



GRSA-INTERNATIONAL.COM / MAY 2023

GRSA INTERNATIONAL ATW MAGAZINE

MADRID, ROME & PARIS

WHAT A PACKED MONTH



WHO WILL BE
VICTORIOUS IN PARIS?

Rafa's Roland Road



ISSUE NUMBER 12

We'd like to thank all our readers and partners

It's been a busy 12 months, we're looking forward to sharing more and more for years to come





THE ROLAND GARROS 2023 COLLECTION

Introducing performance rackets inspired by the
beauty of tennis in the stunning 'City of Light'.

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May certainly was a jam-packed month, Mo Thomson takes a look and Madrid and Rome. Sustainability is still a much-talked-about topic. Lines people could become a thing of the past sooner than we think.

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After a small introduction to Team USA, we give you a little more background on the team of professionals that will be making sure the USA is fully GRSA active.

Section 3 - Squash

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Do you know the dimensions of the Pickleball court, or any of the rules? We'll take a quick look.

If you're not already a member of GRSA, make sure you are soon, because you don't want to miss what's coming!

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Madrid welcomed players to the 21st edition of the tournament on the ATP Tour and 14th on the WTA Tour.

It is classified as an ATP Tour Masters 1000 and WTA 1000 event. This was the first year that the tournament took place over two weeks as the men's and women's singles draws were expanded to 96 players. The ATP was represented by 36 different nationalities and the WTA by 33.

Missing from this year's event were all-time favourites, Novak Djokovic and Rafael Nadal.

World **#4**, Ons Jabeur announced 48 hours before the start of the tournament that the left calf injury she sustained while playing Iga Swiatek would keep her from defending her Madrid Open title. Having retired early in Stuttgart and not competing in Madrid means that she will drop to **#7** in the rankings.

2022 Defending Champions.

MUTUA MADRID OPEN

Men's Singles - Carlos Alcaraz. **Women's Singles** - Ons Jabeur.

Men's Doubles - Koolhof/Skupski. **Women's Doubles** - Dabrowski/Giuliana.

US Open champion, Alcaráz and home favourite, was looking to secure the double and back-to-back wins following his Barcelona Open victory.

Men's Seeds

- #1 Alcaraz
- #3 Tsitsipas
- #4 Ruud
- #5 Medvedev
- #6 Auger-Aliassime
- #7 Rublev
- #8 Rune
- #9 Hurkacz
- #10 Fritz

The earliest, top-level scare came when defending champion and **#1** seed, Carlos Alcaraz, had to dig deep against world **#41**, Finland's Emil Ruusuvuori but the champ survived and came through winning 2-6, 6-4, 6-2.

However, **#2** seed, Daniil Medvedev was put out in a shock and ungracious defeat by fellow Russian, **#21** ranked, Aslan Karatsev, 7-6, (7-1), 6-4. The world **#3** returned to his chair because of booing from the crowd during the first set tie-break and had to be persuaded back by the umpire. Medvedev continued his grumblings, complaining about the lack of space behind the baseline.

ZhangZhizhen, the first Chinese man to break into the top **#100** and having defeated Brit Cameron Norrie, then had a remarkable victory, putting out **#10** Taylor Fritz.

World **#1** and Madrid Open defending top seeds Skupski/Koolhof lost 6-3, 6-2 against **#7** Bopanna/Ebden in their Quarter Final. The Indian/Australian duo are chasing their 3rd title of the season (after Doha and Indian Wells)

#12 seed Veronika Kudermetova reached the biggest Semi-Final of her career after a hard-fought win over **#3** Jessica Pegula 6-4, 0-6, 6-4.

Men's Final

As World **#2**, Carlos Alcaraz retained his Madrid Open title with a three set victory over **#65**, Jan-Lennard Struff. The Champion who celebrated his 20th birthday the Friday before won his 4th trophy on the ATP Tour this season and his 10th in total.

Entering the Italian Open, Alcaraz will now be crowned World **#1** and is bound to be top favourite to take the title at Roland Garros.

Men's Doubles Final

Andrey Rublev/Karen Khachanov captured their 1st tour-level doubles title beating **#7** seeds, Rohan Bopanna and Matthew Ebden 6-3, 3-6, 10-3, racing away in the tie-break to secure victory. Having previously put out the **#1** seeds in the Quarter Finals, the defeated pair had hoped to secure their 3rd tour-level title of the season together after Doha and Indian Wells, but could not face down the grit and determination of their formidable opponents.



Women's Final

Aryna Sabalenka, who celebrated her birthday on the same day as Alcaraz, also claimed her 2nd Madrid Open title, the previous win was in 2021. She beat World **#1**, Iga Swiatek 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 to secure her 3rd WTA Tour title of the year. Of the 7 events she has played this season, Sabalenka has reached the final in 5 of them. This was a magnificent contest, full of dramhard-hitting and thrilling tennis. Sabalenka beat Swiatek on her opponent's favourite surface. Swiatek had previously won 46 of 49 matches on clay, but now has to contend with an opponent in the French Open knowing that Sabalenka has grown and improved and is her number 1 foe.



Women's Doubles Final.

Unseeded duo, Azarenka/ Haddad Maia convincingly thrashed US and **#1** seeds, duo Gauff/ Pegula 6-1, 6-4 to win their first tournament together. The American pair had been hoping to win their 3rd title of the season after Doha and Miami, but were overcome by dynamic and dominant play plus the break in Gauff's serve in the final game.

Ensuring Sustainability in Modern-Day Tennis Tournaments

Tennis tournaments have long been celebrated for their thrilling matches and captivating performances, but in the face of growing environmental concerns, ensuring the sustainability of these events has become an imperative. While Roland Garros remains a significant tournament, this article aims to delve into the broader spectrum of sustainability initiatives and challenges faced by modern-day tennis tournaments. We will explore the adoption of green practices, the role of specific tournaments in promoting sustainability, the recycling of strings and balls, and the ongoing efforts to create a more eco-conscious future.

Embracing Green Practices:

In recent years, tennis tournaments have made great strides in embracing eco-friendly practices to minimize their carbon footprint. From the Australian Open to Wimbledon and the US Open, numerous tournaments have taken significant steps to prioritize sustainability. They have implemented waste management strategies, introduced comprehensive recycling programs, and actively promote the use of renewable energy sources. Moreover, tournaments have recognized the importance of reducing water consumption, adopting sustainable transportation options, and implementing efficient lighting systems to decrease overall energy usage.

Prominent Tournaments Leading the Way:

Several tournaments stand out for their visible commitment to green initiatives. The Australian Open has been at the forefront, actively promoting sustainability through various measures. They have incorporated solar panels, installed water tanks for rainwater collection, and introduced composting programs to reduce waste. Wimbledon, renowned for its rich traditions, has also embraced sustainability. They focus on minimizing environmental impact through responsible waste management, sourcing local and organic food, and encouraging spectators to use public transportation.

Repurposing Tennis Strings and Balls:

Beyond the efforts to minimize waste and energy consumption, tennis tournaments have also turned their attention to the recycling and repurposing of equipment. One remarkable example is the recycling of tennis strings. Organizations like "Tennis Ball Recycling" have emerged, collecting discarded strings and repurposing them for various applications. These recycled strings can be transformed into accessories, jewelry, or used in craft projects, giving them a new lease of life.

Similarly, recycling tennis balls has gained traction. Rather than letting them accumulate in landfills, initiatives have emerged to repurpose used tennis balls. For instance, some companies convert them into surfaces for playgrounds or incorporate them into the soles of shoes, providing cushioning and support. Such innovative approaches ensure that tennis equipment can be repurposed in meaningful ways, reducing waste and extending their lifecycle.

Green Initiatives on the Rise:

Tournaments are also working on further greening their operations. The Madrid Open, for example, has implemented an ambitious plan to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030. They are focusing on sustainable construction practices, reducing water consumption, and implementing waste management strategies to reach their goal. The Miami Open has embraced solar power, installing panels on their facilities to reduce dependence on traditional energy sources.

Engaging Players and Fans:

Sustainability in tennis tournaments goes beyond the efforts of organizers; it also involves engaging players and fans in eco-conscious practices. Players are increasingly using their platform to raise awareness and promote sustainable living. Initiatives like recycling bins on courts, educating players about eco-friendly products, and encouraging fans to use public transportation have become more prevalent. By actively involving all stakeholders, tennis tournaments are fostering a culture of sustainability throughout the sport.

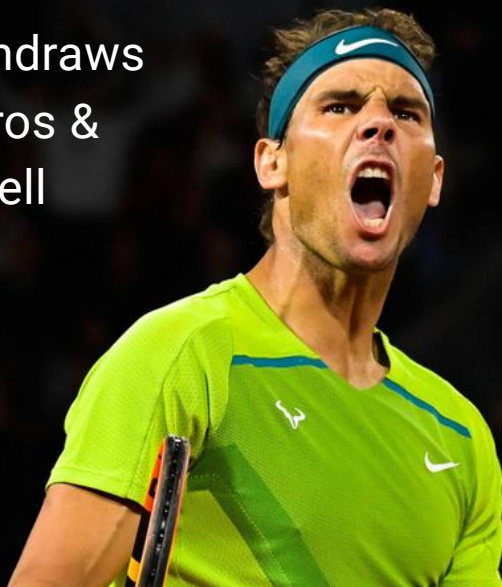
So to sum this all up, in the pursuit of sustainability, modern-day tennis tournaments are embracing green practices, reducing their environmental footprint, and actively engaging players and fans. While Roland Garros remains a prominent tournament, several others have emerged as leaders in promoting sustainability initiatives. With initiatives ranging from recycling tennis strings and balls to implementing comprehensive sustainability plans, tournaments are demonstrating their commitment to creating a more eco-conscious future. By combining the excitement of the game with responsible stewardship of the environment, tennis tournaments are not only inspiring fans worldwide but also paving the way for a greener sporting industry as a whole.

Find out how you can help in your local clubs and tournaments, if we all do our part, then the fight to help make the awareness of a greener way of playing, viewing and enjoying tennis, become more of a daily commitment and not just on special occasions.

Rafael Nadal withdraws from Roland Garros & eyes 2024 Farewell

FEATURED

Paris, 2022



In a heartfelt announcement made at the Rafa Nadal Academy by Movistar, Rafael Nadal confirmed his withdrawal from this year's Roland Garros. This marks the first time the 14-time champion will miss the season's second major since his tournament debut in 2005. The decision comes as Nadal continues to grapple with a lingering physical issue that has plagued him since the Australian Open earlier this year, where he suffered an injury to his left leg's iliopsoas muscle.

Expressing his disappointment, Nadal revealed the challenges he faced during the past months, striving to find a solution to the persistent problem. Despite his relentless efforts, he concluded that he is not in the optimal condition required to compete at the Roland Garros standards he sets for himself. Rather than participate half-heartedly, he made the difficult decision to prioritize his well-being and withdraw from the tournament.

Since his last appearance at the Australian Open, where his injury occurred, Nadal and his team expected a recovery period of six to eight weeks. However, the recovery process has taken longer than anticipated, preventing the Spanish tennis icon from returning to the court. Nadal admitted that his inability to enjoy his daily work due to physical issues prompted the realization that he needed to take a break.

Acknowledging the challenges he has faced in recent times, Nadal explained his decision to step away temporarily. The duration of his break remains uncertain, with a timeframe ranging from two to four months depending on his body's needs. The priority for Nadal is to allow his body time to recover fully, enabling him to return to the practice court in due course.

Looking ahead, Nadal expressed his desire to enjoy the 2024 season, which he believes will likely be his final year as a professional tennis player. While he remains cautious about making definitive predictions, he plans to relish and bid farewell to the tournaments that have been significant in his remarkable career.

While the Spanish legend's absence will undoubtedly be felt, the tournament promises to deliver gripping matches and produce another worthy champion, adding another chapter to the storied history of Roland Garros.

Nadal emphasized the importance of taking this break to increase his chances of making the most of his farewell year. Although there are no guarantees, he firmly believes that pausing now will offer him a greater opportunity to compete at his best during his remaining time on the professional tour.

Reflecting on his decision, Nadal shared his gratitude for the support he has received throughout his career and the joy he has experienced on the court. He acknowledged that while his absence will be felt, Roland Garros will continue to thrive as a prestigious clay court event, showcasing the talents of other formidable players.

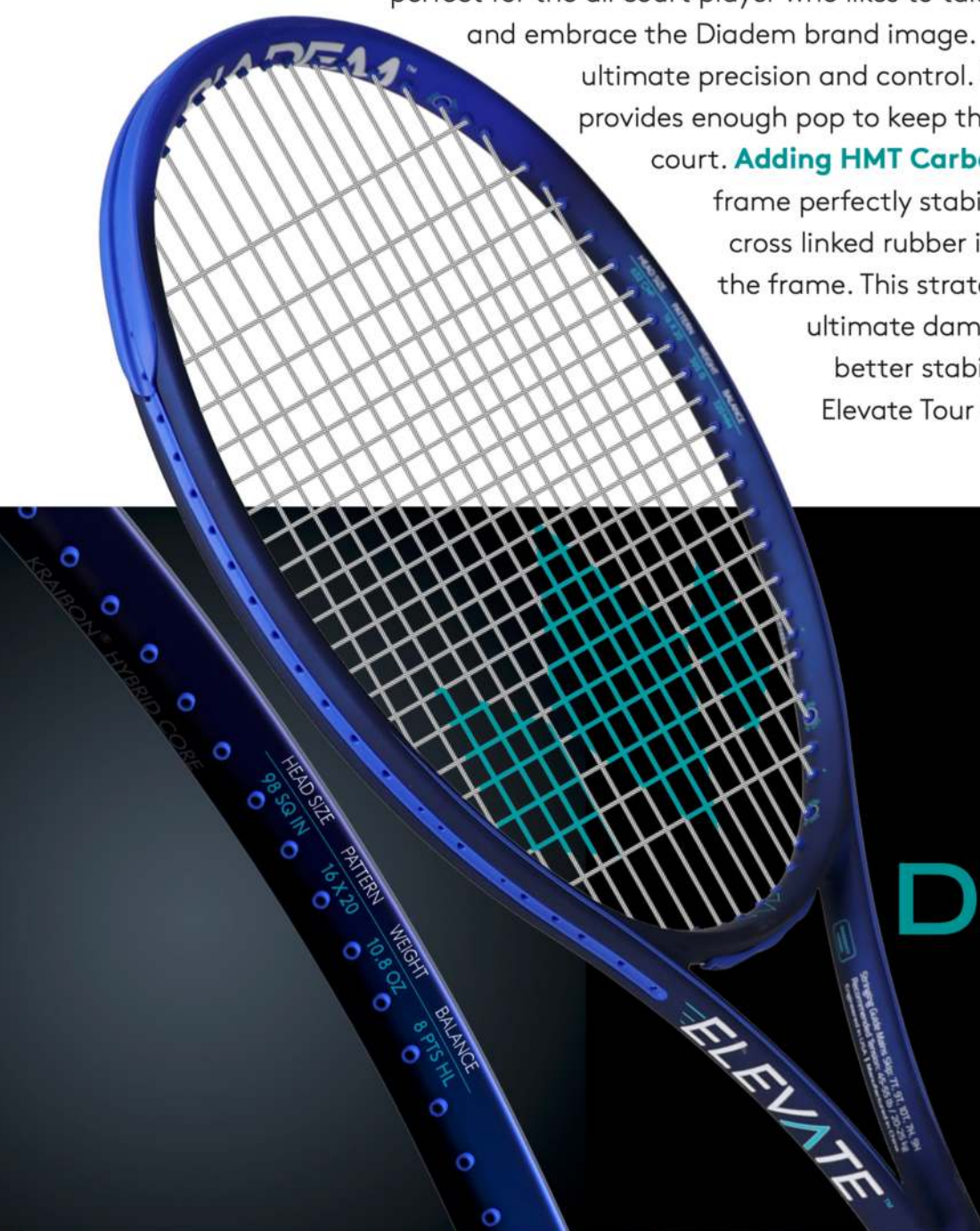
Beyond his 14 record-breaking trophies at Roland Garros, Nadal's legacy at the tournament remains unparalleled. With a remarkable 112-3 win-loss record and a perfect 14-0 mark in finals, his contributions to the history of the event are etched in stone. As he takes this hiatus, Nadal's fans and tennis enthusiasts around the world eagerly await his return, hoping to witness more of his unparalleled skills and fierce determination on the court.

In the meantime, the Roland Garros journey for this year will unfold, with new and familiar names vying for the title. Although Nadal's absence will be felt, the tournament's spirit will persist, showcasing the resilience and competitive spirit of the world's top tennis talents.

Last year's Paris champion, Nadal, memorably secured his 22nd Grand Slam singles title by defeating Casper Ruud in a thrilling three-set final. While the Spanish legend's absence will undoubtedly be felt, the tournament promises to deliver gripping matches and produce another worthy champion, adding another chapter to the storied history of Roland Garros.



The stunningly designed **ELEVATE**, **ELEVATE LITE** and **ELEVATE TOUR** are perfect for the all court player who likes to take aggressive swings at the ball and embrace the Diadem brand image. This “player’s” racket provides ultimate precision and control. Utilizing our **FS System**, it also provides enough pop to keep the ball penetrating through the court. **Adding HMT Carbon** in key spots throughout the frame perfectly stabilizes your swing. **Kraibon** non-cross linked rubber is used in key areas throughout the frame. This strategically placed rubber provides ultimate dampening against harmful shock, better stability, and incredible feel. Try the Elevate Tour for easier access to power and more plow through contact.



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UNSTRUNG WEIGHT
UNSTRUNG BALANCE
LENGTH
STIFFNESS
STRING PATTERN

BEAM
GRIP SIZES

ELEVATE LITE

Increased Stability
 Added Maneuverability

98 sq in / 632 cm
 10.2 oz / 290g
 4 pts HL / 330mm
 27 in / 68.58 cm
 64RA
 16 mains / 20 crosses
 Mains skip: 7T,9T,10T, 7H,9H
 21.5 mm Flat Beam
 0 - 3

ELEVATE

Precision
 Spin

98 sq in / 632 cm
 10.8 oz / 305 g
 7 pts HL / 320 mm
 27 in / 68.58 cm
 64 RA
 16 mains / 20 crosses
 Mains skip: 7T,9T,10T, 7H,9H
 21.5 mm Flat Beam
 1 - 4

ELEVATE TOUR

Increased Stability
 Added Power

98 sq in / 632 cm
 11.1 oz / 315g
 8 pts HL / 315mm
 27 in / 68.58 cm
 67RA
 16 mains / 20 crosses
 Mains skip: 7T,9T,10T, 7H,9H
 21.5 mm Flat Beam
 1 - 4

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Who are Ytex?

Who makes it tick?



YTEX Strings is growing rapidly every day and I want to make sure you know who is behind the products that will help you get to the next level! I aim to share with you my story, who am I and how I started working with YTEX.

A couple of years back (well, actually quite a few years...) in Pretoria, South Africa, the beautiful town and place where I grew up is where it all started.

My name is Ivor Savage but most of my friends call me "Savage" :) I began playing tennis at 9 yrs of age and like most kids at the time, I played multiple sports like rugby and cricket but I had an obsession from the start with tennis!



I was blessed to play on the courts at Sunnyside & Belgrave Tennis Clubs where tennis was booming every day. With my obsession, I quickly jumped in the South African rankings and climbed as high as #30 in the nation.

It was an awesome experience!

As time passed, at the age of 25, I received the offer to coach at the Van Der Meer Academy on Hilton Head Island, SC, in the good ole USA!

This was an incredible opportunity so I Immediately Jumped on the plane and after a 19 hrs flight, found myself walking the gigantic airport of Atlanta with only my tennis clothes, and two heavy Head tennis bags ready to start a new chapter with my tennis career.

Upon landing, I started my coaching career as PTR Professional at the VDM Academy in SC, and spent 3 years as Teaching Pro at the Sea Pines Racquet Club, which is a short 10-min drive and where they hosted the Family Circle Cup in years past.

After 5 years of teaching at these world-class facilities, I jumped on the opportunity to work with two 12-yr old twin boys in Savannah, Georgia, as their full-time private coach. It was a major switch from coaching "resort tennis" but one of the best decisions I've ever made.

I was very blessed to work with the twins, James and Madison Daly (shown in the picture below), and numerous other top juniors in Savannah which set the path to eventually become a US Citizen and making the USA my home.



While coaching the twins, I still had some tennis left in myself and went on to win the 10.0 USTA Mix National Championship in 2011. All thanks to the lads for keeping me in shape :)

I worked with the boys for 5 long years, and they eventually received a D1 Scholarship to play for Wofford College.

But... It wasn't all only about coaching.



At the time, away from the courts, my company, IHS Enterprises, LLC was launched in the mid-2000's and 'Tournu' was the first brand we obtained the exclusive rights to distribute in South Africa and a few other international countries. We are also the official distributor for Tournu for all US College and school teams.

As you may be aware, TOURNA is known for the world-famous Tournu Grip and hundreds of tennis accessories and top of the line stringing machines so if you are looking for either, shoot me an email: ivor@ytexstrings.com

From there up to now, it has been a long journey and I have loved every second of it.

And I'm sure you're asking yourself, "Ivor, but, how and at what point of your career did you start your journey with YTEX?"

So continuing my story, there I was, following my journey as a Pro Tennis Coach until one day in 2012, I was headed to Orlando, FL, for one of the PTR Tennis Conferences and as a tech junky, the Trade Show was a given to attend.

I was also supposed to meet with a Mr. Andres Yidi who at that time was the owner of YTEX, to get some string samples for one of my friends back in Savannah. As I walked up to the YTEX booth, I was greeted with the biggest and sincerest smiles I have ever seen and yes, it was Andres :)

He lived in Key Biscayne, FL and at the time, he had brought his beautiful family along with him to help run the booth. So, 2012 is the year YTEX was launched and I jumped on board with Andres to be his sales agent for Georgia.

A couple of years later, I became the VP for YTEX. During this time we grew the company together. It wasn't an easy task as there were already big names in the market, but we managed to get through and succeed.

And Since July 2018, I'm the new (proudest and happiest) YTEX owner.

The decision to buy the company was an easy one since I strongly believe in the string line and its high quality which many others and I feel is the best on the market.



Andres and his family, Claudia, Natalia and Andres Jr know how much I praise them for starting such a phenomenal string brand.

YTEX was their "baby" and my team and I are very honoured to take YTEX into its teenage years.

I also want to highlight someone very special to me and this is our marketing guru, Sergio...

With his vision and lead, we have grown and jumped way ahead of the competition in many areas, and we keep on growing every month.

Sergio's enthusiasm is contagious and it's such a blessing to have someone part of our family who seeks to improve and excel daily.

This attitude is what keeps our company growing and with the help of our YTEX'ers (fans, customers, but more importantly, Family)...we'll become the leading string brand on the market soon!

People may compare strings here and there, but no other string can compete with the quality YTEX delivers, and it's not all talk.

Our flagship string, the Quadro Twist, was rated #1 for spin by the USRSA (United States Racquet Stringers Association) and #2 overall out of 200 strings they play-tested. The only string to perform higher was natural gut.

It's been an amazing journey, one that to this day brings new and exciting experiences, you are now part of it, and we'll grow together, bigger and stronger!

Line Judges - Should they stay or should they go?

So, it has been announced that all ATP tournaments will have electronic line-calling by 2025 - to “optimize accuracy and consistency”. Some majors have already made the move to electronic calling, including the US Open and the Australian Open.

However, Wimbledon, a Grand Slam grass court event (which has implemented the limited use of “Hawk-eye”) and the French Open - a clay court tournament (which hasn’t) - are not bound by this decision and both are resisting its full implementation. Certainly, human lines people will officiate at this year’s Championships but how long they can hold out is under debate.

Electronic line-calling (ELC) began when the Next Gen ATP Finals in Milan introduced “Hawk-eye Live” in 2017 with automated shouts of “Fault” and “Out” as well as big screen signalling the outcomes. The advent of ELC has continued to expand and last year half of ATP’s 45 grass and hard-court events used electronic rather than human line judges.

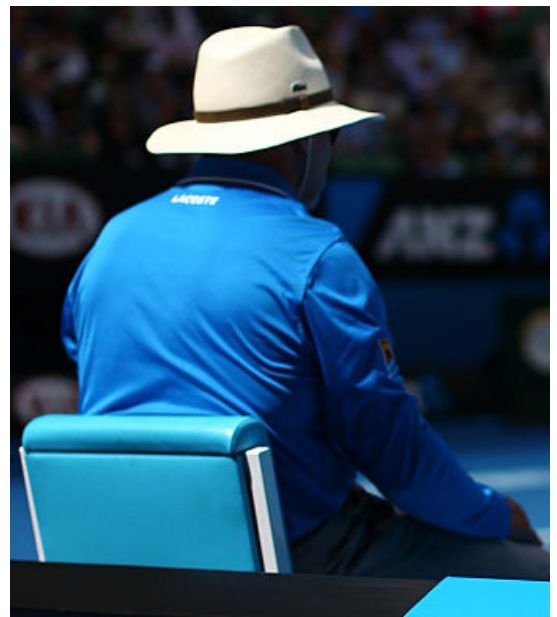
In trials, a rival system, “Foxtenn”, is gaining popularity at clay court tournaments, which, continue to employ human lines people. However, all surfaces will be expected to implement the new technology by 2025.

Actually, though it seems as though the question is academic – it’s a fact that we have to accept, that human line judges are on their way out – it’s only a question of time before the last die-hard tournaments capitulate and turn to technology to make the perfect on-court determinations. (Umpires – you’d better watch out – you could be next - maybe you’re dispensable as well).

But let’s consider some of the pros and cons of getting rid of human lines-people.

Pros

- *The players are generally in favour.
- *Human error will be totally eliminated.
- *On-court officiating by umpires will be facilitated by accurate, electronic, proof.
- *On-court verbal abuse towards umpires will be reduced.
- *Speedier play will ensue, with less challenges.



Cons

- *The Umpires' right to over-rule a decision will be limited/ withdrawn.
- *Spontaneous interaction between players and on-court assistants will be diminished.
- *The grandeur and drama of the occasion will be decreased.
- *Sponsors will reconsider their level of participation.
- *Players may be reduced to appearing like automatons playing without real pleasure (more like home games console tennis).



Everything about tennis today is BIG and getting bigger. Each tournament is more than just about playing and watching tennis matches. It is a whole entertainment package which relies on;-

- *The global televised impact.
- *The huge prize money.
- *The physical size, ability and professionalism of the players.
- *The sponsorship.
- *The corporate entertainment.
- *The venues - shows, music and spectacles before, during and after matches.
- *The spectators.

Professional tennis tournaments today are slick and - very importantly - profitable operations. When a spectator pays quite a considerable amount for their ticket, they want to be entertained and get good value for money. All dressed up, they take their seats and are treated to sporting theatre - a performance full of drama, twists and, sometimes, unexpected surprises. They want to lap up the atmosphere and enjoy the pomp and ceremony of the occasion.

Once services - such as line judges - are withdrawn, the quality of the experience is, inevitably compromised - therefore leading to dissatisfied spectators who may as well have watched the match on television at home for the atmosphere that's been lost on court.

High player stakes - the difference between winning and losing a point - between winning and losing a match - are undoubtedly critical. These are pros in it to win and the difference could cost hundreds of thousands as a runner-up.

But how many times do the line-judges actually get it wrong? Hardly ever, I think. Okay, so they're not infallible but they are professionally trained - mistakes are bound to happen - but rarely.

The dynamism that develops between players, on-court assistants and the spectators is finely tuned and to remove a key element - i.e line judges - would alter that harmony and diminish the event leading to an all round disappointing experience.



Italian Open 2023

This is the 80th edition of the Italian Open played outdoors on clay. Formerly optional, this tournament is now a mandatory competition and is classified as an ATP Tour Masters 1000 and a WTA 1000 event. It is one of the 3 ATP Masters played on clay preceding the French Open. The tournament takes place over 2 weeks and the Men's and Women's singles draws were expanded to 96 players.

2022 Defending Champions.

Novak Djokovic - Men's Singles Champion.

Iga Swiatek - Women's Singles Champion.

Mektic/Pavic - Men's Doubles Champions.

Kudermetova/Pavlyuchenkova - Women's Doubles Champions.



Rafael Nadal, known as "The King of Clay", has won the competition an incredible 10 times (2021 being the most recent) but did not participate this year due to ongoing hip problems. He recently announced that he will retire in 2024.

Novak Djokovic has won the title 5 times and was defending his 2022 victory. His early elimination meant that he dropped to #3 in the World rankings and will be seeded #3 at Roland Garros behind Alcaraz and Medvedev.

Both men could have had a shot at a record 23rd Men's singles title at Roland Garros, but Nadal has already withdrawn and Djokovic seemed unlikely to walk away with the championship title based on his current fitness levels.

Men's Seeds

- * #1 Djokovic.
- * #2 Alcaraz.
- * #3 Medvedev.
- * #4 Ruud.
- * #5 Tsitsipas.
- * #6 Rublev.
- * #7 Rune.
- * #8 Sinner.
- * #9 Auger-Aliassime.
- * #10 Fritz.

Berrettini, Cilic, Kyrgios and Nadal, Halep and Bencic withdrew before the tournament began. Nick Kyrgios will also miss the French Open after suffering a foot injury. He has not played at the event since 2017 and has yet to play at all this year following knee surgery.

Women's Seeds

- * #1 Swiatek.
- * #2 Sabalenka.
- * #3 Pegula.
- * #4 Jabeur.
- * #5 Garcia.
- * #6 Gauff.
- * #7 Rybakina.
- * #8 Kasatkina.
- * #9 Sakkari.
- * #10 Kvitova.

Shock Exits

Well, the shock exits came fast and furious early on this year. As a result, the competition became far more exciting as the top favourites came crashing down, leaving the tournament wide open for the lower-ranking seeds.

Two time defending Men's Doubles champions and #5 seeds, Mektic/Pavic were put out in the first round by Granollers/ Zeballos.



Andy Murray also made a disappointing exit in the first round having won in Aix-en-Provence just the week before. He then hot footed it to Bordeaux for an ATP Challenger, where he was thrashed by Stan Wawrinka. After his early exits and poor performances on clay in Madrid and Monte Carlo, it was not perhaps surprising to hear that he would not be competing at Roland Garros, saving himself for Wimbledon.

In the second round, 2 of the world's top 3 Women's players were eliminated.

World #2, Madrid and Australian Open champion, Aryna Sabalenka was put out by #134 ranked Sofia Kenin.

#3, Jessca Pegula was defeated by fellow American, #168 Taylor Townsend.

#4, Ons Jabeur was put out by Paula Badosa in straight sets, in the following round of 64.

Carlos Alcaraz, Men's #2 seed and now World #1 ranked, was beaten by Hungarian qualifier Fabian Marozsan in the last 32. Ranked #135, Marozsan had never played in the main draw of an ATP event until Rome and caused the biggest upset of the tournament. He was then put out in the following round by Borna Coric.



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#6, Andrey Rublev was beaten by German qualifier Yannick Hanfmann who was, in turn convincingly defeated in the Quarter Final by Daniil Medvedev.

Home favourite #8, Jannick Sinner fell to Argentinian, Francisco Cerundolo.

In the Quarter Finals, #1, Novak Djokovic suffered his earliest exit since 2013 when he was beaten by #7, Holger Rune.

#1, Iga Swiatek, was forced to retire with a thigh injury against #6, Elena Rybakina. The two-time Italian Open champion was hoping to secure the hat trick but had to tearfully retire. Her form is now in question for the French Open.

The Men's Singles Final took place without featuring either Nadal or Djokovic for the first time since 2004.

Men's Singles Final

#3, Daniil Medvedev, who had not won a match in three previous appearances in Rome before this year, and #7, Holger Rune met to battle it out for the title.

Medvedev was hunting - and captured- a 5th ATP title of the year and his first hard-won triumph on clay. He beat Rune 7-5, 7-5 on a surface he claims to "hate".

His victory now places him above Novak Djokovic and #2 in the World rankings as well as #2 seed at the French Open.

Holger Rune, who had eliminated Djokovic in the Quarter Final, will now rise to career-high of #6 in the World rankings. The Final, which had been so tightly contested was decided by a pair of poor drive volleys and a double fault which gave an unrelenting Medvedev his golden opportunity which he secured in superb style.



Men's Doubles Final

B.van de Zandschulp/R. Haase , who had previously defeated #1 seeds Skupski/ Koolhof in the Semi Final, took on H.Nys/J.Zielinski and after a close first set, were convincingly defeated 7-5, 6-1.

The Monagesque/Polish duo claimed their first ATP 1000 title.



Women's Doubles Final

American duo and #1 seeds, Coco Gauff/ Jessica Pegula were defeated 6-4, 6-4, by #4 seeds, Storm Hunter/ Elise Mertens who won their first team title.

Gauff/Pegula were firm favourites to claim their 3rd consecutive WTA 1000 final title but despite a closely fought second set Gauff mis-hit and was broken and their opponents surged to win in clinical fashion.

Hunter said, " ...we just did well to keep every game close. We managed to stick it out and get the win."



Women's Singles Final.

Elena Rybakina , seeded #7, won her 2nd WTA 1000 – level event of the season in Rome after her opponent , Ukrainian, seeded #30 (World ranked #47), Anhelina Kalinina was forced to retire with a left thigh injury. 6-4, 1-0, ret.

This was Rybakina's 3rd walk-over of the tournament.

Kalinina was the lowest ranked player to reach the final since 1986.

Rybakina will now be World ranked #4 and earn a Top 4 seed at Roland Garros.



INTERNAZIONALI
BNL D'ITALIA
BNP PARIBAS

In the Room

With Richard Parnell

Short Side Placement

We often talk about certain actions that aren't pre-defined and can be chosen by the stringer, don't affect the outcome and are a matter of choice rather than a hard and fast rule. The choice of short side placement when stringing rackets can be included in these.

Certain rackets have to have the short side on a specific side due to the grooves in the bumper or grommet strip, which if done wrong, will leave the string exposed to the court, possible premature breakage and the obvious awful aesthetic impression created. Fischer created frames with specific short side placement during the '90's, Dunlop has also done this more recently, as well as Babolat even more recently with one of the versions of the popular Aero range.

The short side is normally placed on the left when looking from the throat upwards. Is there a technical reason for this? No, but it has almost become an unwritten rule and becomes evident when certain grommets have been enlarged for tie-offs. If you place your short side on the right side, these widened grommets won't be in the right place.

There is a specific tour stringing team that will alternate their short side depending on the number of grommets in the throat. There is nothing wrong with alternating sides but as a general rule, GRSA recommends keeping the short side on the left..

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Manage restring details

Racket: Artengo TR 990 Stringer/Machine: Bloggs Joe On M1 - Babolat Racket Station Perf

Mains String: Adidas Feather - 15 g Cross String: Adidas Feather - 15 g

Mains: 22.00 Cross: 22.00 Units: Kg

Mains Pre-stretch: 15% Cross Pre-stretch: Manual

Submitted: 26/11/2021 Required: 27/11/2021 Time: 09:30

Rackets: 4 Knots: 4 Stencil: Black When To String: am

Price: 160 Paid: Completed: ☒

Comments: Take to court 1

[Save](#) [Print Label](#) [Accessories](#) [Cancel](#)

Job and throat labels

Last Name: **Acadiz Carlito**
Type: **Male**
Racket: **Pure Aero Lite**
Mains: **23.00Kg PS 15%**
Cross: **23.00Kg PS 10%**
Mains: **Ashaway Power Nick 18**

Cross: **Ashaway Power Nick 18**
Required: **30/07/2022**
When: **N/A**
Stringer: **Bloggs Joe**
Machine: **M1 - Babolat Racket Station Perf**
Stencil: **Green**
Knots: **4**

GRSA INTERNATIONAL

Your racket stringing service
Name **Carlito Acadiz**
Mains **23.00Kg** <Cross **23.00Kg**

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Created by the developers of the PC version used at a Grand Slam tournament since 2011 and previously by Tecnifibre at The French Open.

Manage list of players

Search: Show: All entries

Last Name	First Name	Category	Actions
Abingde	Francoise	Female	✕ 👤 👤 👤
Adigua	Thingo	Female	✕ 👤 👤 👤
Ahang	krina	Wheelchair	✕ 👤 👤 👤

A complete system that is designed to make your job much easier, helping you keep track of every little detail, this enables you to dedicate even more time to the job at hand.

Manage player restringings

Search: Show: all entries

Racket Name	Required	Completed	Paid	Actions
18 999	27/11/2021	☒	☐	✕ 👤 👤
18 999	26/12/2021	☐	☐	✕ 👤 👤
18 999	26/12/2021	☐	☐	✕ 👤 👤

Maintain accessories (grips etc)

Category: Show: all entries

Category Name	Name	Description	Price	Actions
Grip	Thorne Grip Original RL	Grip (Short) 18 Roll	7.00	✕ 👤 👤
Grip	Wilson Pro Overgrip	Overgrip pack of 12	4.75	✕ 👤 👤
Rackets	Babolat AeroProDrive	Babolat AeroProDrive	13.00	✕ 👤 👤
String	Ashaway Power KB 17 - 17 g	Set	15.00	✕ 👤 👤

Showing 1 to 4 of 4 entries

Maintain player categories

Search: Show: all entries

Category	Restring unit price	Actions
Pro	22.00	✕ 👤 👤
Junior	15.00	✕ 👤 👤
Nov	22.00	✕ 👤 👤
Wheelchair	22.00	✕ 👤 👤

Showing 1 to 4 of 4 entries

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People that can collaborate with me. These People can perform all Bringer actions for the specified venue

Search:

Show: All | entries

Person(s) listed: Venue: Actions:

john@p2@vislink.com Sunrise 21SEP2022

Showing 1 to 1 of 1 entries

Customise labels

Printer: OR:

Label Dimensions in MM

Height: Width: Left Margin: Top Margin: Landscape: ☐

Image to display on label in MM (not required)

Height: Width: Left Margin: Top Margin:

Label Row Content

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FUN FACTS



I have pictures of me sitting in the racquetball court in my pajamas with an acoustic guitar, and Wolfgang is probably just two-and-a-half-feet tall. I'll never forget the day I saw his foot tapping along in beat! I knew then, I couldn't wait for the day I'd be able to make music with my son. I don't know what more I could ask for.



EDDIE VAN HALEN

1

Racquetball was created by tennis player Joseph Sobek. His goal was to create a simple, fast-paced sport that was simple enough for anyone to play.

2

Sobek developed the game in a YMCA in Connecticut. He designed the rules, paddles, and balls that Racquetball is played with. The game was played in handball courts in YMCAs.

3

Racquetball was not always called Racquetball. Originally, Sobek named it Paddle racquet. In 1969, Robert Kendler founded the International Racquetball Association. This officially changed the name of the sport to Racquetball.

4

If you have heard of Racquetball, then you have probably heard of racketball as well. Racketball is a similar game with different rules and regulations. It was developed by Ian D.W. Wright when Racquetball started gaining popularity. The game of racketball was inspired by Racquetball.

5

Racquetball is a high-intensity sport. Players run back and forth across the court, chasing the ball to defeat their opponents. Because of this, on average, Racquetball can help you burn about 500 calories per hour. It is a great workout that can burn calories in a fun and fast way!

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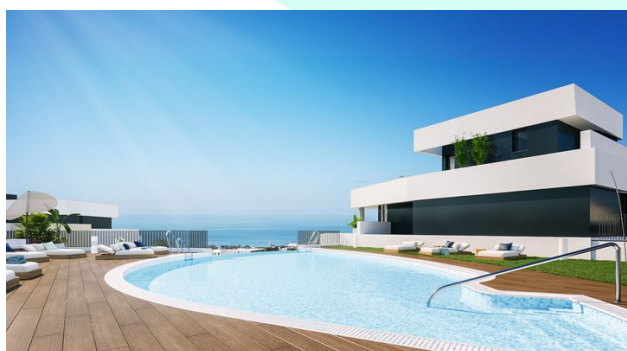


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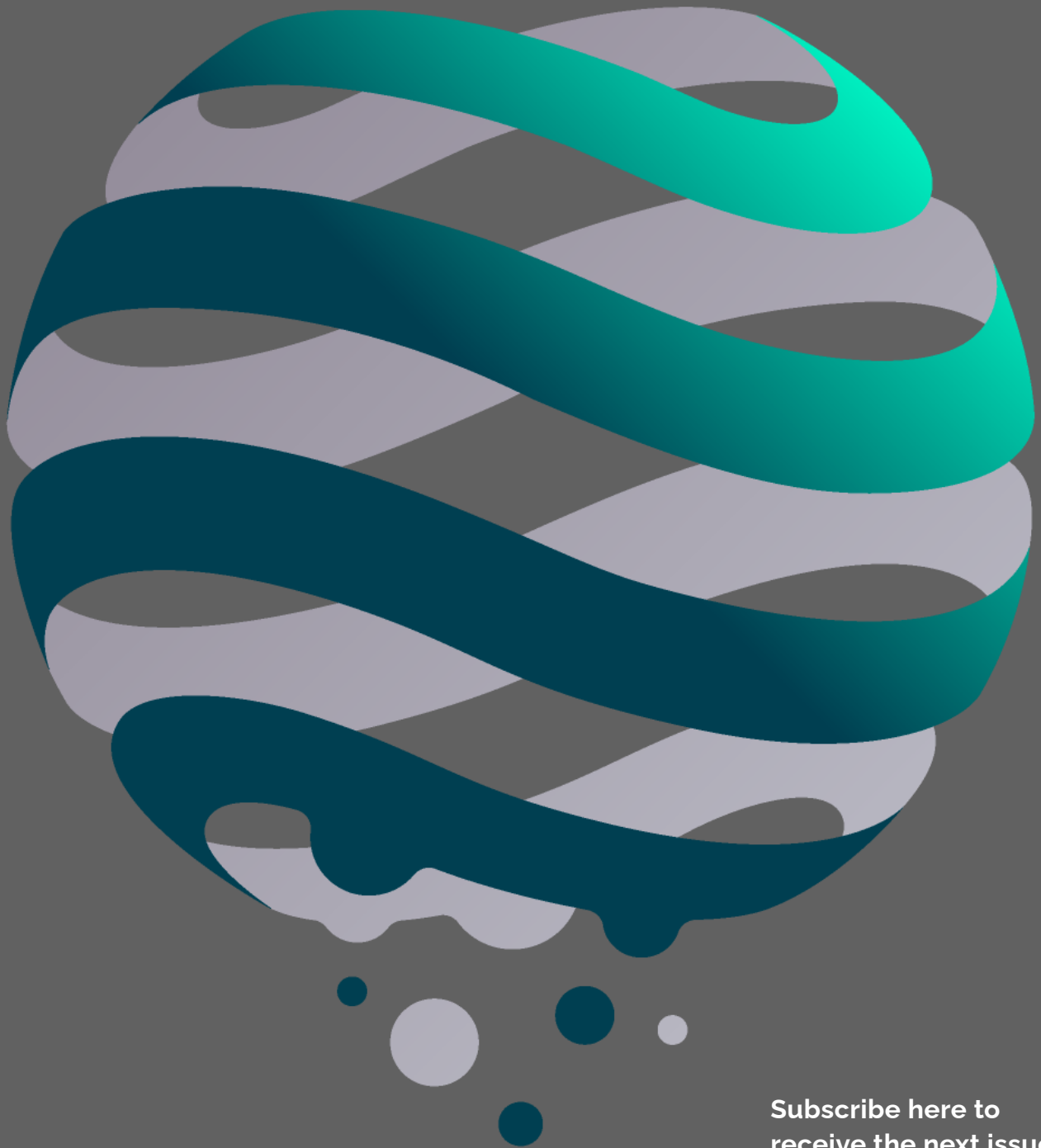
- Apartment
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ADOPTAS.ORG

by Alejandro Davidovich Fokina



At **GRSA**, we believe that it is essential to give back to the community and support initiatives that have a positive impact on society. One of the organizations that we are privileged to support is Adoptas.org, an amazing group of people dedicated to saving the lives of animals in need, founded by none other than **Alejandro Davidovich Fokina**.

Adoptas.org is committed to providing a safe haven for animals that have been abandoned, neglected, or abused. They work tirelessly to rescue animals from dangerous situations, provide them with medical attention, and find loving homes for them. Their tireless efforts have saved countless lives, and their impact on the animal welfare community cannot be overstated.

What sets Adoptas.org apart is its dedication to the welfare of each animal they rescue. Their team of experts provides medical treatment and rehabilitation to animals, ensuring that they are ready for adoption when the time comes. They work hard to match each animal with the perfect family, ensuring the animal's new home is the best fit. This level of care and attention is unmatched in the animal welfare community, and it's what makes Adoptas.org truly special.

Adoptas.org's commitment to the welfare of animals extends beyond just rescuing and rehoming them. They are also dedicated to educating the community about responsible pet ownership and the importance of spaying and neutering animals. Through their outreach programs, they work to prevent animals from ending up in shelters in the first place. Their efforts to promote responsible pet ownership, have had a profound impact on the community.

GRSA INTERNATIONAL are honoured to be able to support Adoptas.org. Their commitment to the welfare of animals is truly inspiring, and we are continually amazed by their tireless dedication to saving lives. We believe that every animal deserves a loving home, and we are glad to share the same belief as these wonderful people.



If you'd like to help this amazing cause then follow the instructions on their website, you really will be helping animals all across Spain.

Meeting The Team

Let's get to know the guys who make up TEAM USA

Dustin Tankersley - Mark Gonzalez - Mitch Case - Stockton Morris



Meet Dustin Tankersley, a passionate racket technician who has made a name for himself in the world of stringing and customization. As the GRSA USA Area Manager for Florida and Texas, Dustin's expertise and dedication have earned him a prestigious role as a member of the Wilson International Stringing Team. Join us as we delve into Dustin's stringing journey, his love for the sport, and his remarkable experiences in the realm of professional racket technology.

Dustin's journey as a stringer started at a young age when he first picked up a tennis racket at 13. Intrigued by the stringer at his local club, he became fascinated by the intricate process. Determined to learn, Dustin began stringing his own rackets a few years later, fuelled by his unwavering curiosity. He observed and bombarded the club stringer with questions, eager to unravel the secrets behind the art of stringing.

While stringing initially served as a side gig for Dustin, he quickly recognized the potential it held in transforming players' performance. As a full-time tennis coach, Dustin attended a seminar on customization featuring a former stringer for Pete Sampras, who showcased the Babolat RDC. This event sparked his passion for tournament stringing and customization, altering the course of his career. Dustin seized an opportunity to work alongside a stringer at junior and professional events, ultimately paving his path in the stringing world. From local events to larger tournaments, he established himself as a trusted stringer, committed to enhancing players' performance by tailoring their equipment to their individual playing styles.



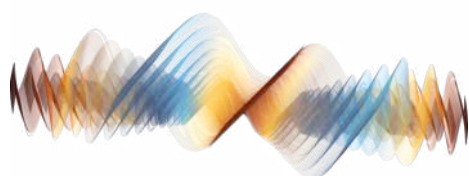
When it comes to racket sports, tennis remains Dustin's enduring love. The game's dynamic nature, strategic depth, and competitive spirit captivate him. With each string he meticulously weaves, Dustin contributes to the success of players on the court, strengthening his connection to the sport he holds dear.

While Dustin finds it challenging to pick a favourite player on the tour, he acknowledges that Andre Agassi held a special place in his heart during his formative years. Presently, he takes pleasure in watching the emerging talents and admires the skills and determination exhibited by the young players who are shaping the future of the sport.

For Dustin, the joy of stringing lies not in having a favourite player to string for, but in the privilege of stringing for every player he encounters at various events. Each racket represents a unique opportunity for him to contribute to the player's performance, instilling confidence, and precision in their game.

Dustin's journey to become a part of the esteemed Wilson stringing team is a testament to his unwavering commitment and continuous pursuit of improvement. At the IART (International Alliance of Racquet Technicians) symposium, a chance Jeep ride with Ron Rocchi, an industry veteran, presented an opportunity for Dustin to showcase his skills. Although initially told that he wasn't ready for the Grand Slam level, Dustin took the feedback to heart, tirelessly working on his craft. A year later, his dedication paid off as he impressed Ron with his growth during a training session at the Miami Open in 2009. Since then, Dustin has been an integral part of the Wilson team, managing teams of up to 20 stringers at prestigious events such as the US Open and Roland-Garros.

Dustin Tankersley, the GRSA USA Area Manager for Florida and Texas, has proven himself to be a vital force in the realm of racket technology. His journey from an inquisitive young player to a respected member of the Wilson International Stringing Team showcases his unwavering passion and commitment to elevating players' performance. With each string expertly woven, Dustin brings a wealth of experience and knowledge, enhancing the game of tennis for professionals and amateurs alike. As he continues to contribute to the world of racket customization, Dustin's dedication to his craft inspires us all to strive for excellence both on and off the court.



Mark Gonzalez, an exceptional figure in the world of stringing, has dedicated nearly four decades to perfecting his craft and contributing to the growth of tennis. As the GRSA USA Area Manager for Texas and an independent sales representative for Yonex, Mark's influence spans across different facets of the industry. With a wealth of experience, a host of certifications, and a passion that knows no bounds, Mark has solidified his position as a respected authority in the field. Join us as we delve into his remarkable journey, notable achievements, his favourite players, and even a humorous anecdote that reveals the lighter side of his profession.



Mark's affinity for stringing began in 1985 when he stumbled upon a golf and tennis shop that offered stringing services. Fascinated by the intricate process, he seized the opportunity to explore this newfound passion. Mark embarked on his stringing journey, unknowingly setting the stage for a remarkable career. His first experience with stringing involved an Ektelon H stringing machine housed within a cabinet, marking the beginning of his lifelong pursuit.

You may be surprised to know that his journey began in the tennis retail sector, where he cultivated his expertise for over thirty-eight years. His career encompassed various roles in manufacturing and wholesale, allowing him to gain invaluable insights into the industry's inner workings. Mark's affiliation with Alpha Racquet Sports proved pivotal, as he not only sold and repaired stringing machines, but also collaborated on design and product testing. This multifaceted experience laid the foundation for his illustrious career and set him apart as a true innovator.

Presently, Mark serves as an independent sales representative for Yonex USA. The nature of his work allows him to traverse his territory, visit accounts, and engage with fellow stringers. As his career has progressed, Mark has found great joy in assuming the role of mentor, eagerly sharing the wealth of knowledge he has accumulated over the years.

When asked about his favourite racket sport, Mark's unequivocal response was tennis. However, he recalls his first foray into the realm of racket sports through Pickleball in 1984, providing him with a unique perspective and appreciation for the diverse disciplines within the sport.

When it comes to professional players, Mark's admiration is reserved for the Swiss sensation Stan Wawrinka. What captivates him most about Wawrinka's game is his exceptional one-handed backhand—a skill that stands out even among the best in the sport. Mark's appreciation for Wawrinka's mastery of this stroke speaks volumes about his discerning eye for the subtleties of the game.

We also asked Mark who his favourite player to string for is. Among the many players Mark has strung rackets for, one name stands out—Frances Tiafoe. Beyond his formidable skills on the court, Mark cherishes the challenge that comes with stringing for Tiafoe. With 4 to 6 racquets to string at a time, Mark embraces the opportunity to demonstrate his consistency in delivering precise DT readings and meticulous string alignments around the hoop.

As with all our managers, we asked Mark to share a story with our readers:

“My first stencil job! I strung a Wilson Sting 110. I stenciled the W but it was off center. The stringer that was supposed to train me on the stencil came over and pulled all the mains to where they were now curved but at least the W stencil was more towards the center.”

His exceptional skills and contributions have earned him numerous accolades throughout his career. In 2019, he was honoured with the coveted RSI (Racquet Sports Industry) Stringer of the Year award, recognizing his outstanding stringing abilities and dedication to his craft. Additionally, in 2014, Mark received the esteemed IART (International Alliance of Racquet Technicians) Lifetime Achievement Award, a testament to his enduring impact on the stringing community.

Mark's commitment to advancing the art of stringing extends beyond his professional responsibilities. He actively participates as a seminar leader in symposiums, sharing his knowledge and insights with aspiring stringers. This role allows him to foster the growth of future generations and ensure the preservation of excellence within the industry, making him an incredible asset to the GRSA family.



Meet Mitch Case, a multifaceted sports enthusiast who has dedicated his life to both coaching tennis and perfecting the art of stringing. As the GRSA USA Area Manager for Connecticut, Mitch's influence extends beyond the court, as he consistently demonstrates his expertise and commitment to excellence. Join us as we delve into Mitch's journey, his experiences in the sports world, and his unique perspective on the game.

Mitch's stringing journey began at a young age, influenced by his father's passion for the sport. At just 12 years old, Mitch started learning the craft, as his father, an avid recreational player, taught him the intricacies of stringing. With guidance from his father's friend, Mitch quickly honed his skills and began stringing his own rackets. By the age of 14, he was stringing for his father's friends and even his high school tennis team, using his father's cherished Ektelon Model DE machine that kickstarted his stringing career.

Beyond stringing, Mitch has made significant contributions to the world of tennis coaching. His journey in coaching began at a young age, working as an Assistant Pro during summers from the age of 16. After completing his college program, Mitch embarked on a coaching certification with the PTR (Professional Tennis Registry) in 2006. Currently, he serves as the Director of Tennis at a prestigious seasonal club in Litchfield County, Connecticut. Additionally, he is a Staff Coach at an indoor tennis club and the Varsity Boys Tennis Coach for a local high school. Mitch's passion for coaching extends to his role as a Coach Developer with the PTR, where he facilitates coach education and development workshops, assisting players, coaches, and stringers in their pursuit of excellence.

Tennis holds a special place in Mitch's heart as his favourite racket sport. However, his adventurous spirit and love for competition have led him to explore other sports as well. Although he has yet to try padel, he is captivated by its exciting nature. Mitch has also dabbled in Platform Tennis, Badminton, and pickleball, finding enjoyment in the diversity of racket sports. Looking to the future, he eagerly anticipates trying his hand at Squash.

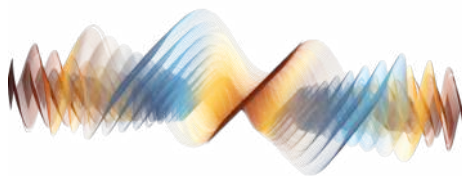
When it comes to favourite players on the tour, Mitch finds it challenging to single out just one. He admires athletes who not only showcase outstanding sportsmanship but also possess exceptional athleticism. Icons like Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal embody these qualities, commanding Mitch's respect, and admiration. He also holds a special fondness for past players like Patrick Rafter, James Blake, and Stefan Edberg. Among the newer generation, Mitch finds himself captivated by the athleticism displayed by rising stars such as Carlos Alcaraz and Denis Shapovalov.

As always, we also asked Mitch who his favourite player to string for is. As a fan of the game, Mitch revels in the opportunity to string rackets for players he admires. While many players have left a lasting impression with their kindness in the stringing room, Mitch particularly cherishes the experience of stringing a few of Rafael Nadal's practice rackets.

As we ask each of our managers, we asked Mitch to share a story with our readers, and he didn't disappoint, it even includes another familiar GRSA face...

"At the 2023 Indian Wells tournament, some of the on court rackets were either a little slow to get to the stringing room, slow to get back to the court, or a little of both. When I received a racket to string for one of my players, she was already down 0-4, and in the middle of the first game in the third set. My roommate for the tournament (GRSA Canada Country Manager, Nico Ionesco), who was stringing on the machine next to mine, kept feeding me the match score to keep me focused on completing the racket as quickly as possible. As I hustled through the cross strings, he'd say things like "she just broke, you better hurry," or simply "she's down 15-30, she needs that racket." With only a few strings left, a member of the security team came into the room and said "You don't need to rush - the match is over." As it turned out, Nico had been giving me fake scores the entire time - the player quickly lost 1-6 in the third."

Mitch Case, the GRSA USA Area Manager for Connecticut, exemplifies the spirit of a dedicated tennis coach and a masterful stringer. His journey, deeply rooted in family and propelled by his passion for the sport, has led him to excel both on and off the court. Through his coaching prowess, commitment to education, and meticulous stringing skills, Mitch continues to leave an indelible mark on the tennis community. As he guides players towards achieving their best, Mitch remains a source of inspiration, igniting a love for the game in all those fortunate enough to cross his path, especially his GRSA family.



Stockton Morris is the GRSA USA Area Manager for Florida and New York and lives in Florida, he is a GRSA Certified Tour Master Stringer and works for the IMG Academy.

This month we get to know Stockton a little better, someone who turned a childhood passion into a lifelong career, overcoming challenges and who has spent years perfecting the craft of stringing.

It all started at the tender age of six when Stockton picked up a tennis racket and began playing alongside his siblings. Coming from a family with a rich tennis heritage, the sport was in his blood. Inspired by his father, a former player for Temple, and his brother, who represented Missouri, he developed an unwavering passion for tennis. Little did he know that this passion would lead him to the intriguing world of stringing.

At the age of 13, with multiple shoulder injuries hampering his playing career, he found himself going through strings and shoes rapidly. It was then that his father presented him with a unique proposition. They visited Tennis Junction, where he not only purchased a new pair of shoes but also embarked on a journey into the world of stringing.

Under the guidance of Philip Van-Asselt, the owner of Tennis Junction, Stockton learned to string. “ I ended up working for him for the next 18 years. To push our knowledge further; Phil, some of the employees and myself went to a symposium in Florida where I had a chance to compete in a speed stringing contest. I won, and had the opportunity to have a sit down with Ron Rocchi, the head of Wilson's stringing team. He invited me to Miami for training and to see if I could hang with the Wilson team. I passed all of their training and was invited to the U.S. Open for polishing touches, and have been with their team and stringing on tour for about 10 years now.”

While stringing remains his primary occupation, Stockton has dabbled in other fields. Before settling in New York, he ran a tennis store in Philadelphia while pursuing a career in welding during the evenings. During the challenging times of the pandemic, he adapted to new circumstances and ventured into construction work, showcasing his versatility. From light fixtures to full basement remodels, his determination and willingness to learn have taken him on diverse professional paths.

With an undeniable love for tennis rooted in his childhood, it comes as no surprise that our manager's favourite racket sport is indeed tennis. However, he does enjoy the more laid-back and social atmosphere of paddle, which he plays during the winter months at the Merion Cricket Club in Philadelphia. Tennis, though, will forever hold a special place in his heart.

When asked about his favourite player on the tour, he found it challenging to pick just one. However, he expressed deep admiration for the elegant and gentlemanly style of Roger Federer. Federer's skills and sportsmanship make him a true representation of the quintessential tennis player. Additionally, he is captivated by the enigmatic and fiery Nick Kyrgios, whose athletic prowess and passionate demeanour bring a unique energy to the sport. Kyrgios's captivating performances and charismatic personality ignite the court, reminiscent of the glory days of tennis legends like John McEnroe. Stockton recognizes Kyrgios's ability to put on a show that leaves spectators fired up and eager for more.

He also has a love of cars...
and we can see why.



Stringer Solutions

TOP TIP

Shaped Strings and their Twisting

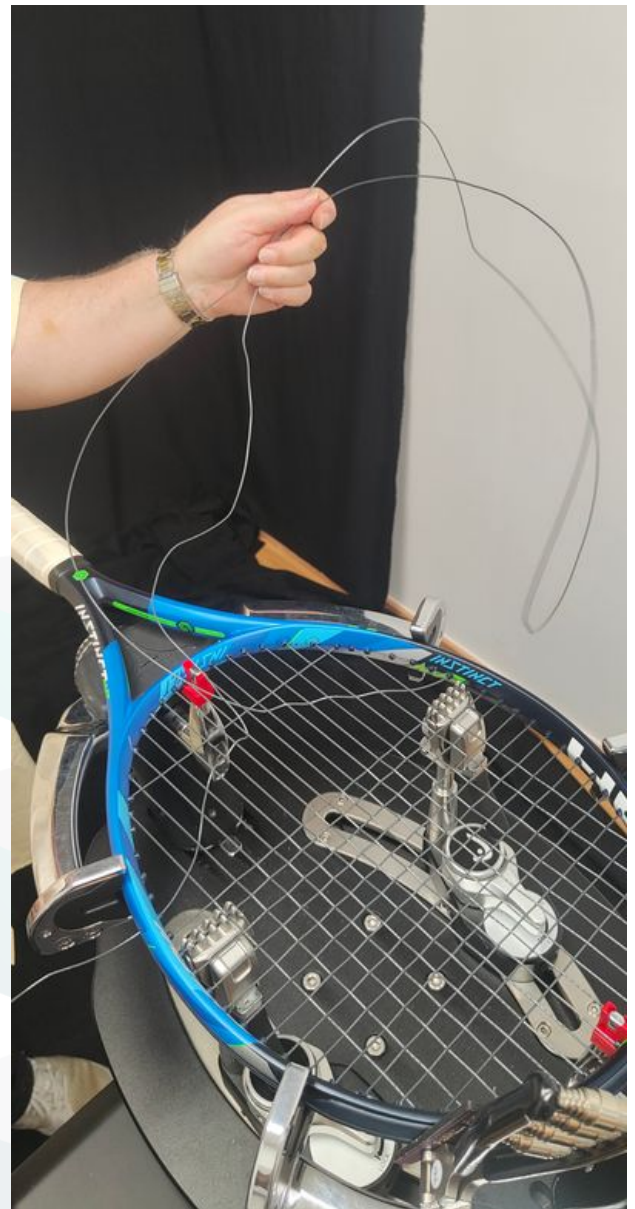
By Richard Parnell

Let's look at one of the problems often associated with shaped monofilament strings, that horrible twisting that can sometimes happen.

Especially on ATW patterns, when you start getting down to the tight part of the pattern nearer the throat, certain shaped strings start bird nesting on the outside of the frame and twisting inside the string bed.

To help with this problem, weave the cross string all the way across the string bed, however, don't start pulling the string through from the other end in one action, but rather create a loop in the center of the string bed and then pull the string through in two actions. Firstly, pull all the string through to the center of the string bed and then pull the rest of the string through on the other side. By pulling the string through in two actions, the string tends to get less wear, is under less pressure and as a result will twist less.





Another way of lessening the twisting is dropping the tip of the string so that the string untwists naturally.

This method is also perfect for use with natural gut. This two action procedure can also be used to help pass natural gut across a string bed without creating bird nesting on the outside of the frame and the natural gut twisting and going white in the string bed.

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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GRSA AROUND THE WORLD



ATP 250

GONET GENEVA OPEN
TENNIS CLUB DE GENÈVE

20-27
MAI
2023



The Gonet Geneva Open, held at the beautiful Tennis Club de Genève, is, again, being looked after by the PRS and GRSA International Stringing Team. Last year 401 rackets were strung during the whole tournament with ~~Casper Ruud coming out on top in an exiting final.~~

This year 419 rackets have already been strung by the Wednesday and it looks like 450-460 rackets will be strung by the end of the tournament by the very experienced stringing team lead by Martin Mann, GRSA manager for Germany, Austria and Switzerland. There to help was George Pahiakos, GRSA Manager for Greece, Marco Schoepers, Danielle Mann and Myrto Simitzi.

A few numbers to show that there is no hard and fast rule to tensions used by professional players: Highest tension of the tournament: 28/27 Kgs with 10% pre-stretch. Lowest Tension of the tournament: 9.8/9.8 Kgs

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Nick Down

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G.F.P

Generic Fan Pattern

Every brand has its own Fan Pattern. Hence, its name, the Generic Fan Pattern. The mains normally start at the head. There can be 14 or 16 main strings and the number of cross strings can vary. Also, unlike the Prince Powerfan, there are shared holes with no double-barrelled grommets at the throat.

The Generic Fan Pattern has been seen, recently, on the PSA World Tour more and more, but it started out as a cheaper racket for new players. That is why it is popular with the majority of brands and so widely used.

The main idea behind the pattern is Power. The properties of this are that all mains are long and a similar length. Most rackets with this pattern have a closed throat (no bridge).



There are normally 14 mains, but only 4 holes on each side at the throat; meaning that 3 on each side are shared by two main strings. (By drilling less holes, it made each racket cheaper).

Believe it or not, it is necessary to still achieve a hard weave at the throat/bottom cross. Although the height difference is almost negligible, it stops twists in the mains, which are common, unfortunately.

Often the bottom cross string is shared with the outermost main string, so it is acceptable to string the crosses up from throat to head if using one long piece of string or, when the tie-off holes are further up because of all the shared holes. It's also possible to string this pattern in 2 pieces of string or ATW in some cases.

It is important to remember about the integrity of the frame when stringing for all sports. For that reason it's normal to string the main 'no more than 3 ahead!'; that causes a minor issue with the Generic Fan Pattern because of the shared holes at the throat. For example the first 4 strings use the first 4 holes at the head, but only 2 at the throat, that's the case on both sides. For that reason, it is normal to string, this pattern only, by stringing 4 mains on one side before changing to the other side. Squash tensions are also lower, so I take the view that frame integrity is preserved because only 2 holes have been used at the throat.(4 at the Head but only 2 at the throat, average of 3).



Nick's Nugget

On all non-ring rackets, on the non-standard list, there is still a need to go low and left with the first main on the left. That helps me to remember all the patterns.

In the shared holes at the throat (mains), when the racket is in the machine, there is a top and bottom string. It is important that these strings are not twisted, and create a hard-weave at the 1st cross that they come too (at the throat).

The racket used in the pictures has been strung in 2 pieces, which is probably the easiest way to do it. This racket is a Mantis power 110.

I have found that if a policy of adopting four quarters of the mains, it will apply to any racket that uses this pattern, regardless of the number of strings. I always string 4 on the left, 4 on the right, then keep going on the right, either 3 or 4 mains, then catch up on the left again. If 2 piece is chosen, it is necessary to count however many crosses there are, to ensure a hard weave at the throat. That is equally true if any ATW method is chosen, but not when stringing the crosses up from the bottom, since the 1st cross string will be at the bottom (hard weave).

Mantis Power 110

(14M X 18C)

Mains(14)

1HL to 1TL

1TL to 2TL

2TL to 3HL(when tensioning the 2nd main on the left side, put a thumb or fingernail to put downward pressure on the loop of the string outside the frame to get the string to occupy the lower part of holes 1TL and 2TL).

3HL to 2HL

2HL to 1TL

1TL to 4HL(when tensioning the 4th main on the left side, put a thumb or fingernail to put upward pressure on the loop of the string outside the frame to get the string to occupy the upper part of holes 1TL and 2TL).

1HR to 1TR

1TR to 2TR

2TR to 3HR (when tensioning the 2nd main on the right side, put a thumb or fingernail to put upward pressure on the loop of the string outside the frame to get the string to occupy the upper part of holes 1TR and 2TR).

3HR to 2HR

2HR to 1TR

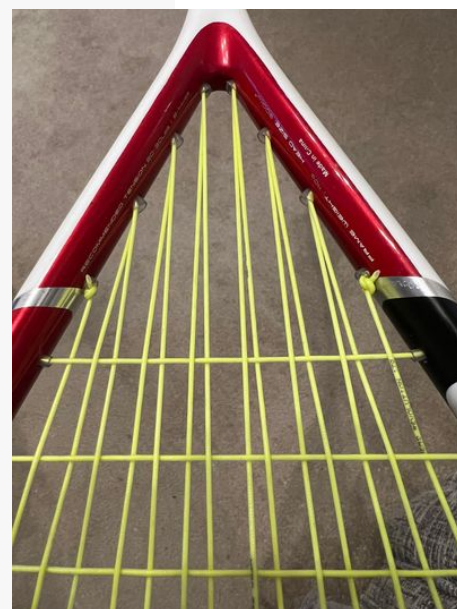
1TR to 2TR

2TR to 4HR (when tensioning the 4th main on the right side, put a thumb or fingernail to put downward pressure on the loop of the string outside the frame to get the string to occupy the lower part of holes 1TR and 2TR).

Generic Fan Pattern - Example.



This picture shows all mains at the throat (14 mains, closed throat and 2 pieces of string with 4 knots)



3HR to 2HR

2HR to 1TR

1TR to 2TR

2TR to 4HR (when tensioning the 4th main on the right side, put a thumb or fingernail to put downward pressure on the loop of the string outside the frame to get the string to occupy the lower part of holes 1TR and 2TR).

4HR to 5HR

5HR to 3TR

3TR to 4TR

4TR to 9HR (when tensioning the 7th main on the left side, put a thumb or fingernail to put upward pressure on the loop of the string outside the frame to get the string to occupy the upper part of holes 3TL and 4TL)

9HR to 7HR

7HR to 3TR

3TR to 4TR (tie-off at 4TR ensuring that the string stays below the string already occupying hole 4TR which also keeps both loops parallel, as they run outside the frame).

4HL to 5HL

5HL to 3TL

3TL to 4TL

4TL to 9HL (when tensioning the 7th main on the left side, put a thumb or fingernail to put downward pressure on the loop of the string outside the frame to get the string to occupy the lower part of holes 3TL and 4TL).

9HL to 7HL

7HL to 3TL

3TL to 4TL (tie-off at 4TL ensuring that the string stays above the string already occupying hole 4TL which also keeps both loops parallel, as they run outside the frame).

Cross Strings

Tie-offs either at 5HL or 5HR and 6TL or 6TR.

18 crosses from either 6HL or 6HR down to either 5TL or 5TR. The only cross and main shared hole is 9HL and 9HR.

As with most models, getting the mains installed correctly is the more challenging part. Get that part right and it should be plain sailing. When the mains are installed as I have instructed, they will run from the top of all throat holes and then go to the left of the main occupying the same, shared hole at the throat. This will happen across the whole throat, regardless of side.

NEXT MONTH:- The side by side Pattern.

Downward Pressure, taking the lower half of both holes.



This picture shows the hard-weave at the throat (bottom cross and mains).



Upward Pressure, taking the upper half of both holes.



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Ken Williams

Let's talk badminton



TotalEnergies BWF Sudirman Cup Finals 2023

After a five-week break from the BWF World Tour, the world's elite badminton players gathered at the Suzhou Olympic Sports Centre in China for one week from the 14th to the 21st May for the 18th edition of the Sudirman Cup. The format for the 2023 event comprised the semi-finalists and finalists of the mixed team championships from the Asian and European regions, plus winners of Africa, Pan Am and Oceania confederation finals. The remainder of the 16 teams were selected based on team rankings.

China has won 12 of the previous 17 cup finals with Korea winning 4 times and Indonesia a single time at the 1989 inaugural games. The Chinese team have been in resurgence since returning to play following the pandemic and their strength in depth, has, if anything, returned stronger. China has held the title of World Mixed Team Champion since 1995.

There were some outstanding performances en route to the latter stages of the event, one of which belonged to Goh Jin Wei of Malaysia who beat India's PV Sindhu in a shock result. Thailand's number one Ratchanok Intanon made a welcome return after a prolonged series of injury lay-offs winning a crucial match in the group stages. Canada took a win over Germany which surprised some and France confirmed their position as the number two country in Europe with a five-nil defeat of England.



Injuries took their inevitable toll on some results with world number one Viktor Axelsen of Denmark retiring with a pulled hamstring after a handful of points in his match against Lee Zii Jia in a quarter-final against Malaysia. And reigning Olympic men's doubles champion Lee Yang of Chinese Taipei twisted his ankle and had to retire from his men's match versus Korea whilst the tie was delicately balanced.

Up until the finals, Korea had been in impressive form and looked to be on a charge with their young singles specialist An Se Young the star of the show. Winning all her matches including an outstanding group match versus Japan where she dismantled world number one and current world champion Akane Yamaguchi in straight sets.

The finals commenced with world number one's Zheng Si Wei and Huang Ya Quiong coming from a set down against Seo Seung Jae and Chae Yu Jung to seal their mixed doubles tie in three rip-roaring ends to get the home crowds baying for more. Shi Yuqi comprehensively beat his opponent Lee Yun Gyu who is ranked outside the world's top 200 in the second match of the final's day leaving the women's singles as the make-or-break match for Korea. It was only in the final where An Se Young's earlier exertions seemed to catch up with her and she fell in straight games to a robust performance from Chen Yu Fei.

So, China emerged victorious for the 13th time beating a strong Korean squad in the finals. Taking the first three matches from the best of five ties meant they didn't need to play the remaining two ties. Victory must have felt all the sweeter for the Chinese team after a long period of uncertainty following the aftermath of Covid 19 and much speculation about their standard, plus winning on home soil. It appears rumours of their demise have been greatly exaggerated.



Sudirman Cup Winners - CHINA

UPCOMING EVENTS

The HSBC BWF World Tour resumes at the end of May with the Malaysia Masters, the first of five events spanning into June including the Thailand Open, Singapore Open, Indonesia Open and Taipei Open.

With all five of these events ranging from 300 to 1000 level tournaments, there are lots of ranking points to be won during this Olympic qualifying period and we should see many of the top-performing badminton athletes at these upcoming events.



CAROLINA MARÍN

Player Profile:



From her formative years as a lover of Flamenco dancing to her own TV special on Amazon Prime titled “I can because I think I can”, Caroline Marin really broke the mould for badminton success outside of the traditional dominant nations of Asia and Scandinavia.

Never has a player from a “non-badminton” nation gone on to such heady heights, taking on the world’s badminton super-powers and beating them in their own backyards. Carolina Marin is the very epitome of a phenomenon in sport, coming from a country that is renowned for sports such as tennis and football, her rise to the top of the badminton pyramid was both surprising and sensational.

Olympic Champion, three-time World Champion and six-time European Champion, former world number one for 66 weeks and widely regarded, quite rightly, as one of the world’s greatest female athletes in women’s singles badminton. Renowned for her fighting spirit, her on court screams of self-encouragement and an indomitable willpower that has seen her return from two potentially career-ending knee injuries.

Left-handed and with great power and control rolled into a frenetic bundle of energy, watching Marin in full flow you hardly have time to pause for she is one of the fastest players on the Tour. She has faced adversity on and off the court but under the tutelage of coach Fernando Rivas her career has been managed carefully and protectively as she reached the zenith of the game.

She could because she thought she could - Marin reached the top of the tree and should always be remembered as the European who took on the might of Asian badminton and won.

new

Yonex Nanoflare 1000

Yonex is introducing its second major new racket launch of the year following on the heels of the Astrox Nextage in January.

This time it's the Nanoflare range that gains a new addition. The new NANOFLARE 1000 is being heralded as the first-ever head-light racquet engineered for smash speed. This model has been designed to provide all the manoeuvrability players have come to expect from the NANOFLARE range but electrified with record-breaking repulsion and a concentrated sweet spot to help get the most out of every stroke.

A key technology in the NANOFLARE line-up is the Sonic Flare System. This provides high repulsion for maximum shuttle acceleration. A carefully calculated placement, volume and combination of graphite materials also delivers stability and control on court.

The Nanoflare 1000 series is designed for players looking for additional shot and swing speed with agile manoeuvrability. The new Wide Profile Frame paired with Sonic Flare System generates high repulsion on impact while reducing air resistance.

For the more advanced players the Nanoflare 1000 Z and TOUR designs combine the wide profile frame and with an aero shape and compact frame to create the AERO COMPACT frame. This new frame improves repulsion even further. For the advanced models, high modulus graphite materials are implemented on the top and bottom of the frame along with a SPEED ASSIST BUMPER at the base of the frame which reduces frame warp and improves overall repulsion performance.

The NANOFLARE 1000 is scheduled for a global launch on 16th June 2023 in four different models, Z, TOUR, GAME and PLAY – each developed with the same performance concept, but with variations in materials used.



Hints & Hacks

Tools

There are a variety of useful tools needed to string a badminton racket. A typical kit should include a simple cutter, there are dozens of brands available. Pick a quality brand as they will stay sharp for longer time.

Second on the list is a pair of pliers; curved nose pliers are the most useful for getting into tight positions and there are plenty of options available from leading stringing machine manufacturers.

An awl, both regular, setting-off and fine-nosed options come in handy. The fine-nosed version should only be used to manoeuvre the string to allow easier access in shared holes - it is not good practice to use an awl to prod inside a hole when you can't get the string in it as you can easily tear the string, or worse still, snap it.

You will also need a starting clamp, either the traditional spring version from the likes of Gamma or Parnell Knot, for example. Or if you're prepared to invest a little more, there are Japanese manufactured adjustable starting clamps. Clamps are useful to create a bridge if you are short of string to reach the pulling head, using alongside service strings to free up covered holes.

There are other tools you can augment your collection with such as a pulling hook, string bed shears, setting off awl and load spreaders and a flying clamp often comes in useful in tight spaces.



Pre-checks & Grommet checks

Start by cutting out the strings from the racket. Check the grommets and frame by going around the frame feeling with your fingers and visually inspecting the frame as you go; you're looking for signs of broken grommets and/or cracks in the racket frame. Make sure you have a good selection of replacement grommets such as B1's, B3's and B5's which are the most common, and perhaps some B21 'twin' grommets, which are increasingly used around the throat these days. The B3 and B5 are wider and more suited to shared-hole use.



Mounting the Frame

Always mount the frame with the butt cap pointing the right way up. This is not only good practice more than anything else, but it's also a useful point of reference and helps with consistency.

Where you position the racket on the turntable is also quite crucial. If you mount the racket so that the shared holes along the sides of the frame are partially blocked by the side clamps, this can make it tricky when trying to put the string through the shared hole. Always look to position the racket frame so that the side clamps are either above or below where the shared holes are positioned. This means that if one of the holes is proving difficult to access at least you can get to it if the clamp mount is not covering it up.

Be sure to not over-tighten the frame in the clamps, particularly if you don't have a six-point mounting system on your machine. The frame needs room to 'breathe' as the linear and lateral forces flex the frame as you pull tension on the mains and crosses. The mains compress the head length forcing the sides outwards, while the crosses pull the sides back in forcing the frame to expand from throat to top. You need to be aware of this as you tighten your mounts and if you notice your 6 and 12 o'clock mounts have loosened after you have strung your mains, don't take up the slack by tightening them as once you string the crosses, the slack is absorbed by the frame expanding longitudinally.

As you string the crosses remember to fan the string across the mains so that you are not causing too much friction as you pull the crosses back across from side to side as you complete the string job.



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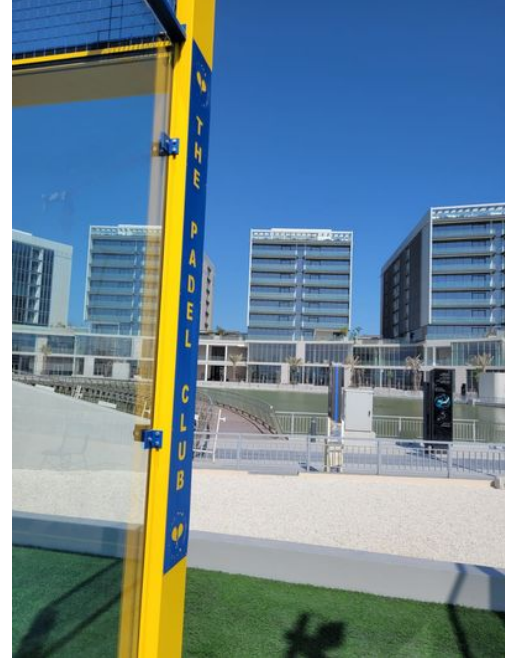
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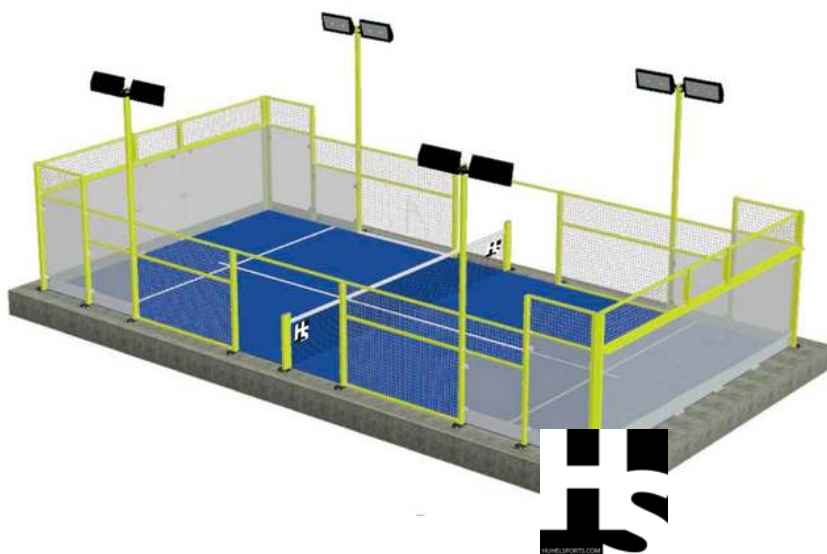
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INDIVIDUAL PANORAMIC COURT

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

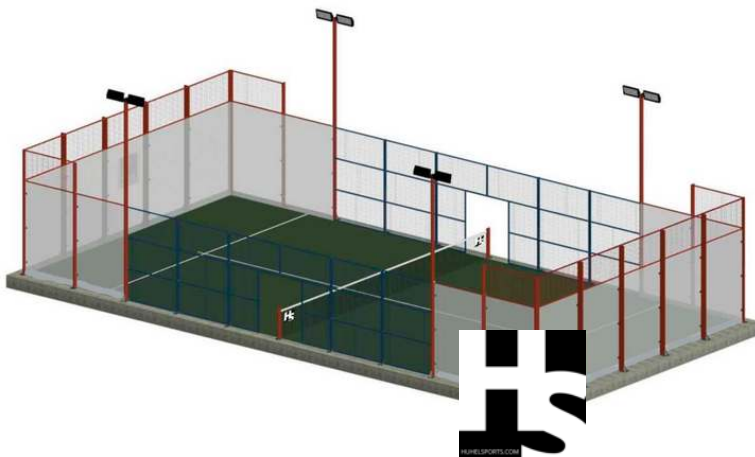


EUROPE COURT

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



HIGH QUALITY - PERSONALISED ALUMINIUM

Padel, a dynamic and exciting racquet sport, has been rapidly gaining popularity worldwide. In this article, we will take a closer look at the construction process of padel courts and delve into the remarkable growth of padel in Scandinavia.

Section 1: Building Padel Courts

Building a padel court requires careful planning and execution to ensure a high-quality playing experience. Here are the key steps involved in constructing a padel court:

Choosing the right location is crucial for a successful padel court. Factors such as accessibility, available space, and surrounding infrastructure are carefully considered. Padel courts can be built both indoors and outdoors, accommodating various preferences and climates.

Layout and Dimensions:

Padel courts have specific dimensions that ensure a balanced and fair gameplay. They typically measure 20 meters in length and 10 meters in width, enclosed by glass walls and metal mesh fencing. The playing area is divided by a net, similar to tennis.

Foundation and Base:

The construction process begins with preparing the foundation and base. It involves excavation, levelling, and compacting the ground to create a solid and even surface. The base is usually made of concrete or asphalt, providing stability and durability.

Walls and Fencing:

The next step is the installation of the surrounding walls and fencing. Glass walls with a minimum height of three meters provide visibility and allow spectators to enjoy the action. Metal mesh fencing ensures safety and prevents balls from leaving the court.

Artificial Turf or Padel Surface:

The playing surface of a padel court can be covered with artificial turf or a specialized padel surface. These materials provide excellent traction and impact absorption, enhancing player performance and reducing the risk of injuries.

Net and Accessories:

A padel court is equipped with a net placed in the middle, dividing the court into two halves. The net is designed to the specified height and tension, enabling fair play. Other accessories such as scoreboards, seating, and lighting systems are added to enhance the overall experience.



Section 2: The Growth of Padel in Scandinavia

Scandinavia has witnessed a remarkable surge in the popularity of padel over recent years. The sport has captured the interest of both seasoned athletes and recreational players, becoming a vibrant part of the sporting landscape. Here are some factors contributing to the growth of padel in Scandinavia:

Social and Community Aspect:

Padel offers a unique blend of sports and social interaction, making it an attractive choice for individuals and groups. The welcoming and inclusive nature of padel fosters a sense of community, bringing people together for friendly matches and tournaments.

Accessibility and Convenience:

Padel's popularity can be attributed to its accessibility and convenience. The sport is relatively easy to learn, making it appealing to beginners and those seeking an enjoyable physical activity. With an increasing number of padel clubs and facilities across Scandinavia, players have ample opportunities to engage in the sport.

All-Weather Play:

The ability to play padel in both indoor and outdoor settings makes it a versatile sport in Scandinavian countries. Despite the challenging weather conditions, indoor padel facilities provide players with the opportunity to continue playing throughout the year, fueling the sport's growth.

Professional Competitions:

The rise of professional padel tournaments and leagues in Scandinavia has garnered attention and attracted new players to the sport. Spectators have embraced the fast-paced and thrilling matches, creating a demand for more padel courts and contributing to its expansion.

So, when looking at the construction of padel courts, things such as meticulous planning and attention to detail, all result in fantastic playing environments for enthusiasts. With its blend of sport and social interaction, padel has experienced remarkable growth in Scandinavia, captivating players of all skill levels. As the sport continues to flourish, the future looks promising for both padel enthusiasts and newcomers alike

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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 OCEANIA PICKLEBALL OPEN

Hosted by Sarah Burr & Martin Clark

EID: 1230 **PRICE** AUD 50

Organizer: Pickleball Global

EVENT - TOURNAMENT

Starting: August 01, to August 05, 2023

City: Work Australia (Disability Employment Services), Community Centre, Rifle Range Road, Pimpama QLD 4209, Australia

Home Club: Pimpama Sport Hub

Registration Deadline: July 08, 2023 (OPEN)

Tier Level: 4

HEAD PICKLEBALL OPEN

EID: 1222 **PRICE** EUR 30

Organizer: Pickleball Pays de Gex

EVENT - TOURNAMENT

Starting: July 01, 2023 to July 02, 2023

City: 34250 Palavas-les-Flots, France

Home Club: My Center Palavas - Tennis - Padel - Badminton

Registration Deadline: June 18, 2023 (OPEN)

Tier Level: 3

Hungarian Open Pickleball Championship

EID: 1181 **PRICE** EUR 40

Organizer: Zoltán Bőhm

EVENT - TOURNAMENT

Starting: August 18, 2023 to August 20, 2023

City: Dabas, Magyarország

Home Club: Fair-way Se

Registration Deadline: July 31, 2023 (OPEN)

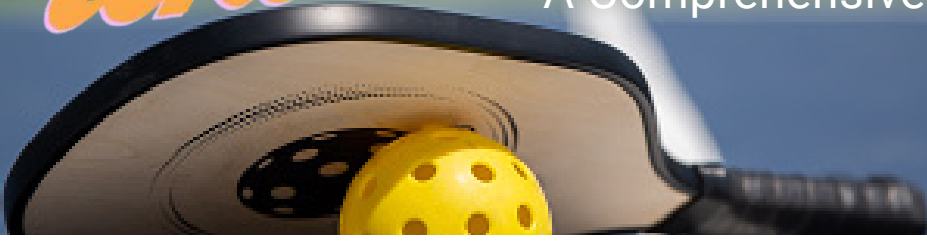
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Pickleball

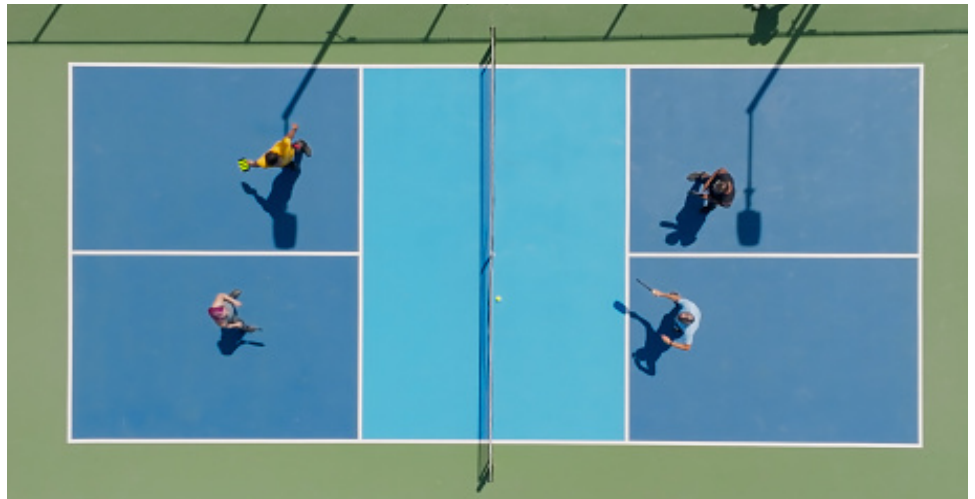
A Comprehensive Guide to the Sport



Pickleball has quickly gained popularity worldwide as a fun and engaging sport for people of all ages. Combining elements of tennis, badminton, and ping pong, this fast-paced game has captured the attention of sports enthusiasts. In this article, we will delve into the rules of play for Pickleball, providing a clear understanding of the game's structure and objectives.

Court and Equipment:

Pickleball is played on a court that resembles a smaller version of a tennis court, measuring 20 feet wide and 44 feet long. The net is positioned at a height of 36 inches at the sidelines and 34 inches at the center. The game requires solid paddles, typically made of wood or composite materials, and a perforated polymer ball, similar to a wiffle ball but slightly smaller.



Serving and Scoring:

To begin the game, a coin toss or other method is used to determine the first server. The serve must be performed diagonally, starting from the right-hand service square. The server must make contact with the ball below the waist, aiming to serve it into the opponent's diagonal service square. Only one serve attempt is allowed, and if the serve fails to clear the net or lands out of bounds, it results in a fault.

Double Bounce Rule:

Once the serve is successful, both teams must abide by the double bounce rule. This means that each team must allow the ball to bounce once on their side of the court before attempting to hit it. After the initial two bounces, the ball can be volleyed or hit in the air.

Non-Volley Zone:

Within the Pickleball court, a non-volley zone, also known as the kitchen, is marked off. This area extends 7 feet from the net on both sides. Players are prohibited from hitting a volley (hitting the ball before it bounces) while standing within this zone. However, they can enter the non-volley zone after the ball has bounced and hit it from there.

Faults and Points:

A fault is committed when a player violates any of the rules, such as stepping into the non-volley zone during a volley or hitting the ball out of bounds. A fault results in a point for the opposing team. Points are scored only by the serving team, and games are typically played to 11 or 15 points, with a win by a two-point margin.

Countries Embracing Pickleball:

Pickleball's popularity has rapidly expanded, attracting players from various countries around the world. While it originated in the United States, it has seen significant growth in other nations as well. Here are some of the main countries embracing this exciting sport:

United States: As the birthplace of Pickleball, it has a strong and vibrant community of players, with numerous clubs, tournaments, and dedicated facilities across the country.

Canada: Pickleball has gained a substantial following in Canada, with active participation in leagues and tournaments. The sport's popularity continues to grow, attracting players of all ages.

United Kingdom: Pickleball has made significant strides in the UK, with the establishment of clubs and organizations dedicated to promoting and developing the sport.

Australia: Pickleball has gained traction in Australia, drawing players from different states and territories. The sport's inclusive nature and accessibility have contributed to its rise in popularity.

Spain: Pickleball has made considerable strides in Spain, with an increasing number of enthusiasts discovering and embracing the sport. Tournaments and events are regularly held to cater to the growing interest.

Pickleball's appeal lies in its easy-to-learn rules and the ability to engage players of various skill levels and ages. By understanding the court, equipment, serving, scoring, and key rules, anyone can jump into the game and enjoy the thrill it offers. As Pickleball continues to captivate players around the globe, its international presence and community will undoubtedly expand, fostering its growth as a beloved sport worldwide.



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