

GRSA INTERNATIONAL ATW MAGAZINE

MAY 2026

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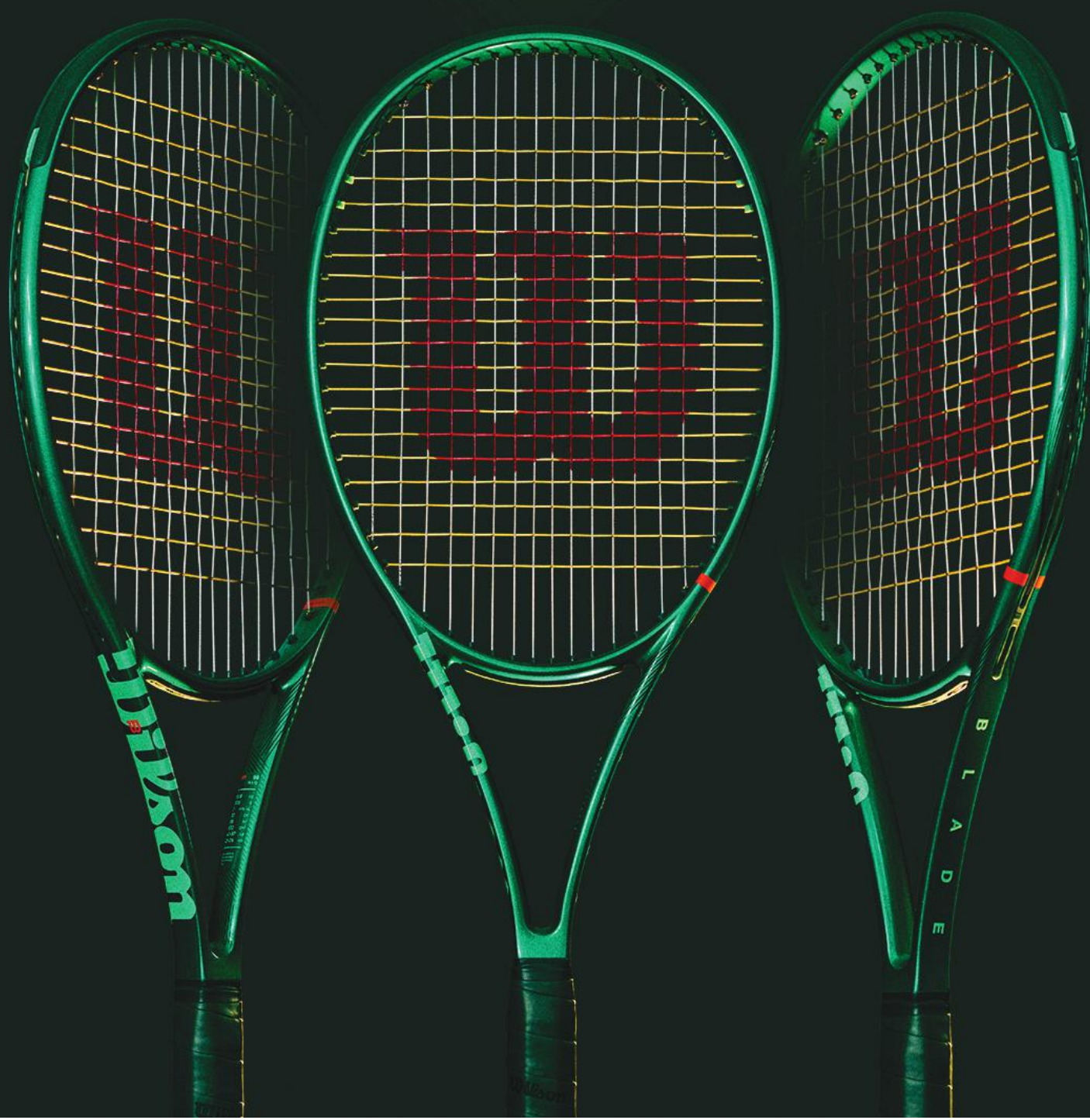


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VENUS WILLIAMS USES MET GALA SPOTLIGHT TO HIGHLIGHT WOMEN'S SPORTS SCIENCE GAP

Venus Williams has never been afraid to use her platform for something bigger than tennis. From championing equal prize money to advocating for greater opportunities for women in sport, the seven-time Grand Slam singles champion has consistently pushed conversations forward. Now, at the 2026 Met Gala, Williams turned one of fashion's biggest stages into a statement about an issue still overlooked across global sport: the lack of research dedicated to women's bodies.

As co-chair of this year's Met Gala, Williams arrived wearing a striking custom look that blended elegance with symbolism. The centrepiece was a necklace inspired by the Venus Rosewater Dish, awarded to the Wimbledon Ladies' Singles champion — a nod to the five titles she won at the All England Club. But it was a smaller detail that carried the most powerful message.

Her Swarovski crystal earrings displayed a simple figure: "6%".

That number represents the estimated proportion of global sports science research focused exclusively on women. For Williams, the statistic was shocking — even as one of the most accomplished athletes in history.

"If I'm a prime athlete, and I don't know it, then the rest of the world doesn't know it," Williams explained in an interview with theSkimm.





The message formed part of the launch of Gatorade's new Body of Science initiative, a multi-year programme led by the Gatorade Sports Science Institute. Williams will serve as an ambassador for the project, which aims to improve understanding of women's health and performance across different stages of life — from menstrual cycles and pregnancy to perimenopause and recovery.

The initiative highlights a growing conversation within elite sport. Historically, much of sports science research has focused predominantly on male athletes, with training methods, recovery strategies and nutritional guidance often built around male physiology. As women's sport continues its rapid global growth, athletes, coaches and governing bodies are increasingly recognising the need for research that better reflects female athletes' specific needs.

Williams believes visibility is a key part of creating change.

"This opportunity gives me a platform to do something good," she said. "Girls play sports, women play sports."

The timing of the campaign also feels significant. Women's sport is currently experiencing unprecedented commercial growth, increased media attention and rising participation numbers worldwide. Yet Williams' message serves as a reminder that visibility alone is not enough. Investment in research, health and athlete support must grow alongside the sport itself.

For many fans, the Met Gala appearance may have initially looked like another high-profile celebrity moment. But beneath the glamour was a deliberate attempt to spark conversation around an issue that affects athletes at every level — from grassroots participation to professional competition.

It was classic Venus Williams: using global attention not simply to celebrate success, but to push the conversation around sport forward once again.

Even the Best Forget the Basics Sometimes

Tennis is a sport built on routine, precision and discipline. At the professional level, players follow countless rules and rituals almost automatically — from timing between points to changeover procedures. Which is exactly why one recent moment involving Iga Świątek caught so many people's attention.

During a match at Roland Garros, Świątek briefly sat down during the first changeover of the set — something players are not permitted to do under tennis rules. In professional tennis, players may only sit down during odd-game changeovers, not after the opening game of a set. The moment was harmless and quickly corrected after the chair umpire reminded her of the rule, but fans found it both surprising and oddly relatable. Świątek, a multiple-time French Open champion and one of the most disciplined players on tour, appeared so focused on the match that she simply acted on instinct.

In many ways, that is what made the moment memorable.

At the highest level of sport, routines become second nature. Players operate under intense physical and mental pressure, often relying entirely on habit and repetition. Occasionally, even the smallest details can slip — not through lack of professionalism, but because elite athletes spend so much time locked into performance mode.



It was a brief moment, quickly forgotten in the context of the match, but it also served as a reminder that even the world's best players are human.

And sometimes, muscle memory takes over a little too well.

Roland Garros at 80: Mireille Ferreira-Castiau Proves Tennis Has No Age Limit

For most players, competing at Roland Garros is a lifelong dream. For Mireille Ferreira-Castiau, it is proof that passion for tennis does not disappear with age.

The French player, now 80 years old, has qualified for the French senior championships at Roland Garros, continuing a remarkable tennis journey that has inspired fans across France. According to reports from La Voix du Nord, Ferreira-Castiau has been counting down the days until her appearance on the famous Paris clay courts later this year.

While the professional tournament begins in May, her participation will come during the French senior championships held in June — an event that highlights the longevity and inclusivity of the sport beyond the professional tour.

What makes the story so compelling is not just the number, but the dedication behind it. Competing at any level at 80 requires discipline, movement, consistency and an enduring love for the game. Tennis remains one of the few sports that can truly span generations, with players continuing to compete, coach and stay active well into later life.



At a time when modern tennis is increasingly focused on power, speed and youth, stories like Ferreira-Castiau's offer a refreshing reminder of what the sport is really about: longevity, community and passion.

Because sometimes, simply stepping onto the court is an achievement in itself.

The Man Who Helped Change Tennis Forever

As Sir David Attenborough celebrates his 100th birthday in 2026, tributes have poured in from across broadcasting, science and sport. Among the many stories revisited this year is one of tennis' most unlikely connections: Attenborough's role in helping turn the tennis ball from white to the now-iconic optic yellow.

It sounds almost impossible today. Tennis and yellow balls feel inseparable. But for nearly a century, tennis was played with white — and sometimes black — balls. That changed during the rise of colour television in the late 1960s.

At the time, Attenborough was serving as controller of BBC Two and was heavily involved in introducing colour broadcasting to British television. Wimbledon became one of the BBC's flagship colour broadcasts in 1967, but there was a problem: viewers struggled to track the white ball on screen.

Attenborough reportedly recognised immediately that tennis needed a more visible ball for television audiences. The idea of a brighter “optic yellow” ball gained traction, and after testing for visibility on both colour and black-and-white televisions, the International Tennis Federation officially approved the change in 1972. The US Open adopted the yellow ball in 1973, while Wimbledon — famously traditional — continued using white balls until 1986.



More than fifty years later, the decision remains one of the most important visual changes in modern sport. Television did not simply grow tennis commercially; it reshaped the game's presentation, branding and global accessibility. The yellow ball became part of tennis' identity.

Attenborough's connection to tennis has also remained visible in recent years. Wimbledon honoured the legendary broadcaster with a standing ovation during his appearance in the Royal Box at the 2024 Championships, recognising both his cultural impact and his unusual place in tennis history.

Of course, Attenborough's legacy extends far beyond sport. Across seven decades, he transformed natural history storytelling through landmark documentaries including Planet Earth, Blue Planet and Frozen Planet. Yet his contribution to tennis remains a fascinating example of how broadcasting innovation can quietly influence sport itself.

Today, every fluorescent yellow ball struck across Centre Court carries a small piece of that legacy — proof that one television executive's practical idea helped shape how the modern game is watched around the world.

Rolex, Wimbledon and the Unexpected Tennis Collectible



When people think of Rolex and tennis, they usually think of Centre Court clocks, championship ceremonies and some of the sport's greatest champions lifting trophies beneath the famous green-and-gold branding at Wimbledon.

Since becoming the Official Timekeeper of The Championships in 1978, Rolex has built one of the most recognisable partnerships in sport. The brand's association with Wimbledon reflects tradition, precision and prestige — values both organisations carefully protect.

Occasionally, however, that relationship produces something more unusual than a watch advertisement or courtside clock.

Among tennis collectors and Wimbledon enthusiasts, Rolex-branded tennis balls have become a curious piece of memorabilia linked to the tournament's hospitality and VIP culture. These specially produced balls are not standard retail items and are typically distributed at exclusive events, corporate lounges or promotional activations connected to Wimbledon.



While they serve no competitive purpose, they symbolise the depth of Rolex's connection to tennis culture. In a sport built heavily around heritage and presentation, even a simple tennis ball can become a collectible object when attached to two iconic names.

The appeal lies partly in the rarity. Unlike Rolex watches, these tennis balls are rarely advertised or officially sold, making them more of an insider item than a commercial product. For collectors, they represent a small but distinctive piece of Wimbledon history.

Not every tennis collectible has to be a racket, trophy or signed photograph. Sometimes, even a felt-covered tennis ball can capture the atmosphere of the world's most famous tournament.

Jannik Sinner and the New Masters Standard

For years, one of the rarest achievements in men's tennis belonged solely to Novak Djokovic.

Winning every ATP Masters 1000 event at least once — the so-called “Career Golden Masters” — had long been considered almost impossible. The challenge is enormous: nine tournaments, different surfaces, different conditions, different parts of the season and entirely different styles of tennis required to succeed.

Now, Jannik Sinner has joined that club.

With his victory in Rome, the Italian became only the second player in history to win all nine ATP Masters 1000 tournaments, completing the set at just 24 years old. In doing so, he achieved the feat seven years younger than Djokovic did when the Serbian finally completed his own collection in Cincinnati in 2018.

That alone places Sinner in extraordinary company. But the wider context makes the achievement even more remarkable.

Roger Federer never completed the set, unable to win Monte Carlo and Rome. Rafael Nadal, despite dominating clay courts for nearly two decades, never captured the Paris Masters. Andy Murray reached eight of the nine Masters finals during his career but never made a final in Monte Carlo. The fact that only Djokovic and now Sinner have conquered the entire Masters landscape shows how demanding modern tennis has become.



What makes Sinner's rise particularly impressive is the speed with which it has happened. His first Masters 1000 title came in Canada in 2023. Less than three years later, he has already won every event at the level.

The significance of Rome was also deeply personal. No Italian man had won the Italian Open in half a century, since Adriano Panatta in 1976.

Sinner ended that drought by defeating Casper Ruud in straight sets on home soil, in front of a crowd that has embraced him as the face of a new era for Italian tennis.

His dominance across the Masters series has become almost unprecedented. Sinner recently became the first player in ATP history to win five consecutive Masters 1000 titles, a run stretching from Paris in 2025 through Indian Wells, Miami, Monte Carlo and Madrid in 2026. He has also reached the final of all nine Masters events younger than Federer, Nadal or Djokovic managed to do.



Perhaps most impressive is the versatility of his game. Earlier in his career, Sinner was often viewed primarily as a hard-court specialist — a devastating ball-striker capable of overwhelming opponents with pace. But his recent clay-court success has changed that perception completely.

Winning Monte Carlo, Madrid and Rome in the same season placed him alongside Rafael Nadal as one of the very few players to sweep all three major clay-court Masters events in a single year. His movement on clay has improved dramatically, while his serve and tactical variation have elevated him from elite shot-maker to complete all-surface champion.

The comparisons with the “Big Three” are now unavoidable.

Federer brought elegance and attacking precision. Nadal redefined physicality and topspin. Djokovic mastered elasticity, defence and consistency. Sinner’s game feels like a modern blend of all three — the clean timing of Federer, the relentless baseline pressure of Djokovic and the heavy ball-striking suited to today’s slower courts.

Yet what stands out most is his composure. Even during periods of extraordinary success, Sinner rarely appears emotionally overwhelmed by the moment. Whether playing in front of a packed Centre Court crowd at Wimbledon or under immense pressure in Rome, his demeanour remains remarkably controlled.

That mentality may ultimately be the key to his place in history.

At 24, Sinner has already achieved milestones many all-time greats never managed. And with multiple Grand Slam titles, the world No.1 ranking and now a complete Masters collection, the question is no longer whether he belongs among the elite players of his generation.

The question is how far his legacy can go.

Elina Svitolina's Rome Revival and the Long Road Back



Tennis has always been a sport of comebacks, but few recent stories have carried the emotional weight of Elina Svitolina's return to the top level of the women's game.

By winning the Italian Open in Rome, Svitolina captured her first WTA 1000 title since 2018, ending an eight-year gap between trophies at that level and completing one of the most significant chapters of her career. At 31 years old, the Ukrainian lifted the 20th singles title of her career and the fifth WTA 1000 crown overall — a reminder not only of her quality, but of the resilience required to return after years of personal and professional challenges.

The victory in Rome felt symbolic in many ways. The Foro Italico has long rewarded players capable of combining athletic defence with tactical patience, qualities that defined Svitolina during her rise to world No.3. At her peak, she was one of the most consistent players on the WTA Tour, winning the WTA Finals in 2018 and establishing herself as one of the game's elite competitors despite playing in an era dominated by Serena Williams, Ashleigh Barty and later Iga Świątek.

Yet her path since then has been anything but straightforward.

Following the birth of her daughter Skai in 2022, many questioned whether Svitolina would return to the very highest level of the sport. Modern women's tennis has seen remarkable examples of successful mothers returning to competition — Serena Williams, Victoria Azarenka and Kim Clijsters among them — but the physical and emotional demands remain enormous. Rankings disappear quickly, confidence can take time to rebuild and the tour itself never slows down.

Svitolina returned with perspective that seemed different from earlier stages of her career. There was still competitiveness, but also a calmness that many players only discover later in life. That maturity was visible throughout her run in Rome.

Her husband, Gaël Monfils, captured the emotion of the moment perfectly in a message shared after the victory.

“Eight years. Eight years to return to the top of a WTA 1000,” Monfils wrote. “What a season, what a week, what a player. But above all, what a woman.”



The message resonated widely across the tennis world because it reflected something deeper than rankings or trophies. Svitolina’s comeback has unfolded against the backdrop of motherhood, injury setbacks and the ongoing war in Ukraine, a subject on which she has spoken openly and emotionally over the past several seasons.

Throughout that period, she became one of the leading voices among Ukrainian athletes, often carrying emotional responsibilities far beyond tennis itself. At times, the pressure appeared immense. Yet in Rome, she looked once again like one of the most complete counterpunchers in the sport.

The significance of the title extends beyond sentimentality. Winning a WTA 1000 event in today’s game remains exceptionally difficult. The depth on the women’s tour is greater than ever, with multiple Grand Slam champions and power hitters capable of beating anyone on a given day. For a player in her thirties, returning after maternity leave and reclaiming one of the sport’s biggest prizes is extraordinarily rare.

The statistics underline the achievement. Rome marked Svitolina’s fifth WTA 1000 title, adding to victories previously earned in Dubai, Rome, Toronto and the WTA Finals during the strongest years of her career. But this one felt different. Not because it was the biggest title she has won, but because of everything required to get back there.

There was also something fitting about it happening in Italy.

Rome has always embraced emotion and theatre in tennis. The late-night atmosphere, the history surrounding the Foro Italico and the passion of the crowds create a stage where victories often feel cinematic. Svitolina’s images celebrating with the trophy against the backdrop of the city reflected exactly that — not merely another tournament win, but a personal triumph years in the making.

In an era increasingly dominated by younger stars, her success also serves as a reminder that experience still matters. Movement, anticipation and tactical intelligence can remain just as valuable as raw power. Svitolina may no longer be the emerging talent she once was, but her game now carries something else: perspective.

And sometimes, perspective is what allows champions to return.

Toni Nadal Returns to the Clay: Lessons from One of Tennis' Great Minds

There are few figures in modern tennis more respected than Toni Nadal. For nearly three decades, he was the architect behind one of the greatest careers the sport has ever seen, guiding his nephew Rafael Nadal from a young boy in Mallorca to a 22-time Grand Slam champion and the undisputed king of clay.

So when Toni Nadal steps back onto a clay court to teach, players listen.

This week, the Rafa Nadal Tennis Centre in Marbella welcomed Toni Nadal for an exclusive clinic and talk with a select group of players, offering participants a rare opportunity to learn directly from one of the most influential coaches in tennis history. The event combined on-court instruction with discussions about mentality, discipline and the philosophy that shaped Rafael Nadal's legendary career.

The setting itself felt fitting. Clay courts have always been central to the Nadal story, and Toni's methods were built around mastering the surface's unique demands: patience, physical endurance, tactical intelligence and relentless consistency. Long before Rafael Nadal became a global superstar, Toni was teaching him that talent alone was never enough.

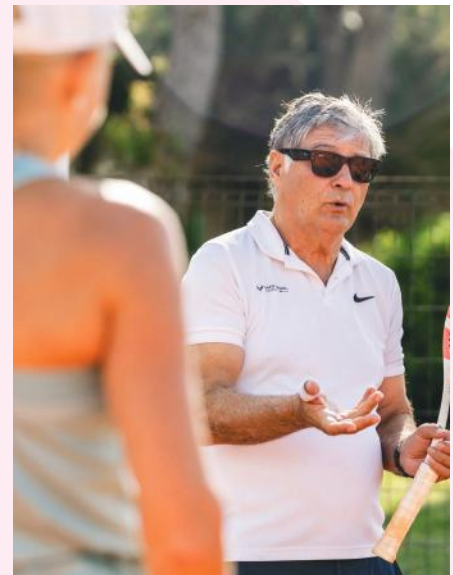
That philosophy has become one of Toni Nadal's defining characteristics as a coach. Throughout Rafael's rise, he consistently emphasised effort, humility and mental resilience over comfort or praise. He has often spoken about the importance of players learning to solve problems independently on court rather than relying on constant reassurance from coaches or parents.

It is a mentality that helped produce one of the fiercest competitors sport has ever seen.

Under Toni Nadal's guidance, Rafael won 16 of his 22 Grand Slam titles, including an extraordinary dominance at Roland Garros that changed tennis history. Their partnership also helped redefine clay-court tennis itself. Rafael's heavy topspin forehand, physical intensity and defensive coverage forced opponents to play longer, more punishing rallies, particularly on slow surfaces.

Yet Toni Nadal's influence extends beyond tactics and trophies. In recent years, he has become one of the sport's most respected voices on player development, often discussing the dangers of overprotection in junior tennis and the importance of building character alongside technical skill.

That is part of what made the Marbella event so valuable. For the players attending, this was not simply a training session. It was an insight into the mindset behind one of tennis' greatest dynasties.



The Rafa Nadal Tennis Centre, which operates under the philosophy of the Rafa Nadal Academy by Movistar, continues to expand internationally, bringing elements of the academy's training system to players outside Mallorca. Events like this reinforce the growing importance of experiential coaching in modern tennis — giving players access not only to facilities, but to the knowledge and culture developed at the highest level of the game.

And few people embody that culture more than Toni Nadal.

In an era increasingly dominated by analytics, technology and sports science, Toni's message remains refreshingly simple: discipline matters, attitude matters, and improvement comes from daily work.

On a clay court in Marbella, surrounded by players eager to absorb every word, one of tennis' greatest teachers reminded everyone why those principles still matter.

The Science of Feel Across Racket Sports

Ask any serious racket-sport player what they want from their equipment and one word appears again and again: feel.

It is difficult to define, but impossible to ignore. Feel is the difference between confidence and hesitation. It tells a tennis player whether the ball will dip inside the baseline, a squash player whether a drop shot will die in the front corner, a badminton player whether a net shot will tumble, and a pickleball player whether a dink will stay low.

Across racket sports, feel is created in different ways.

In tennis, it is heavily influenced by string type, tension, racket stiffness, ball behaviour and contact time. Natural gut, multifilament and monofilament all produce different sensations. A small change in tension can alter power, control and comfort.

In squash and badminton, string tension is even more closely linked to precision and response.

Higher tensions may offer control and sharper feedback, while lower tensions can provide more power and forgiveness. Because both sports involve fast reactions and compact swings, players often rely on immediate feedback from the stringbed.

Pickleball is different because there are no strings. Feel comes from the paddle face, core, thickness, weight, grip and balance. A softer paddle may help with control and touch, while a more powerful paddle can produce greater speed off the face. This is why paddle regulation has become so important as the sport grows. USA Pickleball's PBCoR testing is designed to limit excessive rebound and preserve competitive balance.

Padel sits somewhere between these worlds. The racket is solid, but its foam density, surface texture, shape and balance dramatically affect the way it plays. A head-heavy diamond-shaped racket may reward power, while a rounder, softer racket can favour control and manoeuvrability. What all these sports share is sensitivity.

At higher levels, players notice small differences. A slightly heavier ball, a different shuttle speed, a stringbed that has lost tension, a paddle face that has worn down or a grip that has become too compressed can all change performance.

This is where technical knowledge becomes valuable.



Players often describe problems emotionally: “I can’t feel the ball”, “it feels dead”, “it’s flying”, “I have no control”. The role of a good technician, coach or retailer is to translate that feeling into equipment language.

- Is the string too loose?
- Is the grip too large?
- Has the paddle face worn smooth?
- Is the racket too stiff?
- Is the balance wrong for the player’s swing?

Feel may sound subjective, but it is built from physical factors.

That is what makes racket sports so fascinating. The equipment is not separate from performance — it is part of the performance. The best players are not simply using better tools; they are using tools that match their timing, technique and decision-making.

In every racket sport, feel is the invisible connection between athlete and equipment.

And when that connection is right, the player knows instantly.



MSV BUSSARD TENNIS STRING FOR ULTIMATE CONTROL.

Control: 95%-100% Spin: 85%-100% Power: 85%
(Scores depending on diameter; source: www.stringingpedia.com)

Tennis' Ball Problem: The Small Detail Exposing a Bigger Issue

In tennis, almost everything changes from week to week. The country, the climate, the court surface, the time zone, the crowd, the altitude and the schedule. Players are expected to adapt constantly. That has always been part of the sport.

But one change has become increasingly controversial: the ball.

At first glance, it sounds almost ridiculous. A tennis ball is a tennis ball, surely? It is yellow, pressurised, covered in felt and approved for competition. Yet for players at the highest level, the differences between balls can be significant. Weight, felt, bounce, speed through the court, how quickly they fluff up, and how they respond to humidity or altitude can all affect how a match feels — and how much stress is placed on a player's body.

That is why the conversation around tennis balls has grown louder in recent years. What began as occasional complaints from players has become a serious debate about performance, injury prevention and the fragmented structure of professional tennis.

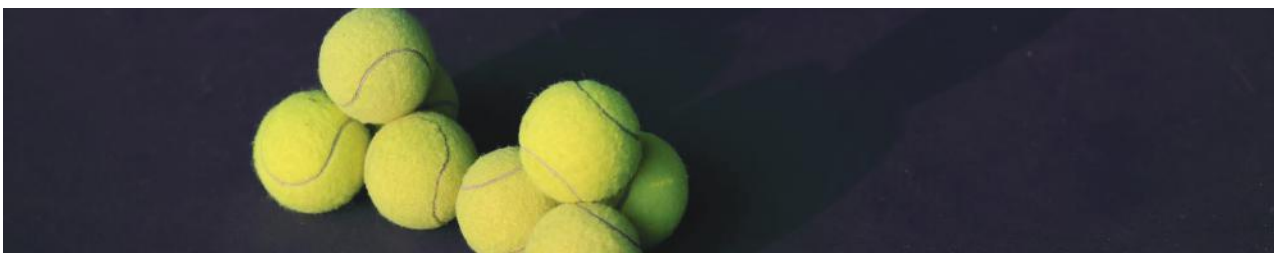
Why Do Balls Change So Often?

Unlike many major sports, tennis does not use one standard ball across the entire professional calendar. Different tournaments have traditionally had the freedom to choose their own ball suppliers, often as part of commercial agreements or sponsorship deals.

That means a player might compete with one brand of ball one week, then move to another tournament with a different ball the next. Even within the same brand, different models can behave differently depending on surface, weather and court speed.

The International Tennis Federation does set technical standards for balls used in tournament play. Approved balls must fall within defined limits for mass, size, rebound and deformation, and the ITF lists approved balls each year. A standard adult tennis ball must weigh between 56.0 and 59.4 grams, with different approved ball types designed for different court speeds and playing conditions.

So the issue is not that tournaments are using illegal balls. The issue is that many different approved balls can still feel very different in match conditions.



The Players' Complaint

Players have been increasingly open about the physical impact of switching balls. In 2024, Associated Press reported that the WTA had used ten brands of tennis balls and 19 distinct types during the 2023 season, with a similar number appearing across ATP events.

That level of variation matters because tennis is a repetitive-impact sport. Players hit thousands of balls in training and competition, often at extreme racket-head speeds. Even small changes in weight, felt density or bounce can alter timing and contact point. Over days and weeks, that can affect wrists, elbows, shoulders and forearms.

Taylor Fritz explained the issue clearly, saying it was not always one specific ball causing injury, but the constant adjustment.

“It’s more just: You get used to one, and then when you change to something that’s a bit heavier, your wrist or your elbow or whatever is taking the force,” Fritz said. “So it’s just all the switching; it causes problems.”

According to WTA injury data cited in the same AP report, foot and thigh injuries were the most common over the previous four years, but wrist and shoulder injuries combined accounted for 18.5% of injuries on the women’s tour.

That does not prove ball changes cause injuries. But it does explain why players are concerned.



Medvedev, Djokovic and the Growing Pressure

Daniil Medvedev has been one of the most outspoken players on the subject, repeatedly arguing that heavier or slower balls can make the sport more physically punishing. Others, including Novak Djokovic, Stan Wawrinka, Emma Raducanu and several ATP and WTA players, have also raised concerns about inconsistency.

The criticism is not simply about preference. Players build their technique, string setups and physical preparation around expected conditions. A ball that fluffs up quickly can slow the game down and make rallies more physical. A lighter or faster ball can reward aggressive first-strike tennis. A heavier-feeling ball can demand more force through contact, particularly on hard courts.

For stringers and racket technicians, this is especially relevant. Ball behaviour directly affects tension choices, string selection and racket preparation. A player facing a heavier ball may look for more power or a slightly lower tension. A faster ball may require more control. In other words, the ball does not exist separately from the racket — it completes the playing system.

The Business Behind the Ball

The most uncomfortable part of the debate is commercial.

Professional tennis is not organised like a single league. The ATP, WTA, ITF, Grand Slams and individual tournaments all operate within a complex and often fragmented structure. Events have their own sponsors, contracts and commercial priorities.

That fragmentation helps explain why ball consistency has been so difficult to achieve. A ball sponsorship may be small compared with broadcast rights or ticketing revenue, but for an individual tournament it can still be commercially valuable. For players, however, the ball is not a branding asset. It is the object they strike thousands of times a week.

This is where the debate becomes bigger than tennis balls.

It reflects a recurring tension in the sport: tournament independence versus player welfare. What is good commercially for one event may not always be ideal for athletes moving week to week across a global tour.

Broadcast rights, sponsorship and hospitality drive the business of modern tennis. Wimbledon alone generated revenue from media rights, tickets, sponsorships, concessions and merchandise, with S&P Global estimating that global media rights accounted for more than half of the All England Club's total revenue.



In that context, the tennis ball becomes a small but revealing symbol. It is central to the product, but historically it has not always been treated as central to player preparation.

Change Is Finally Coming

The good news is that the tours have started to act.

In January 2024, the ATP and WTA announced a strategic review of tennis balls, following growing player concerns. By 2025, the ATP had begun centralising the ball-supplier selection process in collaboration with tournaments, moving away from the previous model where events selected suppliers independently.

According to the ATP, the aim is to improve consistency within tournament swings, reducing week-to-week changes and giving players greater continuity. The ATP said several swings that previously featured varying ball types — including the European indoor swing, the February/March outdoor events and the European clay swing — had already been aligned under the new system, with full alignment expected by 2027 as existing contracts expire.

Ross Hutchins, ATP Chief Sporting Officer, described ball centralisation as “long” being a priority for the sport and said the early results showed “greater consistency, fewer changes, and ultimately a more seamless experience for players week to week”. He also confirmed that the ATP had collected feedback from more than 3,500 player surveys at Tour level since 2023.



That matters. It shows the issue is no longer being dismissed as a player complaint. It is now part of the sport’s operational planning.

More Than Just a Ball

The central question is not whether every tournament should feel identical. Tennis has always been shaped by variation. Clay should not play like grass. Indian Wells should not feel like Rome. Altitude, humidity and surface speed are part of the sport’s identity.

But equipment inconsistency is different.

Players can accept adapting to conditions. What they are questioning is whether the most fundamental object in the game should change so frequently for reasons that are not always performance-led.

For fans, the ball is easy to overlook. For players, coaches and stringers, it is impossible to ignore.

The ball affects timing.

The ball affects tactics.

The ball affects physical load.

The ball affects racket setup.

The ball affects the entire match.

Tennis has spent years modernising its technology, broadcast presentation, data systems and fan experience. Now it is being forced to look at something much simpler – and perhaps much more important.

Because in a sport built around precision, the smallest object on court may be exposing one of its biggest structural problems.

Stringer Solutions

with Richard Parnell

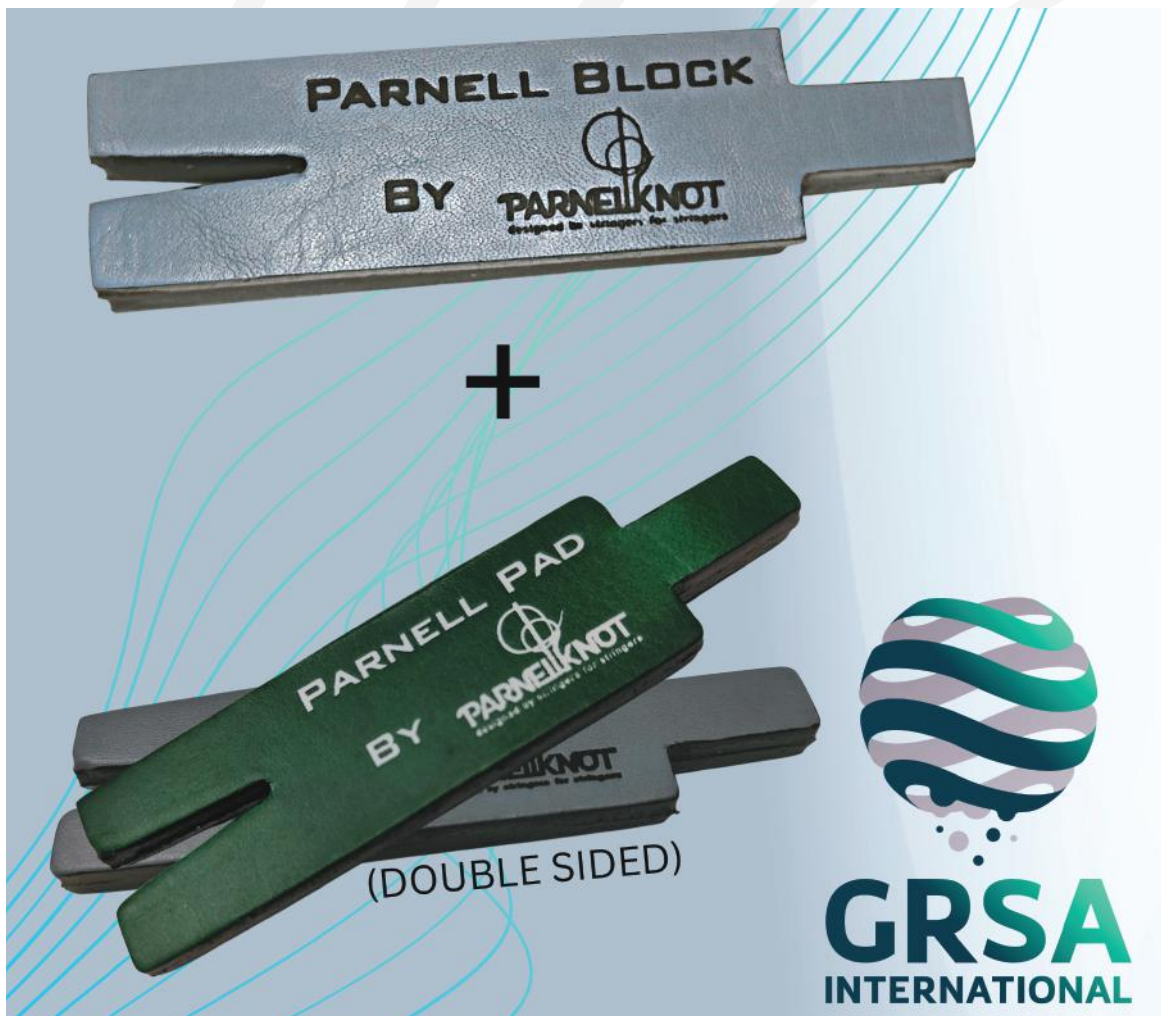


Firstly, I think that an explanation of what exactly is a “Starting Block”, what it is used for and when to use it would be a good start.

What is a Starting Block? – A “spacer” that is used to move the contact point of the starting clamp on the string.

What does a Starting Block do and when should I use it? – By placing a starting block between the clamp and the frame, the piece of string held by the clamp is moved further away from the grommet. This means that the piece of string will not be stressed twice by being clamped and then on the angles in the grommets. The use of the block will mean that the piece of string that has been held by the starting clamp is now out of the grommets and moved into the string bed.

Using a starting block is imperative if you are using the “Yusuki” starting method with a starting clamp placed outside the frame.



Note: Sometimes a player can suffer unexplained breakages towards the top of the string bed, if this occurs, change starting methods by using the other recommended starting method of the machine clamp backed up by the starting clamp for safety.

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.



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HEAD Official Stringing Service Mutua Madrid Open - Powered by GRSA International

HEAD partnered with the Mutua Madrid Open and, subsequently, with GRSA International to create the HEAD Official Stringing Service Mutua Madrid Open - Powered by GRSA International.

Behind the scenes, the GRSA International Stringing Team was responsible for delivering the service that kept one of the biggest tournaments in the world running smoothly. A total of 18 HEAD stringing machines were provided and used throughout the event, alongside a HEAD 4-1 tuning machine, which stood ready to assist players with any last-minute specification changes or customisation requests.

The team itself was a truly international group of highly experienced tournament stringers from every corner of the world. Represented within the team were Austria, China, France, Germany, Hong Kong China, the Netherlands, Spain and the United Kingdom – a reflection of the global nature of both the event and the profession itself.



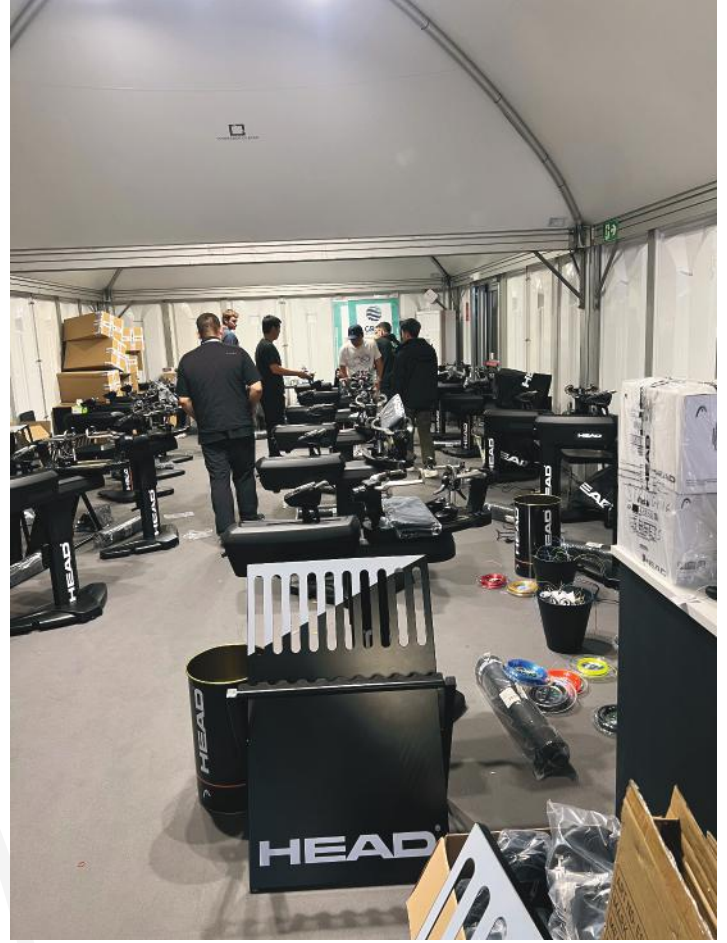
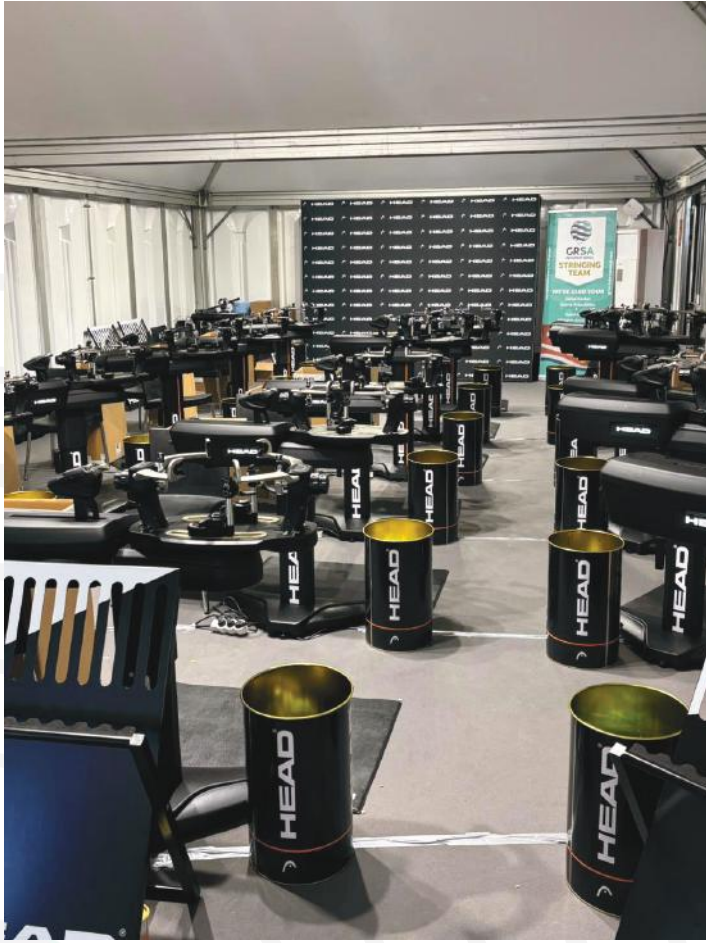






At the front desk, the reception and distribution of rackets was handled seamlessly by a dedicated three-person team from Australia, China and Germany, supported throughout the tournament by the JVC stringing software system, ensuring the efficient tracking and management of thousands of player frames.

The scale of the operation was reflected in the numbers achieved during the tournament. New records were set, with an incredible 501 rackets strung in a single day – the highest daily total ever recorded at the event. By the end of the tournament, the final racket count reached 3,898, establishing a new overall event record for the Mutua Madrid Open.



PARTS OF A WELL OILED MACHINE



Richard



Martin



Kenneth



Sarah



Dani



Mark Jan



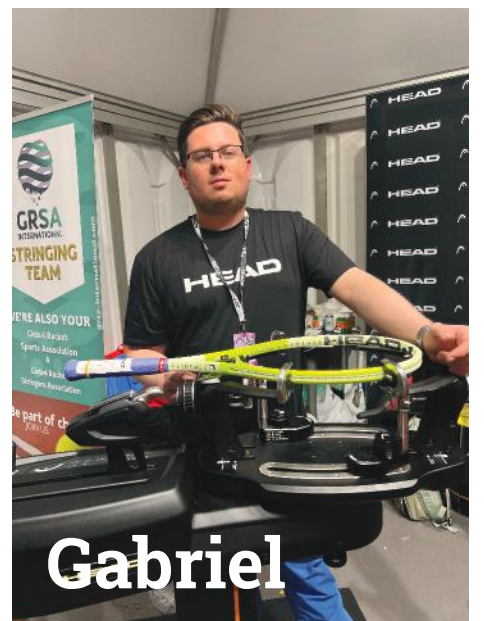
Yan



Stefan



Wu





Mathew



Zoe

Karina

Brittany



VISITA DE HEAD ESPAÑA Y SUS CLIENTES - GRACIAS POR VISITARNOS



While the players compete under the lights in front of thousands of spectators, it is the work carried out behind closed doors in the stringing room that helps make modern professional tennis possible. In Madrid, the combination of HEAD technology, GRSA International's expertise and an exceptional multinational team delivered one of the largest and most successful stringing operations ever seen at the tournament.

GONET GENEVA OPEN 26

Back again in the beautiful Tennis Club de Genève for the 2026 edition of this prestigious event the week before the French open.

The first 3 days with low temperatures and lots of rain seemed to make the start of the tournament very difficult.

Tuesday afternoon: weather started to be better and the tournament saw a lot of good matches with big names such as Ruud, Fritz and Tsitsipas making their appearance on court.

Saturday's final was a big surprise as L.Tien was able to take the trophy home winning his 2nd big title after a tough fight in three sets taking down M. Navone.

The team members this year reunited after their participation in Madrid:

Pablo Garibotto Garcia, Kenneth Leong, Stefan Müller, Gianluca Coloma Heck, Danielle Mann and Martin Mann.

Lowest tension: 9,8kg

Highest tension: 27 kg

Number of rackets strung for players : 470



HTV International Junior Open J500

A new edition of the traditional ITF level junior tournament in 2026, with Wilson not as the official ball supplier, but to our great pleasure as our partner supporting us with stringing machines and other promotional gear to round up the entire package!

Intense days and working hours at the state federation in Offenbach near Frankfurt.

Team members:

Mark Jan Greebe (head stringer), Stan Naaktgeboren, Gianluca Coloma Heck, Deborah Cohen and Max Elbracht (trainee).

Stan joined for the first time coming all the way from the Netherlands and delivered a solid performance giving massive support to this year's team, having to deal with a difficult situation at the start.

Number of rackets strung 457

Highest tension: 28

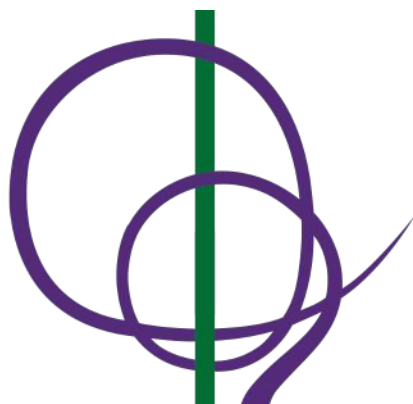
Lowest tension: 19





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Tennis Iriense: Where Passion Meets Real Tennis

Something new is happening in Voghera — something that feels like real, serious tennis. Tennis Iriense, born from the historic Tennis Club Garbin, is getting ready to shake up the local tennis scene with a simple but powerful idea: play more, play better, and offer high-quality services at prices that finally make sense.

Behind the project are **Giulia and Paolo Rondini (GRSA Instructor)**, the new owners of the club — but above all, true sports lovers who know exactly what players need to improve. Their vision is clear: efficient facilities, smart management, and targeted investments that give real value to players. Not to “sell cheap”, but to make tennis accessible, consistent, and growth-oriented. Because in tennis, without consistency, you simply don’t improve.



The courts are the first big upgrade. The whole structure — three outdoor courts and one indoor — will feature Redbrick®[®], a next-generation surface (I.T.F. certified) made of red clay on synthetic grass. Same feeling as traditional clay, but with less maintenance and way more playable hours. You can play all year round, even right after it rains. In other words: winter training with summer conditions. A luxury that becomes normal.

Even the lighting shows the attention to detail: top-quality LED systems that already got enthusiastic reactions (“it looks like a pro tournament”). Efficiency, visual comfort, and lower energy costs — everything designed around the player.



The real beating heart of Tennis Iriense will be the technical service area. A specialized center for stringing and racket customization will be created inside the club, perfect for players who want to feel the difference on court. Not just well-strung rackets, but consultation, on-court testing, and match-ready equipment preparation, all just a few steps from the courts. A pro-level service, open to everyone.



The project is developed in collaboration with the Global Racket Stringers Association, founded by Richard Parnell — one of the most modern and fast-growing organizations in the stringing world. Paolo Rondini is the Italian reference point and an instructor for GRSA, which means competence and constant updates. A rare added value, especially at club level.

On the coaching side, Tennis Iriense will also work with National Level-4 Coach Andrea Valdetara, bringing technical training into a coherent, high-quality environment.

And of course, it's not just about tennis: a renewed bar, green areas, a relaxation zone, and an atmosphere designed to make you want to stay even after your match. Tennis, yes — but also community and well-being.



**Work is underway right now and the opening is planned for June.
One thing is already clear: tennis is about to take center stage again in Voghera.
This time with a very clear idea: play a lot, play well, and truly grow.**

NICK DOWN

TALKS

One of the newest additions to the list of non standard squash rackets is Karakal's Next Gen Core Bridge. This type of pattern is in wide use in the Karakal current range.

I have used the Core 110 in this example, but there are others that share this pattern.

There are 14 mains that wrap around a bridge in the shape of part of a ring. The mains must only be pulled at the head, which means two at a time. It also means starting at the throat, in order to finish the mains at the head.

This pattern is similar to the Prince powerbite range in that it starts at the throat in order to finish at the head. It is also similar, but not identical, to any of Wilson's powerhinge models for the same reason.

The similarities end there, because there are no shared holes on this pattern unlike the powerbite models from Prince or the Wilson models.

There are 18 cross strings



My example has used a two piece (4 knot) method. This avoids a long run of string along the outside of the frame, that is better to look at and I've mentioned this before a few times, it's not unusual.

According to Karakal the position of main strings on the bridge will make a difference between power or control by utilising 'click bridge' technology; I've used a picture to explain this from the Karakal website.



NEXT MONTH:- Unsquashable DSP
(Dual String Pattern)



Nick's Nugget

Reference Tension = what is set on the machine.

Actual Tension = what you get (As Close To Reference as you can get).

Dynamic Tension = The Whole Stringbed (DT).

Mains

Start at the throat ring in the centre:-

Above ring to LH1

Below ring to RH1

LH1 to LH2

LH2 to below ring

Above ring to LH3

RH1 to RH2

RH2 to above ring

Below ring to RH3

RH3 to RH4

RH4 to above ring

Below ring to RH6

LH3 to LH4

LH4 to below ring

Above ring to LH6

LH6 to LH8

LH8 to below ring

Above ring to LH11

RH6 to RH8

RH8 to above ring

Below ring to RH11

Tie off both sides at H8.

**Crosses:-**

1st cross is at H5 (either side, if starting on L, go over 1st main. If starting on R, go under 1st main. Skip H6 H8 and H11 on both sides.

Last cross is T1 (both sides- must be a hard-weave).

Tie off H at H4 (either side)

Tie off T at T2 (either side).



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Orfi & Asal Crowned 2026 PSA World Champions on Historic Night



Egypt's Amina Orfi and Mostafa Asal were crowned 2026 CIB Palm Hills PSA World Champions after stunning victories in front of a passionate home crowd at Golf Central Palm Hills in Giza.

The night belonged to teenage sensation Orfi, who produced one of the greatest performances in squash history to deny Nour ElSherbini a record-breaking ninth world title. At just 18 years and 10 months old, Orfi became the youngest women's World Champion ever, overcoming her illustrious compatriot 6-11, 11-6, 11-9, 7-11, 14-12 in an epic 106-minute battle.

The match was the longest women's World Championship final in the point-a-rally era and featured extraordinary drama as Orfi saved two championship balls before completing her remarkable comeback.

Already the reigning World Junior Champion, Orfi is now the first woman ever to hold both the junior and senior world titles simultaneously. Her triumph also capped an extraordinary week in which she defeated World No.1 Hania El Hammamy in a gruelling 103-minute semi-final before claiming the biggest title of her young career.

"I'm speechless, I worked so hard to get here," said Orfi after lifting her first major PSA trophy.

"This will add so much to my confidence. I had so many tough losses this season, but I knew I could do better.

"I knew there was going to be pressure on both of them, Hania being World No.1 and Nour being one title away from breaking the record. I knew I had the least pressure and I went for it. I'm just so happy."

While Orfi announced herself on the biggest stage, Asal successfully defended his crown with a commanding performance against fellow Egyptian Youssef Ibrahim.

The World No.1 needed just three games to retain the title, winning 11-4, 11-1, 12-10 against the No.7 seed, who was playing in his maiden World Championship final despite battling a shoulder injury that will require surgery next week.

Ibrahim had enjoyed a breakthrough run to the final, defeating both Paul Coll and Karim Abdel Gawad, but Asal's relentless pace and precision ultimately proved too much.

"It feels amazing to win the World Championships in front of your family and friends," said Asal.

"Credit to Youssef Ibrahim. To even be playing here with his shoulder injury, he's superhuman. He's a good friend of mine and we grew up together.

"It's never easy playing in Egypt to defend a world title. There's so much pressure playing in front of everyone here."

The PSA Squash Tour now moves on to the Diamond-level Quilter Cheviot British Open in Birmingham from May 30 to June 7, where the world's best players will gather for the penultimate event of the season.



Sintes and Santigosa Claim FIP Bronze Latina Title as Cánovas and Rodríguez Shine in Italy

Top seeds Marc Sintes and Dani Santigosa lived up to expectations to capture the men's title at the FIP Bronze Latina, sealing their third title of the season.

The Spanish pair had already underlined their dominance in the semi-finals with a commanding 6-4, 6-0 victory over Toner Sans and Gustavo Nunes. In the final, however, the match ended in unfortunate circumstances as their opponents, Jose Luis Gonzalez and Antonio Varo, were forced to retire after edging the opening set in a tie-break.

For Sintes and Santigosa, the triumph adds to an impressive campaign that has already seen them lift trophies at the FIP Silver Caen and the FIP Bronze Elche.

One of the standout stories of the tournament was the debut of 14-year-old Asier Estébanez on the CUPRA FIP Tour. The highly rated youngster announced himself on the international stage after winning the FIP Junior Padel Cup by Pairs in Reus last September, underlining his status as one of the sport's brightest emerging talents.

In the women's draw, Noa Canovas and Maria Eulalia Rodriguez were crowned champions after producing an excellent performance to defeat Anna Ortiz and Rebeca Lopez in straight sets. They took the opening set 6-3 before holding their nerve in a tightly contested second-set tie-break.

Their route to the title was equally convincing, with victories over Martina Parmigiani and Bo Luttikhuis in the semi-finals (6-1, 6-4), followed by a dominant 6-1, 6-1 win against Dora Chamli and Aurora Tun Buscaino in the quarter-finals.

The title marks another milestone in a successful year for the pair, who had already claimed the FIP Silver Espoo in Espoo. Rodríguez has also enjoyed further success this season, lifting the FIP Bronze Sevilla alongside Amanda Lopez.



Leal and Guerrero Mark Reunion with FIP Silver Oeiras Triumph

There could hardly have been a better way for Javi Leal and Fran Guerrero to celebrate their return as a partnership, as the Spanish duo claimed the title at the FIP Silver Oeiras ahead of the upcoming FIP Platinum Albania.

Leal and Guerrero sealed the crown with an impressive victory over Diego Garcia and Santi Pineda in the final. After edging a fiercely contested opening set in a tie-break, the pair raised their level in the second to close out a convincing 6-2 finish.

Their title run was flawless, as they lifted the trophy without dropping a single set throughout the tournament. In the semi-finals, they had already shown their quality with a composed 6-4, 6-3 victory over José Solano and Ramiro Pereyra.



The result further underlines the strength of their partnership. Back in February, the reunited duo also captured the FIP Platinum Marseille title, defeating Javi Garrido and Luca Bergamini in the final.

In the women's draw, Marta Talaván and Sofia Saiz were crowned champions after an outstanding week in Oeiras.

Their campaign was highlighted by a remarkable comeback in the semi-finals, where they overturned a set deficit to defeat top seeds Aranzazu Osoro and Victoria Iglesias 2-6, 7-5, 6-3. They then carried that momentum into the final, producing a clinical 6-3, 6-4 victory over Alix Collombon and Ksenia Sharifova, who had lifted the FIP Silver Bari title in April.

The triumph confirms the excellent form of Talaván and Saiz. Just last week, at the recent Premier Padel P1 Buenos Aires, they impressed by defeating Teresa Navarro and Virginia Riera in the round of 16 before eventually falling to the Race-leading pair of Paula Josemaría and Bea González.

Whether you're a seasoned player or just picking up a paddle for the first time, discovering where you can join open competitions is part of the fun in this ever-growing sport. Here are some upcoming dates – and for full details, head over to the Pickleball Global website.

WPC Belgium - Belgian Pickleball Open 2026**EID:** 2308 EUR 35**Organizer:** Pickleball Belgium**EVENT - TOURNAMENT****Starting:** July 31, 2026 to August 02, 2026**City:** Woluwe-Saint-Lambert, Belgium**Tournament Venue:** Centre Sportif Mounier**Registration Deadline:** July 01, 2026 (OPEN)**Tier Level:** 3**NRW-Landesmeisterschaften 2026****EID:** 2272 EUR 20**Organizer:** Karsten Wischermann**EVENT - TOURNAMENT****Starting:** June 27, 2026 to June 28, 2026**City:** Kerpen, Deutschland**Tournament Venue:** Racket Arena Rhein-erft**Registration Deadline:** June 21, 2026 (OPEN)**Tier Level:** 2**WPC SERIES - BALI CHAMPIONSHIP****EID:** 2326 USD 60**Organizer:** Pickleball Global**EVENT - TOURNAMENT****Starting:** September 21, 2026 to September 26, 2026**City:** Sanur, Denpasar City, Bali, Indonésie**Tournament Venue:** Liga Tennis**Registration Deadline:** August 31, 2026 (OPEN)**Tier Level:** 5**MORE
INFO**

The Technology Arms Race in Pickleball

Pickleball's rapid growth has created a new kind of equipment debate. In tennis, innovation often revolves around strings, racket layups and frame geometry. In pickleball, the focus is increasingly on the paddle itself.

As participation continues to surge — the SFIA reported pickleball as the fastest-growing sport in the United States for a fourth consecutive year, with 19.8 million American players in 2024 — manufacturers are racing to produce paddles with more power, more spin and more forgiveness.

The result is a sport entering its own “technology arms race”. Carbon-fibre faces, thermoformed construction, foam-injected edges and increasingly responsive cores have changed what players can do with the ball. At elite level, the question is no longer simply which player has the best hands — it is also which paddle produces the most legal performance.

That is why regulation has become such a major talking point. USA Pickleball has introduced the Paddle/Ball Coefficient of Restitution test, known as PBCoR, to measure how much energy a paddle returns to the ball and to limit excessive “trampoline effect”. Several paddles were scheduled to be removed from certification for sanctioned tournament play from 1 July 2025 after exceeding testing thresholds.

For a growing sport, this is an important moment. If the equipment becomes too powerful too quickly, pickleball risks losing some of the qualities that made it popular in the first place: control, touch, rallies and tactical variety.

There are clear parallels with tennis. When monofilament strings transformed the professional game, they allowed players to swing harder, generate more spin and control the ball at speeds previously impossible. Pickleball may now be facing its own version of that shift — only this time, the technology is in the paddle face rather than the stringbed.

For coaches, retailers and racket technicians, this opens an interesting opportunity. Pickleball paddles do not require stringing, but players still need guidance. Grip size, weight, balance, paddle surface wear and equipment legality are all becoming more important as the sport professionalises.

The paddle is no longer just a piece of beginner-friendly equipment. It is becoming a performance tool — and with that comes a need for expertise.

Pickleball's challenge now is to protect fairness while allowing innovation. That balance will shape not only how the sport is played, but how seriously it is taken at the highest level.

Rachel Rohrabacher's fiancé Bobby Edwards might just be MLP's loudest fan



If you think the PPA Tour can get loud, you probably haven't been to a Major League Pickleball event.

MLP takes pickleball's energy and dials it up. Fans are urged to back their teams, players whip up chants, and some sides even bring whistles courtside. It is fast, noisy and unapologetically theatrical.

Few people embrace that atmosphere quite like Bobby Edwards, fiancé of Rachel Rohrabacher.

A former goalkeeper for Indy Eleven, Edwards is usually more reserved when watching Rohrabacher at PPA tournaments. In MLP, however, the team format brings out a different side.

"In MLP, I'm known for being louder and more vocal," said Edwards. "For PPA, I just clap and I'm a bit quieter. MLP has that team format, so I just enjoy the atmosphere it has created. It's all in good fun. I had a career that lets me know where that line is."

His chants of "Here we go Rachel!" and "Let's go Brooklyn!" come naturally from years in football, where noise from behind the goal is part of the job.

"Goalkeepers tend to get the trash talking and yelling the worst because you're standing in the goal and the crowd is right behind you," he explained. "When I was a goalkeeper, I always thought, 'Man, it'd be fun to do that.' MLP is the perfect place."

Rohrabacher's Brooklyn Pickleball Team have even come to see Edwards as something of a secret weapon. His energy lifts the players and adds another layer to the spectacle for fans.

"I think sometimes when he's in the crowd, the fans are a little jarred at first," said Rohrabacher. "He's started to warn the people around him and say, 'That's my fiancé! Sorry if I'm being a little too loud.' Usually, people respond really well."

Edwards also had a playful exchange with Jack Sock during last year's MLP playoffs. Sock, one of pickleball's great entertainers and trash talkers, enjoyed the back-and-forth.

"I like the team atmosphere, and I love when it's loud," said Sock. "He's a very passionate guy."

For Edwards, support is not about coaching or courtside strategy. It is about showing up, being heard and backing Rohrabacher and her team with everything he has.

"I don't help Rachel on the court for strategy, but I can yell out and express my love for this woman," he said. "I'm taking full advantage of this opportunity to cheer on her and her entire team. It's just fun to do."

Rohrabacher admits she rarely hears him once she is locked into competition, though she does catch some of his comments when he is cheering for others.

"I think he's really funny," she said, "but I'm biased."

Above all, she values the support.

"I'm so lucky and grateful to have a partner who is all into what I'm doing and supports me in everything," Rohrabacher said. "It makes my job easier."



Antonsen Outlasts Vitidsarn in Bangkok Thriller

Anders Antonsen claimed his first title of the season at the TOYOTA Thailand Open 2026, edging defending champion Kunlavut Vitidsarn in a gripping 97-minute final.

The Dane's first Thailand Open crown came after a contest full of momentum shifts, none greater than in the deciding game. Antonsen raced to a 6-1 lead, only for Vitidsarn to storm back with 11 of the next 12 points and seemingly seize control.

But Antonsen refused to fade. Point by point, he worked his way back, drawing level at 15 before the final became a battle of nerve. A long serve from Vitidsarn handed Antonsen the opening he needed, and the Dane took full advantage to seal one of the most memorable wins of his career.



“It feels so incredible,” said Antonsen. “I’m lost for words right now. I don’t really believe it, because it was looking very bad in that third game, and also in the second. I’m amazed. I can’t believe it. I’m so happy.”

Reflecting on the roller-coaster decider, Antonsen admitted his focus had briefly drifted after a punishing second game.

“I was a little bit gone at that stage,” he said. “My mind was everywhere else but on the match. But suddenly I was leading 5-0, and I was like, oh wow, I have a chance now. Then he caught up, and it looked bad when we changed ends.

“It was so warm in there, the crowd was so noisy, and you’re not really able to think properly. Facing Kunlavut as well, everything is difficult.”

For Antonsen, survival became triumph — and Bangkok delivered another classic.

Yamaguchi Back Atop the Podium



Akane Yamaguchi secured her first title of the season at the TOYOTA Thailand Open 2026, producing a composed and clinical performance to defeat Chen Yu Fei in the women's singles final.

In contrast to the dramatic men's final, Yamaguchi controlled much of the contest with her trademark speed and relentless court coverage. The Japanese star was consistently quicker to the shuttle, forcing Chen onto the defensive and dictating the pace of rallies from the outset.

Chen briefly looked as though she might turn the match around in the second game after establishing a lead, but Yamaguchi's extraordinary retrieval skills gradually wore the Chinese down. Time and again, the Japanese extended rallies that seemed lost, frustrating Chen and steadily reclaiming momentum.

"Of course it was great to win the final and I'm very happy," said Yamaguchi. "I'm thrilled to have won because I was able to show a good level in the match."

"In the first game, I felt that Chen played a little slow so I was able to use my greater speed. In the second game too, I played at a similar speed and was able to win."

The victory marks an important milestone for Yamaguchi, who returns to the top step of the podium after months of searching for her best form.

Egypt to Host BWF World Junior Championships 2026

The Badminton World Federation (BWF) has confirmed Egypt as the new host of the **BWF World Junior Championships 2026**, marking the return of a major BWF event to Africa for the first time in 24 years.

The announcement follows Badminton Indonesia's decision earlier this year to relinquish hosting rights for the championships. Egypt was selected after what BWF described as productive discussions and a strong hosting proposal submitted by the **Egyptian Badminton Federation (EBF)**.

The championships will be held at the Cairo International Stadium, with dates and the full competition schedule to be confirmed later.

The 2026 edition will be only the second BWF Major Championship staged in Africa, following South Africa's hosting of the World Junior Championships in 2002. The tournament also comes in the same year as the **Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games**, further highlighting Africa's growing role in international sport.

BWF President Khunying Patama Leeswadtrakul said Egypt's successful bid reflected the country's readiness and ambition to deliver a world-class event.

"Bringing the championships to Africa for the first time since 2002 is a decisive step in expanding the global footprint of badminton," she said. She added that the event would help inspire and develop the next generation of players across the continent.

Egypt's Minister of Youth and Sports, His Excellency Gohar Nabil, described the championships as proof of the country's world-class infrastructure and commitment to hosting major international events.

"The Egyptian Government fully supports this event, allocating all necessary resources to guarantee a remarkable experience for athletes, delegations and fans from all over the world," he said. EBF President Dr Hadia Hosny called the successful bid "a defining moment for Egyptian badminton" and said the federation looked forward to welcoming the world while creating a lasting legacy for youth development in the sport.

The BWF Council has also confirmed that the 3×55 relay scoring system will be used for the BWF World Junior Mixed Team Championships.

Egypt is currently part of BWF's Enhanced Membership Grant Programme, which supports the development of badminton in nations with strong growth potential. BWF believes Egypt's progression to hosting a major world championship reflects the country's growing importance within the global badminton community.



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