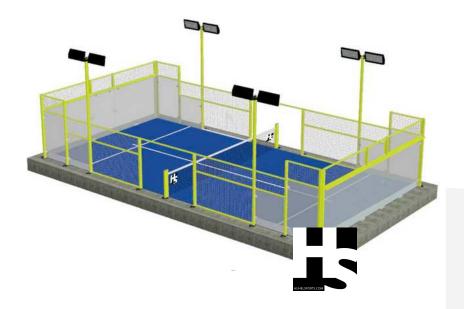
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INDIVIDUAL PANORAMIC COURT

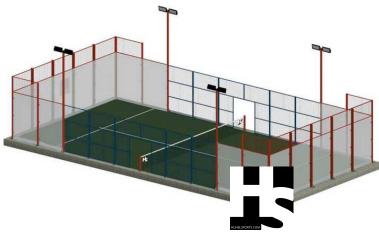
Anchor plates in galvanized steel for then fastening of the structure and glass, measurements of 250x200x15 (8 units), 495x250x15 (4 units) 150x120x15 (8 units)

Structural system of aluminum profiles, dimensions of the pillars 150x45x1.7 (8 units), 106x232x3 (4 units), 90x45x1.7 (8 units)

Top horizontal beam on 281x91 glass bottoms (2 units) Welded mesh 50x50x4mm

Lighting rods integrated into the structure





Structural system of aluminum profiles, dimensions of the pillars 1920x45x2 (8 units), 150x45x1.7 (8 units), 115x115x1.7 (4 units), 150x45x1.7 (8 units)

Galvanized steel mounting plates for the securing of the structure and glass, measurements of 300x250x12(8 units), 250x200x12 (8 units), 200x200x12 (4 units) 200x200x12 (8 units)

Structure designed and constructed in accordance with local technical code of building standards

COLISEUM COURT

Anchor plates in galvanized steel for the fastening of the structure and glass, measurements of 450x250x25 (4 units), 200x200x12 (8 units)

Structural system of aluminum profiles, dimensions of the pillars 221x117x3 (4 units) and 150x45x1.7 (8 units)

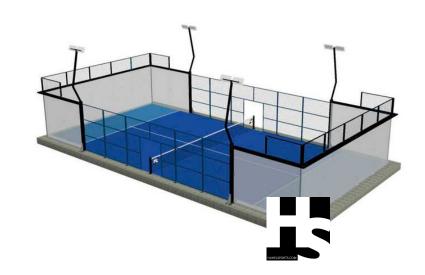
Top horizontal beam in 281x91 glass bottoms (2 units)

Welded mesh 50x50x4mm

M8 stainless steel screws of type A2 for the fastening of glass panels and meshes

Lighting rods integrated into the structure

Structure designed and constructed in accordance with local technical code of building standards









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PADEL NEWS

Valencia, Spain - In a thrilling display of skill and determination, Franco Stupaczuk and Martin Di Nenno, known as the Superpibes, emerged victorious at the Valencia Open, defeating Ale Galan and Jon Sanz 6-3, 6-3 in a highly anticipated final.

The men's final, which followed the unprecedented women's final, showcased a fierce clash between the only two pairs who managed to defeat Tapia and Coello in 2023: Superpibes and the formidable duo of Galan and Sanz.

Adding an extra layer of significance to the match, Galan and Sanz were competing in their final tournament as a team. With Juan Lebron's imminent return from injury, the pair wanted to bid farewell in grand fashion after their impressive semifinal victory over the number one seeds.

However, the Superpibes had other plans. Displaying their trademark aggression from the outset, Stupaczuk and Di Nenno applied relentless pressure on their opponents' serves, generating numerous opportunities to break. It didn't take long for the breakthrough to occur, as they secured a crucial break in the eighth game, paving the way for a 6-3 triumph in the first set.

Continuing their dominant performance, the Argentinian duo capitalized on their strong returns in the second set, securing an early break and building a commanding lead. With another break in hand, they sealed the match with a final score of 6-3, clinching the Valencia Open 2023 title.

The victory solidifies Stupaczuk and Di Nenno's status as one of the most formidable pairs in the world of padel. Their relentless aggression, combined with their unwavering focus, proved to be a winning formula throughout the tournament, culminating in a well-deserved championship.

As the Valencia Open concludes, all eyes now turn to the upcoming Italy Major at Premier Padel, where the highly anticipated return of Juan Lebron promises to add further excitement to the competitive landscape. For now, however, the Superpibes can bask in the glory of their latest triumph and celebrate their remarkable achievements on the padel court.





UPCOMING EVENTS ON THE PADEL CALENDAR

26/08 FINLAND OPEN 203/09 2023

16/09 24/09 ESTRELLA DAMM COMUNIDAD DE MADRID MASTERS 2023

23/0901/10

GERMANY PADEL OPEN 2023

07/10 15/10 AMSTERDAM PADEL OPEN 2023

14/10 TAU CERÁMICA SANTANDER CANTABRIA OPEN 500

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If you're a pickleball fan, here's a list of some of the competitions you might be interested in, you never know, one might be near you!

2023 COPENHAGEN OPEN

EID: 1254 PRICE EUR 30 **Organizer**: Steen Jensen **EVENT** - TOURNAMENT

Starting: October 13, 2023 to October 15, 2023

City: Hafnia-Hallen, Julius Andersens Vej, København, Danmark

Home Club: Pickleball Copenhagen

Registration Deadline: October 06, 2023 (OPEN)

Tier Level: 3

Luxembourg National Pickleball Championships

EID: 1260 **PRICE EUR:** 20 **Organizer:** Benoit Quisquater **EVENT -** TOURNAMENT

Starting: September 03, 2023 to September 03, 2023

City: Esch-sur-Alzette, Luxembourg

Home Club: Luxembourg Pickleball Commission **Registration Deadline:** August 23, 2023 (OPEN)

Tier Level: 3

2023 WORLD PICKLEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP (20,000 USD) In

Memory of Karen Casquejo Estremos

EID: 1204 PRICE USD 50 **Organizer:** Pickleball Global **EVENT -** TOURNAMENT

Starting: September 19, 2023 to September 24, 2023

City: Bali, Indonesia **Home Club:** Liga Tennis

Registration Deadline: August 31, 2023 (OPEN)

Tier Level: 5





A Celestial Racket Symphony: Sharapova, McEnroe, Graf, and Agassi Set to Sparkle in Pickleball Extravaganza

Prepare to witness a mesmerizing fusion of past tennis glory and the burgeoning pickleball craze as legendary players Maria Sharapova and John McEnroe step onto the hallowed pickleball court to challenge none other than tennis's most iconic couple, Steffi Graf and Andre Agassi. A dazzling sequel of Pickleball Slam awaits its grand debut on ESPN, slated to air on the enchanting eve of February 4, 2024.

Forty-two Grand Slam titles collectively grace the illustrious quartet's laurel-laden history, yet on this exceptional occasion, they shall transcend their tennis brilliance to embrace the swift and addictive charm of pickleball on an international stage.

Nestled within the opulent confines of the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Hollywood, Fla., the clock will chime at 8:30 p.m. ET on the decisive date as fans worldwide gear up for an adrenaline-fueled spectacle. A treasure trove of \$1 million awaits the triumphant duo that conquers the pickleball court with finesse and flair.

The inaugural Pickleball Slam, a monumental affair held on April 2, witnessed a showdown of epic proportions, with Agassi forming an invincible alliance with Andy Roddick, besting the formidable duo of McEnroe and Michael Chang.

"My fervour for this game knows no bounds, and I pledged to play pickleball as long as I could walk, such is my love for it," proclaimed Agassi in a press release, gushing with anticipation. "To share this thrilling experience with my beloved wife, one of tennis's finest, is an unparalleled delight."

Graf, equally enthusiastic, chimed in with her heartfelt excitement, "From the moment I laid eyes on the inaugural Pickleball Slam and set foot on the hallowed court, I was ensnared by its magic. Andre and I are counting the seconds to relish this momentous match against the formidable Maria and the indomitable John."

Graf's name adorned the pages of history, holding the record for the most Grand Slam titles achieved by any tennis player in the Open Era, an awe-inspiring 22 until the inimitable Serena Williams matched the feat in 2016's Wimbledon and then surpassed it at the 2017 Australian Open. Her esteemed husband since 2001, Agassi, lent his own brilliance to the tennis realm, securing an impressive tally of eight major titles before his graceful exit from the stage.

McEnroe, an enduring force both on and off the court as a renowned tennis commentator, pocketed seven major titles during his illustrious playing career. At 64 years old, he stands as the elder statesman of this celestial rendezvous, while his partner, the venerable Sharapova, graces the court as the youngest player at a sprightly 36. With five glorious Grand Slam titles to her name before gracefully stepping away from the sport in 2020, she remains an enduring inspiration for aspirants around the globe.

Thus, as the stars align on that enchanting eve, prepare to bask in the brilliance of a celestial racket symphony. The second Pickleball Slam shall etch its name in the annals of sporting lore as tennis legends unite, metamorphosing into pickleball virtuosos, captivating hearts and minds, and leaving an indelible impression on the ever-evolving world of sports.

Pickleball's Exponential Surge: APP Tour and ESPN Forge a Historic Union to Conquer China

Pickleball's magnetic allure is sweeping across China like wildfire, and the Association of Pickleball Players (APP Tour) has astutely seized the moment, joining hands with ESPN to bring thrilling APP Tour broadcast coverage to the heart of Mainland China for the very first time.

In a groundbreaking extension of their existing distribution deal in the United States, the APP Tour is set to unveil a mesmerizing post-tournament recap special from the much-anticipated 2023 APP Philadelphia Open (August 23-27) in the grandest media market on the planet.

While a detailed broadcast schedule for China is yet to be unveiled, the anticipation is soaring, for the APP's January announcement already heralded a captivating partnership with ESPN. This entailed streaming hundreds of hours of enthralling APP Tour coverage on the dynamic platform of ESPN+ while gracing the screens of sports enthusiasts with eight hours of post-event recap specials on the esteemed channels of ESPN and ESPN2.

This strategic union is a clear manifestation of the APP's ambitious quest for global expansion, as they continue to fortify their bonds with Pickleball England and Pickleball Sweden, alongside fervently nurturing the sport's growth on an international scale.

Tom Webb, the Chief Marketing Officer of the APP, exuded infectious excitement when he stated, "The announcement of the extension of our partnership with ESPN into Mainland China is a historic day for the APP, and for pickleball worldwide. With an insatiable and ever-swelling demand for pickleball in the United States and beyond, gracing tens of millions of potential viewers throughout China will undoubtedly propel the sport's remarkable growth in one of the world's largest markets."

As the paddle sport continues to transcend borders and weave its magic across continents, the collaboration between the APP Tour and ESPN stands as a beacon of delight for pickleball enthusiasts worldwide. China's fervent embrace of this exhilarating sport heralds a new chapter in pickleball's chronicles, where unity, passion, and strategic vision converge to paint an extraordinary future for this dynamic and spirited game.

BADMINTON

HSBC BWF World Tour - Tournament Round-Up

The **Yonex Canada Open Super 500** event took place in Calgary at the start of July with the winners and runners-up in doubles coming from an all-Danish men's doubles final and a Japanese Women's doubles final. Men's singles champion saw a return to the winner's podium for India's Lakshya Sen after a hard-fought final against China's fast-developing Li Shi Feng. A familiar face stood on the top of the rostrum in Women's singles with Akane Yamaguchi of Japan coming out on top of Ratchanok Intanon who is steadily returning after a long layoff.



Ken Williams

Men's Singles

Winner: Lakshya Sen (IND) Runner up: Li Shi Feng (CHI)

Men's Doubles

Winner: Kim Astrup & Anders Skaarup Rasmussen (DEN) Runner up: Rasmus Kjaer & Frederik Sogaard (DEN)

Women's Singles

Winner: Akane Yamaguchi (JPN) Runner up: Ratchanok Intanon (THA)

Women's Doubles

Winner: Nami Matsuyama & Chiharu Shida (JPN) Runner up: Mayu Matsumoto & Wakana Nagahara (JPN)

Mixed Doubles

Winner: Hiroki Midorikawa & Natsu Saito (JPN) Runner up: Mathias Thyrri & Amalie Magelund (DEN)

Next up on the itinerary was the **Yonex US Open**, taking place in the tranquil location of Bluffs, Illinois. If the live-streaming feed was anything to go by the crowd attendance was relatively low creating a somewhat subdued atmosphere. But the event produced a good cross-section of professional players for a Super 300 event, all pursuing the points and prizes.

Mens Singles

Winner: Li Shi Feng (CHI)

Runner up: Kunlavut Vitidsarn (THA)

Men's Doubles

Winner: Goh Sze Fei & Nur Izzuddin (MAL) Runner up: Fang-Chih Lee & Fang-Jen Lee (TPE)

Women's Singles:

Winner: Supanida Katethong (THA) Runner up: Gao Fang Jie (CHI)

Women's Doubles

Winner: Liu Sheng Shu & Tan Ning (CHI)

Runner up: Maiken Fruergaard & Sara Thygsen (DEN)

Mixed Doubles

Winner: Ye Hong Wei & Lee Chia Hsin (TPE) Runner up: Mathias Thyrri & Amalie Magelund (DEN)

The mens doubles featured the Lee twins from Chinese Taipei in their first world tour final, but they fell to an uncompromising performance from the Malaysian pair of Fei & Izzuddin.

Li Shi Feng went one better in the US versus Canada winning the event against Thailand's Vitidsarn who was returning after injury. And there was Danish participation in both the mixed and women's doubles finals, but both pairs had to settle for runners-up medals.

Korea Open 2023

With barely a two-day break the action moved to the south of Korea and the city of Yeosu for the 2023 Korea Open. Another Super 500 event but with a noticeably stronger turn-out of players for this tournament ahead of the upcoming Super 750 event in Japan.

After many excellent battles between some of the world's top shuttlers, the singles finals culminated in a strong line-up for both men's and women's disciplines. Anders Antonsen seems to have rediscovered his stride after a torrid 18 months of niggling injuries and continued to build on his runner-up position at the Singapore Open in June. With new coach Joachim Persson in support at his new training base in Dubai, Anders is playing some of his best badminton for a long time. The final versus former world champion Loh Kean Yew was a tough, professional performance with both players producing great defensive and attacking play, but with a variety of errors from both. Antonsen finally came through in 3 sets after some incredible recovery shots to stand atop the podium for the first time in two and a half years.



In the women's singles final the crowd favourite was up against the home favourite - Tai Tzu Ying took on An Se Young. Tai had seen off world number one Akane Yamaguchi with relative ease a day earlier whereas An had scraped through in 3 sets, 24-22 in the final set against China's Chen Yu Fei. But on finals day Tai could not combat the court coverage from Young who was clearly highly motivated to retain her home title.

In men's doubles India's Rankireddy and Shetty continued their impressive form with a second major event win in under a month. Following on from their success at the Indonesia Open in June they defeated world number one pairing of Fajar Alfian and Muhammed Rian Ardianto of Indonesia in 3 sets.

Player Profile: Hans-Kristian Solberg Vittinghus

Reaching a world highest ranking of number 8, Vittinghus, or HK to most of his fans, is a Danish singles player, renowned for his fighting spirit and longevity.

After becoming a senior player in the summer of 2005, he won his first international title in November 2006 and went on to win titles in Scandinavia and throughout Europe and as far away as Australia.



Vittinghus was part of 2016 Thomas Cup trophy winning team for Denmark, the first for his country. Still competing today, he has indicated he plans to retire as an international player sometime in the next 12 months.

As host of his own podcast called A Year on Tour with Vittinghus, he talks about his experience at tournaments and various world tour events he has participated in. He also co-hosts another podcast together with fellow Danish badminton player Anders Antonsen, called The Badminton Experience where they review badminton events and invite other badminton players to come on the podcasts as guests and share their experience and answer questions from the hosts.

As the sun sets on a professional playing career, HK has been steadily building a reputation for offering balanced, common-sense opinions and points of view on matters badminton related. His future in the sport is likely to continue as a coach and league player, but perhaps also as a voice of reason and opinion where he can add value through the media or at the organisational level.

Wherever his future lies, many badminton fans around the world will wish him the best of luck.

World Record Rally

In May this year, the HSBC BWF Super 500 World Tour event in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia saw a record-breaking 211 shot rally in the women's doubles quarterfinals between Malaysian pair Pearly Tan and Thinaah Muralitharan and Japan's Ayako Sakuramoto and Rena Miyaura.

With the game heading towards its finale in the third set Tan served for the point and the nervejangling rally began. Both pairs showed outstanding technique, resilience, and athleticism and finally a visibly tired Tan clinched the point with a well-disguised drop-shot. The previous record was a 195-shot rally, also in a women's doubles at last year's Korea Open. The Crowd were on their feet as Tan dropped to her knees and Muralitharan threw her racket in the air in celebration.

Guinness World Record Smash

Yonex announced that two of its athletes - Satwiksairaj Rankireddy (India) and Pearly Tan (Malaysia) - have set new Guinness World Records for the fastest male and female badminton hits. The previous world record title for the fastest badminton hit was recorded in May 2013, so this is the first time in a decade that the record has been broken.

Rankireddy's smash surpassed the previous Guinness World Records title of 493 km/h (about 306 mph) by 72 km/h (about 45 mph), establishing an astonishing new record for the fastest male badminton hit at 565 km/h (about 351 mph).

Tan also set a new record for the fastest female badminton hit with a remarkable speed of 438 km/h (about 272 mph). With this, Tan became the first female Guinness World Record'sTM title holder in the category.



These records show that badminton is significantly faster than other ball sports and even Formula One when compared with other fastest speed records in the Guinness World Record™ titles.

HINTS & HACKS

Load Spreaders are an essential tool in the badminton racket stringers tool kit, especially when stringing at higher tensions. There are a variety of types, ranging from the 'H piece' from Yonex and the wider spreaders more typically used for other machines. They are designed to allow a more even distribution of pressure on the frame.

Your objective is to protect the racket frame from damage during the stringing process. Without a load spreader there is a good chance you might mark the frame, or worse, crack it. There is a narrow area on the racket that takes the bulk of the pressure from the mounting posts as you secure the racket. A load spreader can be used at both the top and bottom of the frame and helps displace the load on the area where the posts fit up against the frame. This area is only about the size of your little finger but is exposed to a high level of force due to the displacement pressure created during the stringing process.

Using a load spreader on both the 6 and 12 o'clock points is advisable, although the throat of the racket is stronger than the top, so at the very least consider using one at the top of the racket, if not at both ends.



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