



GRSA INTERNATIONAL ATW MAGAZINE

Finally

GOLD FOR NOVAK



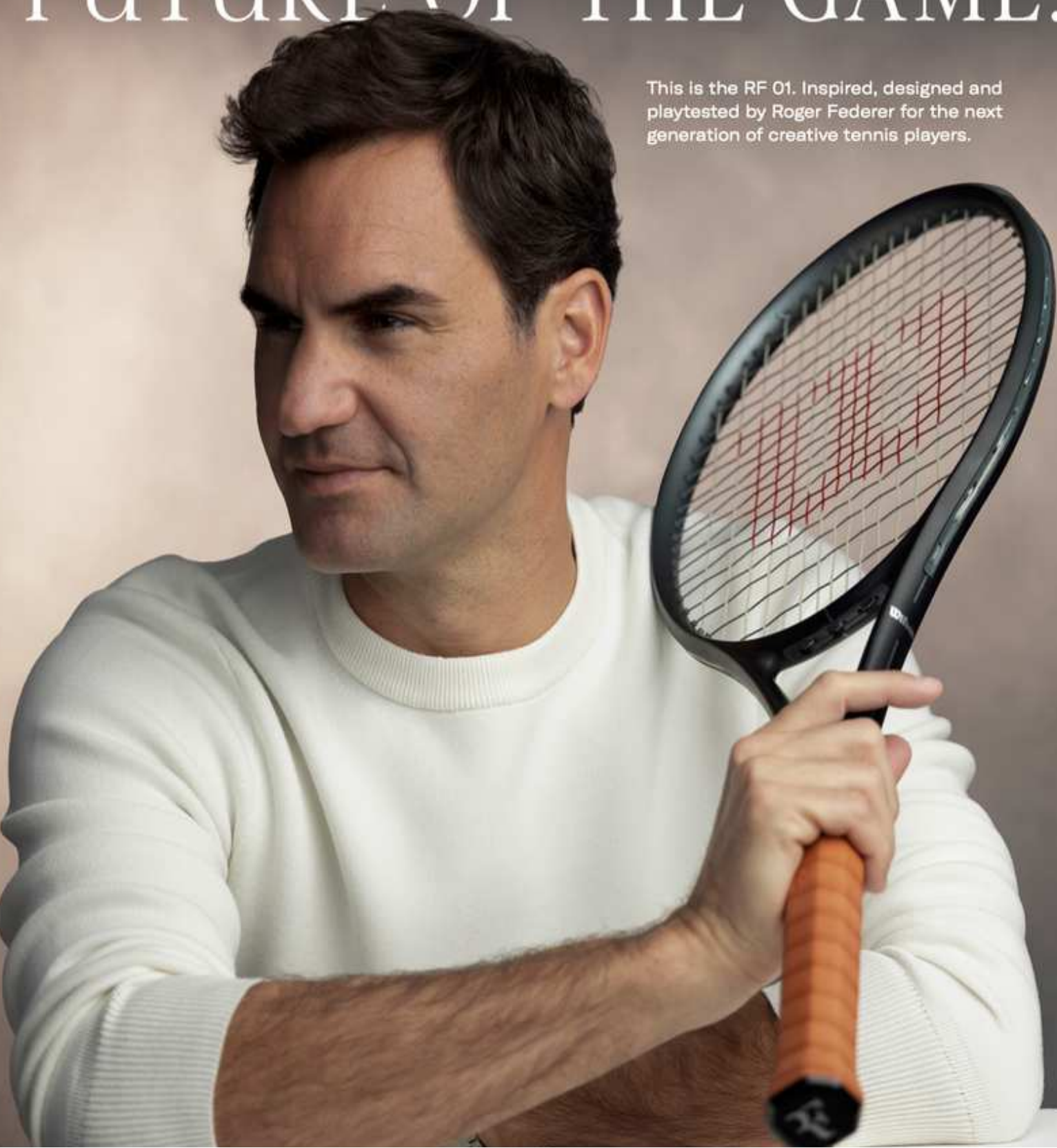
GRSA 1ST ANNUAL GLOBAL STRINGERS CONFERENCE

MORE INFO INSIDE



INTRODUCING A RACKET FOR THE FUTURE OF THE GAME.

This is the RF 01. Inspired, designed and playtested by Roger Federer for the next generation of creative tennis players.



CONTENT

Section 1 - Tennis

Some might have seen the Olympics as a warm-up for the US Open, but others saw an opportunity to make some progress in their career, reach a pending career high, and some bid farewell to this beautiful sport. We have milestone birthdays and some special wins that have been long in the waiting.

Section 2 - GRSA INTERNATIONAL

GRSA has been working hard on providing stringers the opportunity to grow, HEAD have also been working hard with GRSA, and this time in China, a huge success with more to come.

Section 3 - Squash

There are some rackets that just need that special mention, nothing but respect this month from Nick, and the Fin Iq300.

Section 4 - Padel

Tournament calendar info, plus some changes in pairings that should bring fireworks to the courts.

Section 5 - Pickleball

The UTAH open is always a show, they didn't disappoint this year either.

Section 6 - Badminton

We take a look at just who was the shining light in the Olympics for the dominant countries, and some more goodbyes.

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

Finally Gold for Novak

Novak Djokovic secured his first Olympic gold medal on Sunday, triumphing over Spain's Carlos Alcaraz in a thrilling men's tennis singles final at the Paris Games. This victory marked the culmination of a glittering career for the 37-year-old Serbian, filling the last remaining gap in his illustrious resume. Djokovic, already the holder of a record 24 Grand Slam titles and the most weeks at No. 1 in the rankings by any player, had long coveted the Olympic title, having previously settled for a bronze medal in 2008.

The final, held at the iconic Roland-Garros stadium, was a highly anticipated rematch of the Wimbledon title match from three weeks prior, where Alcaraz, 21, emerged victorious. However, on this occasion, Djokovic edged out his young rival in straight sets, winning 7-6 (3), 7-6 (2) in a match that lasted nearly three hours. Despite the format being best-of-three sets, rather than the best-of-five used in Grand Slam finals, the contest was every bit as intense and competitive as any major final.

Both players delivered a masterclass in tennis, demonstrating extraordinary skill and composure under immense pressure. Unforced errors were scarce as each rally showcased the pair's incredible athleticism and precision. The crowd was thoroughly engaged, with chants of "No-le! No-le!" and "Car-los! Car-los!" resonating throughout the stadium, creating an electric atmosphere. Alcaraz's supporters even broke into a spirited "Si, se puede!" ("Yes, you can!") as he fought to mount a comeback in the second set.

Djokovic's victory was especially significant given his previous struggles in the Olympics. He had come close to reaching the final on several occasions but had always fallen short, including a heartbreaking loss in the 2021 Tokyo semifinals that dashed his hopes of achieving a historic 'Golden Slam'—winning all four Grand Slam titles and Olympic gold in the same year. His triumph in Paris now places him among the elite group of players who have completed a career Golden Slam, joining legends like Steffi Graf, Andre Agassi, Rafael Nadal, and Serena Williams.



The match was a testament to Djokovic's enduring excellence and determination, as he navigated long rallies and intense exchanges with the younger and speedier Alcaraz. Both players served impeccably, with neither conceding a single break of serve throughout the match. The first set, which lasted over 90 minutes, was particularly gripping, with Djokovic eventually prevailing in the tiebreaker by winning the last four points.



As the match drew to a close, Djokovic sealed his victory with a forehand winner, dropping his racket and collapsing onto the clay in a flood of emotion. The significance of the moment was not lost on anyone present, as Djokovic, now the oldest man to win singles gold since 1908, celebrated with his team and waved the Serbian flag with pride. Alcaraz, despite the loss, displayed great sportsmanship, and both men shared a moment of mutual respect at the net.

In a career filled with unparalleled achievements, Djokovic's Olympic gold in Paris is a fitting addition to his legacy, symbolising his unyielding pursuit of excellence on the tennis court. With this victory, he has finally claimed the one title that had eluded him, solidifying his status as one of the greatest athletes of all time.



200th Anniversary 1824 - 2024

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200 Trips Around the Sun: Ashaway Line and Twine's Bicentennial Story



Ashaway Line & Twine was founded in 1824 along the banks of the Ashawog River by Captain Lester Crandall, (pictured left) who manufactured fishing lines for commercial fisherman working off the New England Coast. Over time, he devised and perfected many line-making machines to improve the quality and output of his products.



As his business grew, Captain Lester expanded his operation and upgraded his facilities to maximize and perfect line production, gradually becoming a year round business. As word of his superior lines spread in the region, Ashaway made its first export of tarred cod line to Canada in 1850.



Linewalk production of twisted fishing line for commercial use circa 1900

In the early 1900's Ashaway added fresh and salt water sport fishing lines to its product line mix. These original sport fishing lines were braided (Ashaway installed its first braiding machines around 1910) and twisted from silk and linen fibers, and were much thinner and more precise than commercial lines. Then in 1939 Ashaway produced the first synthetic sport fishing line, utilizing DuPont's revolutionary fiber invention called Nylon. For 30 years Ashaway was known as the world's leading fishing line manufacturer and their products were renown worldwide.

World Record Broadbill
Swordfish (837.5 lbs) caught on
Ashaway's 36 thread linen line in
Chile, South America, circa 1930



In 1949, the 4th generation of the Crandall family invented and patented the world's first synthetic racket string products and processing for tennis, squash, racquetball and badminton, utilizing the same nylon fibers that were braided into sport fishing lines. Soon, Ashaway was the world's leader in synthetic racket string production, shipping their products to more than 50 countries around the world. Racket string production evolved over time with strings tailored to each racket sport made from nylon, aramid, PEEK and other fibers, always utilizing the material best suited to each racket sport application.



Ashaway's racket string production team circa 1993



A well-known tennis Hall of Famer's rackets strung with Ashaway's Aramid main strings circa 2000

In the 1960's and 1970's Ashaway moved quickly into the medical field, specializing in the production of bulk, non-sterile threads used as raw materials in a wide variety of medical devices such as sutures. Ashaway Line and Twine's stringent quality system made the transition to specialized medical production possible, and helped the medical business grow into the largest segment of the company's production since 2000.

Now in 2024, currently managed by the 7th generation of the Crandall family, Ashaway Line and Twine continues to produce specialized lines for medical and sporting goods applications on the banks of the Ashaway River (originally the Ashawog River). While the first lines in 1824 were bulky and coarse, today's production is much thinner and more precise. Whether a fishing line, a racket string or a medical thread, the line specifications today are very tight and the requirements of the customer very specific. Captain Lester would certainly be proud of the way Ashaway Line & Twine has prospered and adapted to a changing world under the guidance of 7 generations of the Crandall family!

2024 World Squash Champion Diego Elias (first ever from South America) uses Ashaway's UltraNick® 18 string in his frame



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Racket String



[BADMINTON]



[SQUASH]



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Zheng Qinwen

HISTORY MAKER FOR CHINA

PARIS 2024 

Amidst a chorus of "Jia You!" from the stands of Court Philippe Chatrier, Zheng Qinwen etched her name in history, securing China's first-ever Olympic gold medal in tennis singles. On a breezy Saturday afternoon at the 2024 Paris Games, the 21-year-old triumphed over Croatia's Donna Vekic with a dominant 6-2, 6-3 victory, capping off a week of exceptional performances that included a semifinal win over world No. 1 Iga Swiatek.

Zheng's powerful serves and groundstrokes were on full display as she dominated the final, earning the biggest title of her burgeoning career. Her victory not only solidified her place among the top-ranked players in the world, currently sitting at No. 7, but also made her a national icon in China. This achievement adds to the legacy of Chinese tennis, a path first paved by Li Na, the only other Chinese player to have won a Grand Slam singles title. Zheng, inspired by Li's success, expressed her pride in becoming the first Asian player to win Olympic gold in tennis, while also acknowledging her continued ambition to secure a Grand Slam title.

The Olympic tennis matches, held at Roland Garros, provided a familiar stage for Swiatek, a four-time French Open champion. However, her 25-match unbeaten streak at the venue was cut short by Zheng in the semifinals, relegating the Polish star to the bronze medal. Swiatek, displaying her sportsmanship, took a celebratory selfie with Zheng and Vekic during the medal ceremony.



For Vekic, the silver medal capped off an impressive summer, coming just weeks after her semifinal run at Wimbledon. Despite physical challenges, including arm and ankle pain, she found her form in Paris, even defeating U.S. Open champion Coco Gauff. However, the final proved a step too far, with Vekic appearing fatigued as the match wore on.

Zheng credited her victory to mental strength and patience, attributes that she believes set her apart in the final. Despite a brief resurgence from Vekic in the second set, Zheng remained composed, ultimately securing the win with a powerful forehand that brought her to the ground in celebration. Draped in a Chinese flag, she soaked in the applause of the crowd, a moment that marked the culmination of years of dedication.

During her post-match press conference, Zheng reflected on the influences that shaped her career. She spoke of her admiration for tennis legend Roger Federer and his "classy" style of play, as well as the inspiration she drew from Chinese hurdler Liu Xiang, who won the nation's first gold medal in men's track and field at the 2004 Athens Games. Above all, Zheng credited her parents for their unwavering support and the discipline they instilled in her from a young age. Her mother gave up her job to ensure Zheng's well-being, while her father's relentless training regime kept her focused on her goals.

In Zheng's own words, her success is not hers alone, but a shared achievement with her parents who believed in her every step of the way. Their dedication laid the foundation for a career that has now reached historic heights, with Olympic gold as just one milestone in what promises to be a remarkable journey.



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The Tennis Ball Dilemma: Inconsistencies in Performance and Solutions

In our previous articles, we delved into the concerns surrounding tennis ball quality, focusing on professional players' experiences and the technical aspects of ball fluffiness. As we continue this exploration, we aim to provide a comprehensive understanding of the broader issues affecting tennis balls and their performance. This article, created with the expertise of professionals at HEAD, addresses the concerns of both professional and casual players, the intricacies of tennis ball construction, and the challenges faced in maintaining consistent quality.

Distinguishing Player Concerns

Tennis ball performance inconsistencies are a common complaint among players of all levels, but the issues they face can differ significantly. Professional players often encounter variations in ball consistency during matches and practice sessions, largely due to the felt fluffiness and the ball core's ability to maintain pressure. These players also have to adapt to different balls at each tournament, as various sponsors provide balls with differing characteristics. This constant adjustment can sometimes lead to injuries.

Casual or regular players, on the other hand, may notice that tennis balls from the same brand or model can perform differently when purchased at different times. Issues like reduced bounce, harder feel, or balls being flat right out of the can are common complaints. Occasionally, balls within the same can may perform differently, presenting similar issues to those faced by professional players.

Understanding Tennis Ball Core Construction

To comprehend why these inconsistencies occur, it's essential to understand the core of a tennis ball and its construction. The core is made from a mix of high-quality natural and synthetic rubber, combined with fillers and additives to enhance performance, pressure retention, durability, and strength. Despite rigorous quality control checks by HEAD, occasionally a batch of rubber may have lower quality, which can only be detected after the vulcanization process. This results in a harder core and lower rebound, affecting the ball's performance.

The vulcanization process is critical in tennis ball production. It involves heating natural and synthetic rubber with sulfur and other chemicals to form cross-links between the rubber molecules. This process makes the rubber more durable, elastic, and able to retain its shape, which are essential properties for a tennis ball. Maintaining the correct temperature during vulcanization is crucial. If the temperature is too low, the cross-linking will be incomplete, resulting in weaker rubber. If it's too high, the rubber can become too hard and brittle. Similarly, the duration of the heating process must be precisely controlled. Insufficient time will not allow enough cross-linking, while too much time can degrade the rubber. The exact composition of the rubber and the vulcanizing agents must be carefully balanced, as any deviation can affect the quality and performance of the tennis ball.

The vulcanization process continues even after the tennis balls have been produced. This ongoing cross-linking leads to the rubber becoming progressively harder and less elastic over time, a phenomenon known as rubber aging. Rubber aging impacts tennis balls by causing a loss of performance, as the ball may lose its bounce and responsiveness, affecting play. Over time, aged rubber can become more prone to cracking and other forms of degradation, reducing the ball's lifespan.

Differences in Tournament vs. Mass Production Balls

Balls prepared for major tournaments have slight variations compared to those for mass production. Tournament balls use a controlled viscosity rubber and high-grade fillers for consistency and performance. They are 100% selected within a tighter range for deformation, rebound, and weight, ensuring higher quality. These balls are produced a few months before the tournament (maximum six months), maintaining their optimal performance.

Mass production balls, on the other hand, may be older when they reach the shops and have a higher acceptable defect rate, typically around 2%. The acceptable defect rate, also known as Acceptable Quality Level (AQL), is the highest percentage of defective products deemed acceptable in a production batch.

Acceptable Defect Rate (AQL)

Maintaining an acceptable defect rate is a balancing act. Achieving zero defects in large-scale production is practically impossible and would be excessively costly. The AQL balances product quality with production costs and categorizes defects into critical, major, and minor, focusing on the most significant issues. Reducing the defect rate further becomes extremely costly due to increased operational costs, longer production times, resource waste, and higher final product prices, which might not provide proportional benefits to consumers.

Explaining Players' Experiences

Returning to players' concerns, we can now provide an informed explanation of why these issues occur. Top players at tournaments may experience performance inconsistencies for several reasons beyond the felt fluffiness already discussed. Occasionally, the core may lose pressure due to the high stress during play. Additionally, the performance of the ball changes according to environmental conditions throughout the day. For instance, higher temperatures increase speed and bounce height, while higher humidity slows the ball down. Players often need to adapt to different balls across tournaments, which can potentially cause injuries. Although standardizing balls could help, environmental and surface differences still impact performance. The ATP is trying to mitigate this by using the same ball for tournaments within the same "swing" (e.g., all tournaments in Australia).

Casual players may experience inconsistencies for several reasons. The acceptable defect rate in mass production, subpar rubber batches, premature pressure loss, or balls being too old when sold can all contribute to performance issues. HEAD's factory and team continuously work to minimize these inconsistencies and elevate product quality. Maintaining an acceptable defect rate allows HEAD to offer quality products at reasonable prices. Excessive reduction in defects would lead to increased costs without proportional benefits for consumers.

In the next article, we will discuss methods to recover the pressure of tennis balls to extend their lifespan and maintain performance, focusing on HEAD Pressurizers. Stay tuned for insights into this innovative solution and its impact on the game.

Murray looking forward to time off

We touched on Murray's career in the last issue of the ATW magazine, but thought it fitting to recap on the last olympic appearance, where Andy announced and confirmed his retirement from professional tennis. Partnering with Daniel Evans, the 37-year-old Scot reached the quarter-finals of the men's doubles event before bowing out to the American duo of Taylor Fritz and Tommy Paul in a straight-sets defeat. This marked the end of a remarkable 19-year career, during which Murray became one of the most celebrated British athletes in history.

Murray's career has been defined by his tenacity and resilience in the face of some of the greatest players the sport has ever seen. With three Grand Slam titles to his name—US Open in 2012 and Wimbledon in 2013 and 2016—Murray also made history by becoming the first player to win two Olympic singles gold medals, triumphing at London 2012 and Rio 2016. Additionally, he secured a mixed doubles silver at the London Olympics alongside Laura Robson.

Reflecting on his career after his final match, Murray expressed pride in his achievements, acknowledging the physical toll his career had taken on him. "I've given everything I could to this sport," he said. "I'm proud of what I've accomplished, especially during a period where the competition was incredibly tough. My body has gone through a lot, and I'm looking forward to a well-deserved rest."

Murray's journey to retirement has been fraught with injuries, which have plagued him throughout the season. A ruptured ankle ligament sidelined him from the French Open, while a spinal cyst ended his singles career earlier this year at the Queen's Club Championships. His Wimbledon campaign was also cut short, with a first-round exit in the men's doubles alongside his brother, Jamie Murray, and a last-minute withdrawal from the mixed doubles due to his partner, Emma Raducanu, pulling out.

Despite these challenges, Murray cherished his final outing at the Olympics, which he described as the most memorable tournament of his career. The Scot's determination to compete, even in the face of adversity, has been a hallmark of his career. "The last year or so has been tough physically, but I'm ready for the next chapter of my life," Murray said.





In recognition of his contributions to British tennis, the LTA has announced that the arena at the cinch Championships at The Queen's Club will be renamed 'The Andy Murray Arena'. Additionally, the LTA will invest £5 million in a new tennis centre in Scotland, a project led by Murray's mother, Judy.



Murray's legacy extends beyond his on-court achievements. In 2016, he became the first British player to reach World No. 1 in the ATP rankings, holding the position for 41 weeks. His rivalry with tennis greats Novak Djokovic, Rafael Nadal, and Roger Federer was a defining aspect of his career, and his impact on British tennis is unparalleled. The father of four also made significant contributions off the court, serving as a global ambassador for various charitable organisations and advocating for gender equality in the sport.

As Murray moves into retirement, he plans to spend more time with his family and explore new opportunities, potentially in coaching, although he has ruled out a career in media. "I'm looking forward to spending time with my family and doing things I've missed out on because of tennis," Murray shared. "Coaching might be something I consider in the future, but for now, I'm just looking forward to some time off."

Not quite the ending we expected!

In a highly anticipated match at the 2024 Paris Olympics, the dream team of Rafael Nadal and Carlos Alcaraz was brought to an abrupt end as they were defeated by the American duo Austin Krajicek and Rameez Sharm in the men's tennis doubles quarterfinals. The Spaniards, who many had hoped would make history together, lost in straight sets 6-2, 6-4 on the hallowed grounds of Court Philippe Chatrier, where Nadal has famously won 14 French Open titles.

Nadal, often referred to as the "King of Clay," and Alcaraz, the reigning French Open champion, had shown promise in their earlier matches despite neither player being a doubles specialist. Nadal, who won the gold in doubles at the 2016 Rio Games, brought experience to the pair, while Alcaraz added youthful energy and talent. However, they faced formidable opponents in Krajicek and Sharm, both former world No. 1s in doubles tennis, who demonstrated their expertise in a convincing victory.

The defeat was a significant moment in Olympic tennis, likely marking the end of Nadal's illustrious Olympic career. At 38 years old and with a history of injuries, the possibility of Nadal competing in the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics seems unlikely, and his future beyond the Paris Games remains uncertain. This quarterfinal match could very well be his final appearance on the Olympic stage.

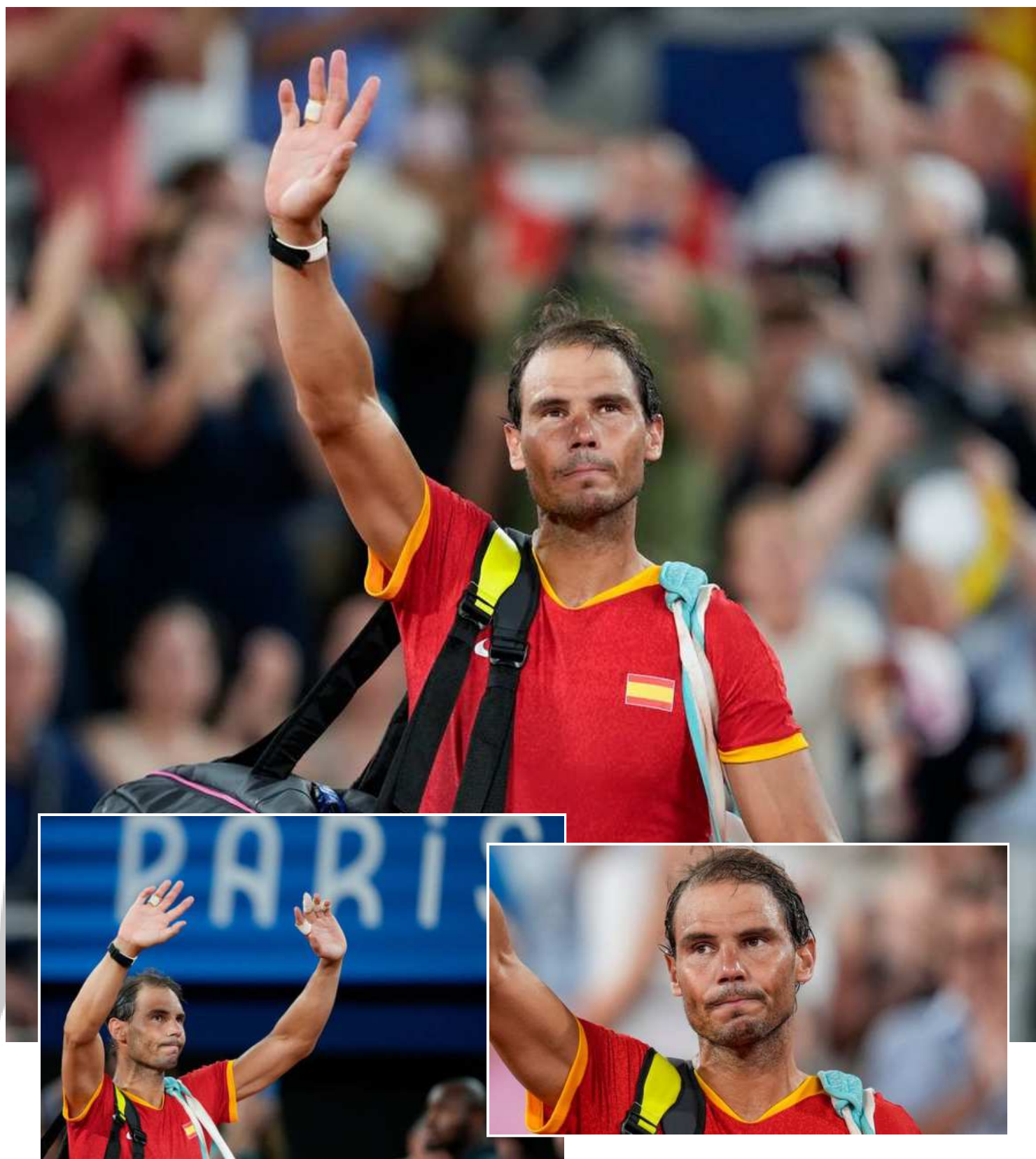


The match itself was filled with tension and emotion, especially as the crowd, many of whom were ardent Nadal supporters, willed the Spaniards to overcome their American opponents. The final turning point came when Sharm broke Alcaraz's serve to lead 4-3 in the second set, a moment that was contested by the Spaniards but ultimately upheld by the chair umpire. Despite their best efforts, Nadal and Alcaraz couldn't mount a comeback, and the match concluded with heartfelt embraces from both teams.

For Alcaraz, at just 21 years old, the loss represents a learning experience in what promises to be a long and successful career. His partnership with Nadal at these Olympics was not just about competition but also about legacy, symbolised by the emotional hug the two shared after the match, a moment that felt like a passing of the torch from one generation to the next.

As Nadal left the court, he took a moment to acknowledge the spectators, who offered him a standing ovation in what could be his final farewell at the Olympics. The significance of this moment was not lost on the fans, who have watched Nadal dominate the sport for over a decade.

Although the match may signal the closing of one chapter, the spirit of competition and the bonds formed on the court will undoubtedly inspire future generations. While Nadal's Olympic journey may have reached its conclusion, his influence on the sport and his partnership with Alcaraz will be remembered as a defining moment in Olympic tennis history.



In the Room

With Richard Parnell

Tour etiquette with players

This month's thoughts, in the room, are to do with interacting with players at a tour event.

I often hear about either members of the stringing team or even organisers of the stringing team being more interested in interacting with the players than making the service run smoothly. This can involve social media content, photos, even conversations that become difficult because a certain level of professional decorum isn't maintained.

Most teams now have some pretty rigid rules governing this interaction, and knowing why this protocol has been put in place is key to understanding it.

Players are constantly in demand, whether it is by the media or the fans and often their only "safe haven" is in the areas that are considered "non-public". This means that they can relax and not have to worry about constantly being bothered with requests of one type or another. As part of the stringing service, you are privileged to have access to this "inner Sanctum" and as such need to act in a manner that befits that privilege and respects the players who live in a glass bowl with their every action under constant scrutiny.

No member of the team should approach a player for autographs or photos unless there is a special circumstance or agreement put in place by the team leader.

The GRSA Competition Master certification level covers this and much more and offers guidance on how to act in such situations.

Have you got what it takes to pass the Competition level certifications?

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FUN FACTS

Recognition feeds ambition. If you're teaching or mentoring someone, be aware of how you felt when your teacher, boss, co-worker or mentor said, "Well done, that's great work". It makes all the difference, they will blossom!

D.J Efford

- 1** John Boland of Ireland won the first gold medal awarded in Olympic tennis, and he also won a second gold that same year playing doubles.
- 2** For the games in 1896, 1900, 1904, 1988, and 1992 the semi-final losers shared bronze medals. In all other years and in future tournaments a play-off match for the bronze medal was held.
- 3** After the 1924 games, tennis and the Olympics had a messy break up. The Olympic Committee and the various tennis federations could not agree on how to settle the question of whether professional players should be allowed to compete.
- 4** The most successful all-time performing tennis player at the Olympic Games is American Venus Williams, who has won four gold medals and a silver. Her sister Serena has also won four golds.
- 5** In the first round of the Olympic tennis tournament in Rio, Australian John Millman beat Lithuania's Ricardas Berankis 6-0, 6-0 in just 50 minutes, the first time in Olympic tennis a player has not won a game in a match.

Stringer Solutions

with Richard Parnell

TOP
TIP

Tools... Which and Why

When I am asked about which tools to buy, my first piece of advice is always the best tools possible that you can afford.

If you buy a first-class tool, you will only ever buy it once. I often see people with cutters of a brand that is quite well-known, one of the blades breaks off and renders the tool useless. If you are in the middle of a Tour event, this is a major problem.

As you can imagine I am biased towards the Parnell Tech tools as they are tools that I took years of testing to accept were good enough to put my name on. That doesn't mean that I don't consider other brands to be excellent and well worthy of a place in any tour stringer's tool bag. The Kimony range of tools are always good and as such I have some of them in my tool kit, the range of awls are excellent in both quality and performing the task needed. The Kimony starting clamp is also excellent, although on the high end of the price scale. The Kimony grommet awl is a life-saver if you have to change a particularly demanding set of grommets.

The Parnell Tech starting clamp is excellent and my two have lasted me at least 10 years, probably more, having performed perfectly at Grand Slams and other major events and are still going strong with no plans to change them in the near future. I recommend having 2 clamps, one for starting the crosses and the other for tightening knots with no risk. The Parnell Tech cutters and curved nose pliers are also excellent.

I often hear that the Parnell Pad is not needed because a tool doesn't damage the frame. I don't agree with this statement, for the simple reason that there always exists the possibility of any tool marring the cosmetic finish of a frame. When starting the crosses with a starting clamp, by pulling against the bumper, I have seen marks left by an edge of a clamp on the plastic. My reasoning is, why risk it when there is something that can take away that risk and mean that the stringer can concentrate on more important things? I always try to never let a tool contact the frame without protection.

If you are using the "Yusuki" method to start your mains, then the Parnell Block, or other such device, is a must to move the contact point of the clamp on the string further away which means that the clamped piece of string isn't also being pulled against the edges of the grommets.

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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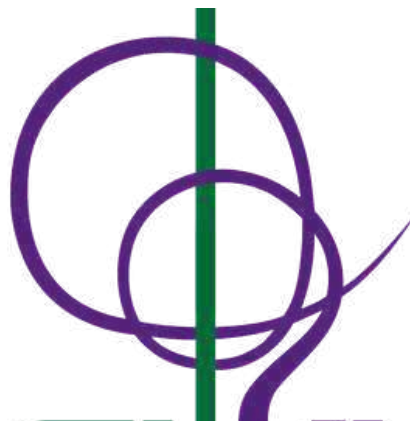
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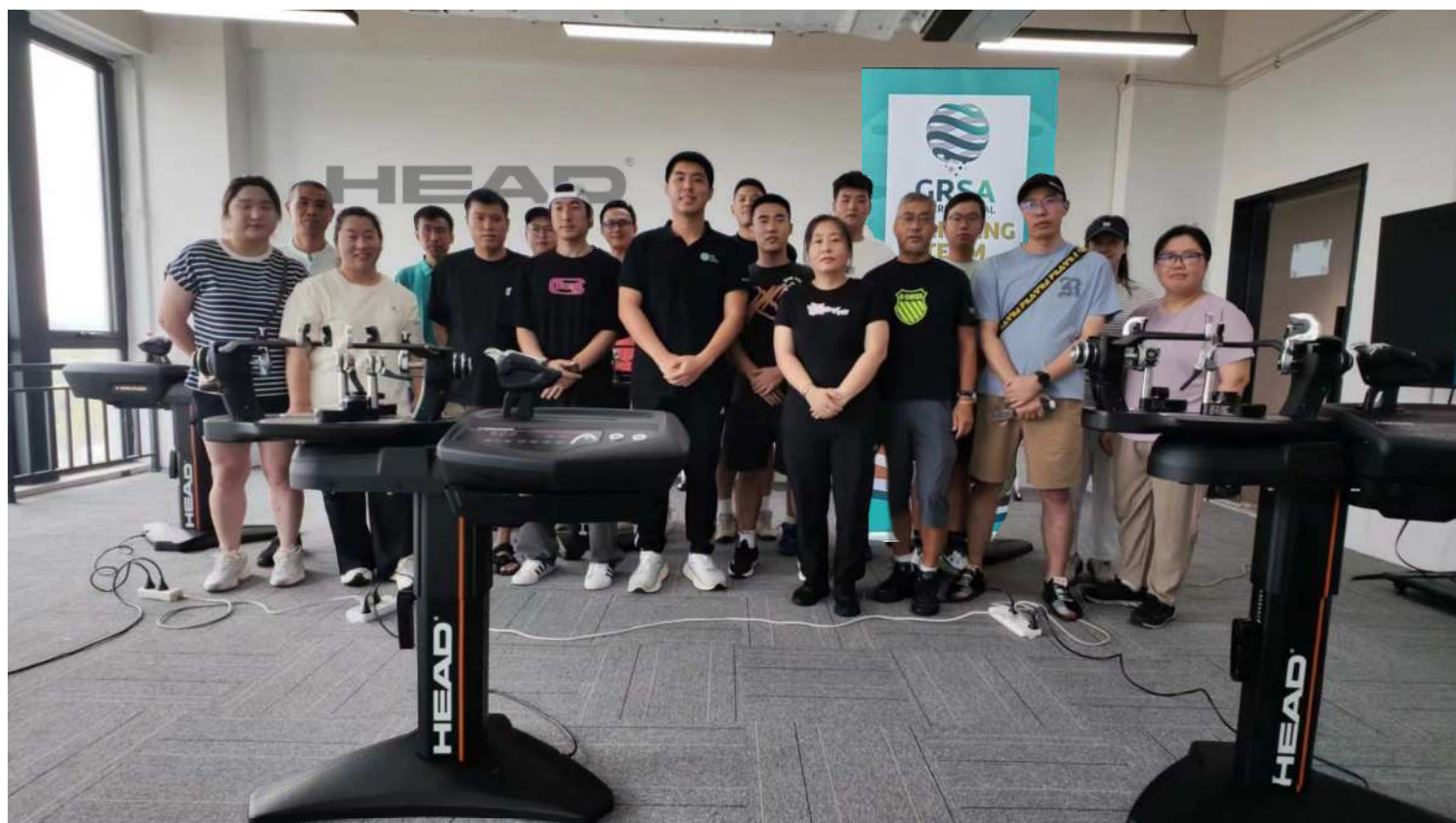
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HEAD[®] CHINA GRSA WORKSHOP

August is a holiday month for a lot of people, but not for HEAD or GRSA, the first of a series of workshops all over China took place in Nanjing mid August, a great turnout and a very dedicated group of budding stringers were keen to get to work learning new techniques, how to improve their knowledge and take another step towards becoming a better stringer. The interest in moving on to tournament stringing was also very impressive, some people are happy knowing they can get to one particular level and stay there as it's all they need. Then there are those who want to get to the highest level, and to do so, the GRSA certifications levels and workshops are definitely one of the best ways to go.



正值八月暑期中旬，HEAD和GRSA在南京开办了第一场Pro Stringer培训与认证课程，在本次培训课程中学员们一方面提升了球拍装备的相关知识，另一方面使他们的穿线水平大大提升，与此同时参与课程的学员们更是对赛事穿线服务有了极大的兴趣。无论你是业余爱好者还是想登上职业赛场想成为职业穿线师，GRSA会帮你一步一个脚印的走向高峰。GRSA的培训课程和认证考试将成为你梦想的开始。

Nanjing



GRSA conducted its inaugural Pro Stringer certification course in China. It was held in collaboration with HEAD China in Nanjing for their dealers on August 13 & 14.

The workshop was given by our Asia Chief Instructor, Kenneth Leong from Singapore.

Topics covered during the workshop included best stringing practices and techniques, grip enlargement and gripping, changing of bumper grommets, a written examination as well as a practical examination. In addition, to cater to the needs of the participants in Nanjing, basic racket customisation, stenciling and insights to retails operations were also covered.

**We are proud to present
the following Certified
Pro Stringers from the
Nanjing workshop.**

GRSA 成功在中国举办了首站的Pro Stringer培训与认证课程。在8月13和14日在南京与中国海德公司替它们的经销商办了第一场。特别感谢南京奥尼斯公司鼎力支持和协助。

这站的培训是由GRSA亚洲首席讲师，Ken 老师主导。培训课程主要对于以下几个部分进行深入的解说和实际操作。穿线最佳流程和技术，扩拍柄和缠底胶和吸汗带，拆除和更换护线管，基本球拍改装，笔试和上机穿线。

我们一共考核了16位新的Pro Stringer，也代表GRSA首次成功进军中国的网球事业。我们见到一群非常渴望学习和追求进步的学员们也非常享受和珍惜这次能与广大的网球爱好者分享我们的经验和对球拍服务的心得与热诚。

颜兆伟
陶红
婁丽
陈源泽
沈威
黄旺权
张誉
侯胜军
彭进
胡明明
孙志伟
郭磊
王永亮
胡杰
李晶晶
蒋玉丹

上海百德铭腾
南京奥尼斯
南京奥尼斯
上海荣广
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NOVEMBER 2024
Mijas, Málaga (Spain)

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Knowledge is power
excellence through education

GRSA is all about Stringer excellence and education, our goal globally, is to maximize the potential of as many stringers as we can and the 1st Annual stringer's conference that takes place between the 15th and the 17th of November 2024, is designed to play a large part in this.

The GRSA conference is going to offer something for everyone, as the courses are designed for all levels of expertise and experience

Have you ever thought:

"Racket stringing looks like fun and a way to save some money at the same time".

Why not join the beginner's stringing course, given by GRSA Grand Master, Richard Parnell, and learn a new craft the right way from the start? You couldn't have a better or more experienced teacher! Add a new string to your bow.

Included in this 1 day beginner's course is an introduction to strings, basic technique to string a racket from A to Z, tools needed and types of machines available.

Already know how to string, but are looking to improve and reach the next level? Take our advanced techniques course given by GRSA Grand Master Richard Parnell, with the help of GRSA Tour Master Martin Mann. This course, as part of and in conjunction with the GRSA International Stringer course will prepare all levels for what is needed to work at a Tour event.

Included and covered in this course, is advanced techniques to increase speed and to maintain a constant DT. The course also covers the quality needed to be part of the GRSA team and by showing what you can do, who knows, you might have what it takes.

Ever wanted to know more about racket customising?

This course, given by Master customiser Martin Mann, will help you with the approach and hands-on part. Included in this course is how to approach customising, how to prioritise certain parameters & how to achieve goals for a player's needs. Lead placement and its positive and negative effects on play, gripping and grip modifications and so much more.

Considered becoming certified and investing in yourself and your craft?

By joining us at the GRSA conference, certification will be available to you, meaning that gaining a global recognition of your stringing level is but a step away.

While at the conference enjoy a pre-conference cocktail get-together and also sit down with your peers for a gala dinner that will be all about networking, making new friends, putting faces to names and spending an evening with like-minded stringers.

The gala dinner will also feature a raffle and an auction with all proceeds being destined for the GRSA charitable association, GRSA-No strings Attached. The first project underway is to help train some new stringers in Pokhara, Nepal through a project that is looking to provide machines, training and everything needed to give them a chance in life through making stringing their profession. Enjoy a Gala evening and give back to the industry we love.

Were you ever given the opportunity to discover the beauty of Andalusia?

Granada, Seville and Cordoba are but a short train ride or drive away. Jerez, the Sherry centre of the world and home to the amazing horse shows is a short drive away too. Gibraltar is 1 hour by car and the beautiful city of Málaga (voted best city to live) is 30 minutes away and home to, among other things, the Picasso Museum.

Why not make a holiday of it with some education and entertainment in an idyllic setting? 330 days of sun per year makes the area a nice place to visit in November.

The 2024 DC Finals are taking place in Málaga the week after the conference, so if you fancy watching some top class tennis, it is on your doorstep.

GRSA signifies excellence, let us help you be the best you can be and join us in Mijas in November.

PLEASE USE THE LINKS PROVIDED IN ORDER TO JOIN US, JUST CLICK THE IMAGES

Prices of rooms vary due to size, the discount code must be used when making the booking and will not be applied afterwards if missed.

Wyndham Grand Mijas is just 20 minutes from Málaga airport and 2 minutes walk to the beach, 15 minutes to the local town, shops, restaurants and bars.



**Signing up is easy,
just follow the
instrucions on the
signup page**



CONFERENCE TIMINGS & SCHEDULES

WEDNESDAY 13th November

BEGINNER WORKSHOP – LEARN TO STRING (BEFORE THE CONFERENCE)

***additional cost to the conference for this workshop.**

THURSDAY 14th November

BEGINNER WORKSHOP – LEARN TO STRING (BEFORE THE CONFERENCE)

***additional cost to the conference for this workshop.**

FRIDAY 15th November

09:00 – 12:00 BADMINTON AND/OR SQUASH

14:00 – 18:00 SQUASH AND/OR BADMINTON

19:00 – COCKTAIL & MEET & GREET – (dress code: smart casual)

SATURDAY 16th November

09:00 – 10:00 – PRESENTATION

10:00 – 11:00 – PRESENTATION

11:00 – 12:00 – PRESENTATION

12:00 – 14:00 – LUNCH BREAK

14:00 – 18:00 – CUSTOMISING WORKSHOP, GRSA STRINGING TEAM WORKSHOP + ADVANCED STRINGING

19:00 – 24:00 – GALA DINNER – INCLUDING CHARITY AUCTION & RAFFLE

SUNDAY 17th November

09:00 – 10:00 – PRESENTATION

10:00 – 11:00 – PRESENTATION

11:00 – 12:00 – PRESENTATION

12:00 – 14:00 – LUNCH BREAK

14:00 – 16:00 – WORKSHOP – TO BE DEFINED

16:00 – 17:00 – WRAP UP MEETING

17:00 – OPTIONAL CERTIFICATION TESTING

****All times are subject change, updates will be sent to all registered members in the coming weeks, any significant changes will also be announced if/when they occur.**

DISCOUNT CODE FOR ACCOMODATION: 9900190743

GRSA Workshop Beijing - China

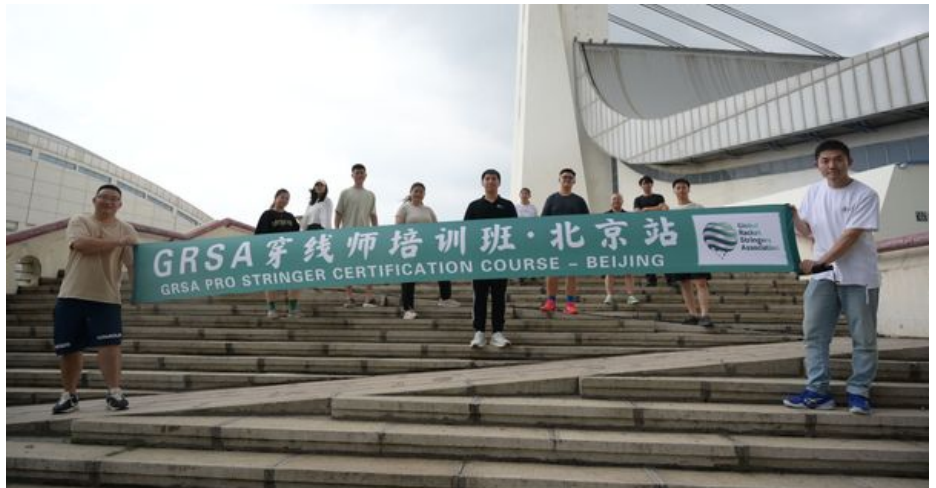


GRSA also carried out their own first workshop, in China for the Pro Stringer certification in Beijing on August 17 & 18.

The workshop was given by our Asia Chief Instructor, Kenneth Leong from Singapore, assisted by our china liaison and Certified Pro Master Stringer, Ren Jia Chen. Topics covered during the workshop included best stringing practices and techniques, grip enlargement and gripping, changing of bumper grommets, a written examination as well as a practical examination.

We are proud to present
the following Certified
Pro Stringers from the
Beijing workshop.

杜静
段庆九
杨秋宇
王骁
刘志禄
赵瀚翔
赵健
王剑飞
磨颖心
王迪
雷通





GRSA 还于 8 月 17 日至 18 日在北京举办了他们在中国的首次 Pro Stringer 认证研讨会。

这站的培训是由GRSA亚洲首席讲师，Ken 老师和GRSA中国顾问，也是GRSA Pro Master Stringer, 任家琛主导。培训课程主要对于以下几个部分进行深入的解说和实际操作。穿线最佳流程和技术，扩拍柄和缠底胶和吸汗带，拆除和更换护线管，基本球拍改装，笔试和上机穿线

我们一共考核了11位新的Pro Stringer，也代表GRSA首次成功进军中国的网球事业。我们见到一群非常渴望学习和追求进步的学员们也非常享受和珍惜这次能与广大的网球爱好者分享我们的经验和对球拍服务的心得与热诚。



Follow GRSA on social media, WeChat and our website to know when you can take part in the next workshops.

请在各社交媒体平台关注GRSA的动态。你也可以游览我们的网站查询最新的培训课程。



NICK SHARES INSIGHT INTO THE FIN IQ300

In 1989, Martine Le Moignan won the World Open Squash Championships. She was sponsored by Fin, a racket brand from Australia.

Although they had some wooden rackets, one of their models was very well known at the time when manufacturers started to use more modern materials to replace wood.

This month I will take a look at the FIN IQ300 Squash Racket. At the same time, there was also a Tennis Racket of the same name.

It said on one side of the shaft:-

“This is the greatest breakthrough and finest achievement in racquet technology with patents pending throughout the World. The vibration and board-like feeling is almost completely eliminated by our VFS system. This racket will also absorb more shock than any other squash racket, therefore only a direct hit or gross misuse will fracture this frame”

On the other side, it says:-

“Another tailor made performance racquet by Fin Sports International Pty Ltd Australia”

The “breakthrough” that they were referring to amounted to two things:-

- A break in the centre of the bridge that contained a vibration control system (VFS).
- A split, two-piece shaft that worked with the VFS insert, to reduce the shock and add strength to the frame.



Nick's Nugget

Don't be lazy! Always adjust both towers, to make sure that a racket is in the middle of a turntable.

What's very interesting, to me, is that also marked on the racket is "over size". However, it may have been marginally bigger than rackets that had been around before it, but compared to all the rackets that have been around for the last 25 years, it's small!

Another interesting facet of this racket, is that it was sold with green string. Coloured string was only just starting to be marketed about this time.

The Fin rackets were popular at the time, but the rackets are no longer sold.

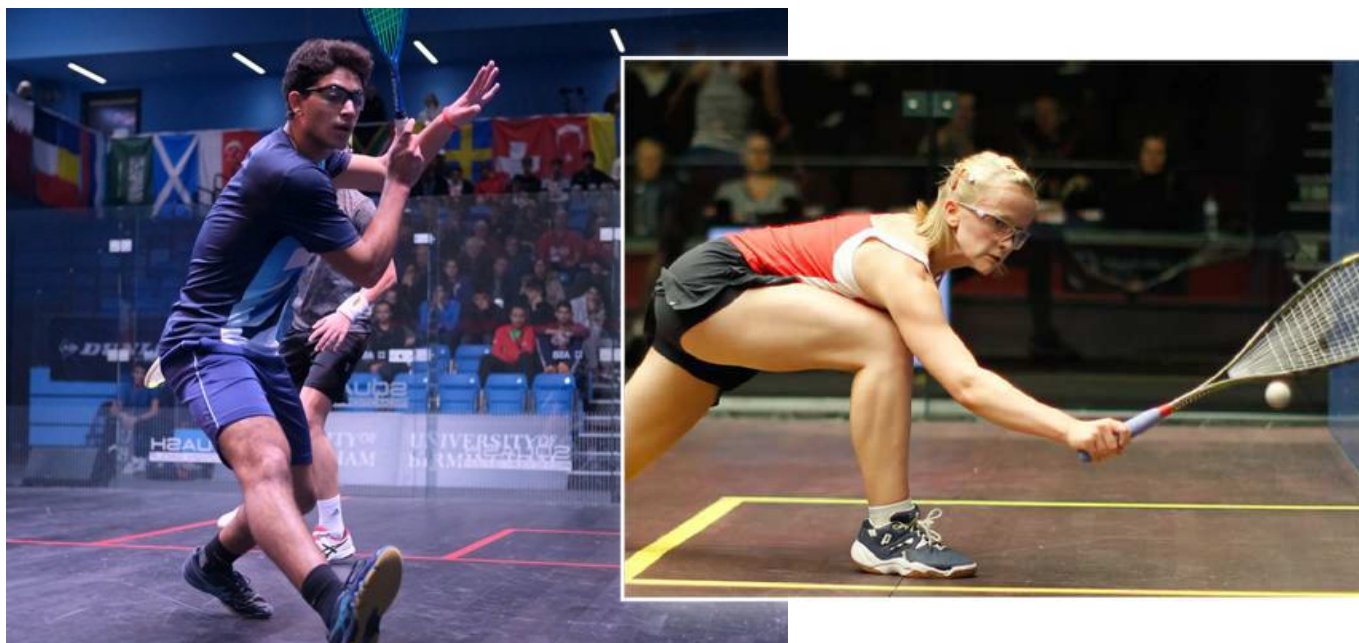
There are no stringing instructions here, because, there are no more rackets. The only ones around are likely to be in the hands of collectors.



SQUASH

NEWS

Egypt's Yahya Elnawasany and Wales' Emily Whitlock have been named the top seeds for the NASH Cup 2024 – NASH Family Wealth Management, set to take place in London, Canada, at the London Squash and Fitness Club.



The NASH Cup 2024 will be the inaugural Copper-tier event on the PSA Squash Tour, offering a prize pool exceeding \$50,000 across both the men's and women's draws.

Leading the men's competition is World No.39 Elnawasany, a five-time PSA Tour champion, with England's Curtis Malik positioned as the No.2 seed. Elnawasany, after receiving an initial round bye, will begin his campaign against either England's Tom Walsh or local wildcard Brett Schille. Malik, the event's 2022 runner-up, is set to face either Egypt's Moustafa Elsirry or New Zealand's Lwamba Chileshe in his opening match.

Canada will have strong representation in the men's draw with Brett Schille joined by Salah ElTorgaman and defending champion David Baillargeon. Baillargeon, Canada's top-ranked player, claimed victory over Faraz Khan to secure the title last year and will start his title defense against either England's Ben Smith or ElTorgman.

Further down the seedings, World Junior Champion Mohamad Zakaria is one to watch, especially given his impressive breakthrough season. The 17-year-old Egyptian, who captured six titles in his debut PSA Tour season, holds the No.8 seed and could face Elnawasany in the quarter-finals if both advance through their early matches.

In other sections of the draw, Hong Kong's Leung Chi Hin Henry, seeded No.4, and USA's Shahjahan Khan, seeded No.5, have been placed in the same quarter, while Mexico's Cesar Salazar and Japan's Ryunosuke Tsukue are the No.6 and No.7 seeds, respectively.

On the women's side, Welsh No.2 Emily Whitlock aims to secure her first PSA title since early 2023 and the 20th of her career. The top seed will begin her run against either Egypt's Rana Ismail or Australia's Alex Haydon and shares her quarter of the draw with England's Grace Gear.

2022 runner-up and Scotland's top player, Georgia Adderley, enters as the No.2 seed, while England's Katie Malliff is seeded No.3. For Adderley to surpass her previous performance, she is expected to navigate a draw that includes Egypt's Nour Heikal and Canada's Nicole Bunyan.

World No.49 Bunyan, one of three Canadians in the women's draw, along with Iman Shaheen and Amal Izhar, who both received wildcard entries, is seeded No.6 and will open her campaign against either Scotland's Alison Thomson or England's Saran Ngheim.

After a narrow loss in the 2023 final, Egypt's Salma Eltayeb returns to the NASH Cup as the No.4 seed and may face rising stars if the seeding holds. Following a first-round bye, the 20-year-old could potentially meet USA's Caroline Fouts and then England's No.8 seed Torrie Malik in the quarter-finals.



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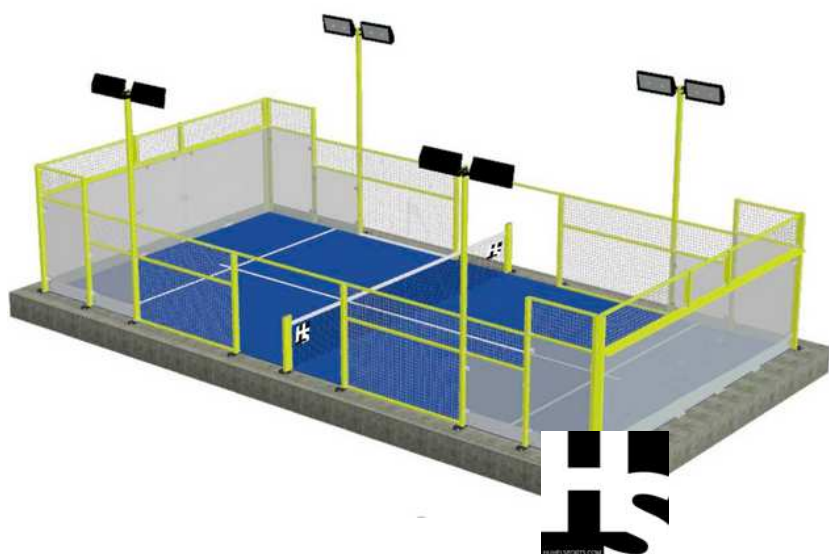
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We can have immediate availability for basic colours and 20 days for custom colours (longer transport time).

We can customize the courts to the customer's needs. We have ongoing stock and we are aluminum manufacturers with more than 50 years of experience.

In addition, all our courts are certified by the EU as well as all its components.



2024 Event Calendar

September



Madrid Premier Padel P1: 31 August - 8 September

Rotterdam Premier Padel P1: 7 - 15 September

Valladolid Premier Padel P2: 14 - 22 September

October



Paris Major Premier Padel: 28 September - 6 October

Sweden Premier Padel P2: 5 - 13 October

Newgiza Premier Padel P2: 19 - 27 October

November



Dubai Premier Padel P1: 3 - 10 November

Kuwait City Premier Padel P1: 9 - 17 November

Mexico Major Premier Padel: 23 November - 1 December

December



Milano Premier Padel P1: 30 November - 8 December

Premier Padel Finals: 19 - 22 December

STRENGTHENING TIES



FIP President Luigi Carraro Meets with FIFA's Gianni Infantino

In a significant move to elevate padel on the global stage, Luigi Carraro, president of the International Padel Federation (FIP), recently met with FIFA president Gianni Infantino during the Olympic Games. The purpose of their meeting was to bolster their collaboration and to continue forging strategic alliances aimed at making padel an Olympic sport.

Carraro took to social media to share a moment from the meeting, posting a photo featuring Nasser Al-Khelaïfi, the owner of Premier Padel. Carraro expressed his pleasure in visiting FIFA's offices in Paris, highlighting the productive discussions between the three leaders. They reportedly discussed their shared passion for sports and outlined the next steps to drive global growth and development for padel.

The ultimate goal for the FIP remains clear: to secure padel's inclusion in the Olympic Games. Carraro has been actively working towards this, including a notable meeting with Thomas Bach, president of the International Olympic Committee.

While achieving this goal for Los Angeles 2028 remains a challenge, the campaign for Brisbane 2032 is gathering serious momentum. The dream of seeing padel on the Olympic stage is very much alive, with these high-level meetings signaling a strong commitment to making it a reality.

Premier Padel Shakes Up: Exciting New Pairings After Recent Separations

The world of Premier Padel is buzzing with anticipation as several top players have formed new partnerships following a wave of recent separations. Just weeks ago, the news broke that some of the most promising pairs in the sport were splitting, leading to fresh and intriguing combinations ahead of the upcoming Madrid competition in September.

The breakups included the talented duo of Tino Libaak and Leandro Augsburger, the well-established team of Lucas Bergamini and Victor Ruiz, as well as the pairs Alex Chozas and Eduardo Alonso, and Javier Rico and Juanlu Esbri. These separations have set the stage for a new chapter in their careers, with all of these players now committed to new partnerships.

One of the first to reveal his new teammate was Eduardo Alonso, who announced that he would be pairing up with Momo Gonzalez. This partnership has already hit the ground running, having competed together in two tournaments so far.

As the dust settles, more exciting new pairs have been confirmed:

- Tino Libaak has joined forces with Victor Ruiz.
- Juanlu Esbri will now team up with Lucas Bergamini.
- Alex Chozas is set to compete alongside Leandro Augsburger.
- Javier Rico has partnered with Rafael Mendez.

These new alliances promise to bring fresh dynamics and thrilling matches to the court, as each pair looks to find their rhythm and make a mark in the upcoming competitions. The Premier Padel tournament in Madrid is shaping up to be an exciting showcase of these newly formed teams, with fans eager to see how these players will perform in their new partnerships.



THE GRSA INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT EXPERIENCE



This could be your opportunity!

The tournament experience is an initiative **GRSA** really believes in, it's designed for stringers looking to gain more experience, more knowledge and be part of the wonderful world of tournament stringing.

We're already looking at dates for this year and will announce them soon, but this is your chance to let us know if you're interested.

**CONTACT US FOR
MORE INFORMATION**

DO YOU BELIEVE
YOU HAVE THE
ABILITY TO PASS
THE TOUR
CERTIFICATION?



THIS IS FOR ANYONE WHO IS:
**GRSA CERTIFIED
COMPETITION MASTER**

**MORE EVENTS
WILL BE COMING
SOON!**

If you're looking for a Pickleball event to either go and see, or take part in, here are just a few of the upcoming events, use the link to see more and who knows, you might just get involved and win!

HUAHIN PICKLEBALL OPEN IN MEMORY OF BRENNAN BLEDNICK**EID:** 1636 **PRICE:** 650 Baht**Organizer:** Christian Wind**EVENT - TOURNAMENT****Starting:** November 08, 2024 to November 10, 2024**City:** Huahin, Hua Hin District, Prachuap Khiri Khan, Thailand**Tournament Venue:** Arena Hua Hin**Registration Deadline:** October 31, 2024 (OPEN)**Tier Level:** 2**2nd Namur International Pickleball Open****EID:** 1513 **PRICE** EUR 30**Organizer:** Pickleball Namur**EVENT - TOURNAMENT****Starting:** October 25, 2024 to October 27, 2024**City:** Namur, Belgique**Tournament Venue:** Pickleball Namur**Registration Deadline:** October 18, 2024 (OPEN)**Tier Level:** 2**Colosseum Pickleball Championship****EID:** 1464 **PRICE** EUR 35**Organizer:** Angelo Diario**EVENT - TOURNAMENT****Starting:** October 11, 2024 to October 13, 2024**City:** Rome, Metropolitan City of Rome, Italy**Tournament Venue:** Miami Pickleball**Registration Deadline:** October 05, 2024 (OPEN)**Tier Level:** 1**MORE
INFO**

A Final Look at The Picklr Utah Open

The Salt Palace was buzzing at the end of August as fans were treated to a thrilling showcase of pickleball at The Picklr Utah Open. The competition was fierce, with many matches going the distance and leaving the crowd on the edge of their seats. While some players shone brightly, others had performances they'd rather forget. Let's break down the highlights and low points from this remarkable event.

Anna Bright: Better GM or Player?

Anna Bright has long been recognized as a top-tier player, but her talent as a player evaluator might be just as impressive. Last year, she chose Rachel Rohrabacher as her MLP teammate, and this year, she picked the relatively unknown Kate Fahey. Both decisions paid off in a big way. Rohrabacher teamed up with Bright to capture the women's doubles title, while Fahey clinched her first gold medal in women's singles. With two incredible selections under her belt, the question now is, who will be Bright's next surprise pick?



Fede Can Beat Them All (Almost)!

Federico Staksrud once again proved his dominance in men's singles, cruising to a gold medal without dropping a single game. His performance culminated in a commanding 11-2, 11-4 victory over #2 seed Connor Garnett in the final. But the debate over who's truly #1 continues to swirl, as Ben Johns was notably absent from the draw. Until Staksrud takes down Johns in a PPA final, the conversation about the best in the world remains open.

Andre the Giant Returns!

Andrei Daescu, after returning from suspension, hadn't quite been playing at his usual high standard. Seeded just #8 in men's doubles alongside Gabe Tardio, the duo stunned the field by taking down James Ignatowich and Matt Wright in straight games in the final. This victory raises an intriguing question: where do Daescu and Tardio rank among the top men's doubles teams?

Who's the Best Men's Doubles Team Right Now?

Daescu and Tardio's victory adds another layer of intrigue to the men's doubles landscape. JW Johnson and Dylan Frazier faced another tough week, bowing out in the quarterfinals, while Ben and Collin Johns have struggled to meet expectations. Meanwhile, Christian Alshon and Quang Duong grabbed their first gold at the Bristol Open. With so many contenders in the mix, determining the top men's doubles team is anyone's guess—a storyline that promises to captivate fans through the PPA Championships at the end of the year.



New Faces in the Top 10?

The Utah Open also highlighted emerging talent on both the women's and men's sides. Kate Fahey's gold in women's singles and Mari Humberg's standout performance, alongside Jorja Johnson for a silver in women's doubles, have put them firmly on the radar. Humberg also teamed up with Pablo Tellez to secure a fourth-place finish in mixed doubles. On the men's side, Gabe Tardio not only took home the men's doubles gold with Daescu but also claimed a mixed doubles gold with Jessie Irvine in a nail-biter against Bright and Ignatowich. The big question now: are Humberg and Tardio knocking on the door of the Top 10? Based on their recent performances, it sure seems that way.

Some Top Players Are Struggling

Not all the big names had a week to remember. Jack Sock continued to struggle, with early exits across all three events he entered. Riley Newman didn't fare much better, seeing his tournament runs cut short with two round-of-16 finishes. With younger talent on the rise, the pressure is on for these seasoned pros to prove they can still hang with the best.

As the PPA Tour rolls on, the next stop is the Las Vegas Pickleball Cup at The Fontainebleau resort. With another exciting venue and large crowds expected, it's shaping up to be another can't-miss event.

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HEAD

Malaysian Triumphs at Paris 2024 Olympics: Lee Zii Jia and Men's Doubles Team Secure Bronze

The Paris 2024 Olympic Games proved to be a significant milestone for Malaysian badminton, as the nation celebrated two remarkable bronze medal victories. Lee Zii Jia, who was up against India's Lakshya Sen in the men's singles, and the men's doubles team of Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yik, both showcased incredible resilience and determination to secure their spots on the podium.

Lee Zii Jia's Comeback Victory

In the men's singles, Lee Zii Jia faced a formidable challenge against Lakshya Sen. After losing the first game 13-21, the Malaysian star found himself in a precarious position, trailing 8-3 in the second game. However, Lee's determination and composure allowed him to stage a remarkable comeback. With the pressure of an Olympic medal on the line, he rallied to win the second game 21-16, and dominated the third 21-11, securing his first Olympic medal.



Reflecting on his journey, Lee admitted that his semi-final loss to Thailand's Kunlavut Vitidsarn had left him disheartened, making him question his desire for the bronze medal. Yet, as the match progressed, he realised the importance of the moment and dug deep to ensure victory. Lee's performance marked him as only the third Malaysian male singles player to win an Olympic medal, following in the footsteps of Rashid Sidek and Lee Chong Wei. Despite the enormity of his achievement, Lee remained composed, attributing his subdued celebration to his growth and maturity as a player.

"I didn't feel like celebrating because I know how far I've come and what I've been through. Somehow, I think I deserved it," Lee reflected after his win.

A Nail-Biting Win for Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yik

In the men's doubles event, Malaysia's Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yik delivered a heart-stopping performance that had fans on the edge of their seats. Facing the world number two pair, Kim Astrup and Anders Skaarup Rasmussen from Denmark, the Malaysians came from behind to clinch the bronze medal. After losing the first game 16-21, they fought back with relentless energy, winning the second game 22-20 and the deciding game 21-19.



The victory was not just a testament to their skill but also their indomitable spirit. Social media erupted with praise from Malaysians, who expressed pride in their team's fighting spirit. Many fans took to platforms like Facebook and Instagram to share their excitement and relief, with some jokingly mentioning the need for a new heart after such an intense match. Aaron and Soh's victory also held special significance as they successfully defended the bronze medal they had won at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics, reinforcing their status as key players in the world of badminton.

One Facebook user aptly summed up the nation's sentiments: "Despite it being a bronze medal, it felt like gold."

The Journey Ahead

As Malaysia reflects on these achievements at the Paris 2024 Olympics, the successes of Lee Zii Jia and the men's doubles team highlight the nation's growing prominence in the global badminton arena. Their performances not only brought pride to their country but also underscored the perseverance and skill that have become synonymous with Malaysian badminton.

Looking forward, these victories will undoubtedly inspire the next generation of athletes, as Malaysia continues to strive for greater heights in future competitions.

A different take on the last paragraph: As the nation looks ahead, the accomplishments of Lee Zii Jia and the men's doubles team serve as a beacon of hope and inspiration, paving the way for future success in the world of badminton. Their achievements at Paris 2024 will long be remembered as a testament to the strength and determination of Malaysian athletes.

He Bing Jiao Retires from International Badminton After Illustrious Career

Olympic silver medallist He Bing Jiao, one of China's most prominent badminton players, has announced her retirement from international competition. The 26-year-old left-hander, known for her agility and tenacity on the court, will continue to compete in domestic tournaments, but her departure from the international stage marks the end of a significant chapter in badminton history.

A Promising Start

He Bing Jiao first emerged as a rising star in 2014, making a name for herself on the junior circuit. She announced her arrival on the global scene with a runner-up finish to Japan's Akane Yamaguchi at the BWF World Junior Championships. Later that year, she avenged that loss at the Youth Olympic Games in Nanjing, defeating Yamaguchi in the final to capture the gold medal on home soil. This victory signaled the arrival of a new force in women's badminton.

Rise to Prominence

In the years following the Rio 2016 Olympics, He Bing Jiao stepped into the spotlight as some of China's legendary players like Wang Yihan, Wang Shixian, and Li Xuerui began to retire or fade from the scene. Alongside her compatriot Chen Yu Fei, she led a new generation of Chinese shuttlers aiming to maintain the nation's dominance in the sport.

One of He Bing Jiao's earliest significant victories came in 2016, when she triumphed at the Japan Open, defeating her compatriot Sun Yu. She followed this up with another major title at the French Open, where she overcame the experienced Beiwen Zhang. These wins established her as a formidable competitor on the international circuit.

Successes on the World Tour

He Bing Jiao's career on the HSBC BWF World Tour was marked by several notable victories. In 2022, she claimed two of her most prestigious titles: the Denmark Open and the French Open. At the Denmark Open, she defeated Chen Yu Fei, and at the French Open, she outplayed the Spanish star Carolina Marin, showcasing her ability to perform at the highest level against the very best in the world.





Contributions to Team China

Beyond her individual accomplishments, He Bing Jiao played a crucial role in China's team successes. She was a key member of the Chinese squads that won the Sudirman Cup and Uber Cup, reaffirming China's dominance in team events. Her performances in these tournaments were instrumental in securing victories for her nation, further cementing her status as a key player in Chinese badminton.

Olympic Glory and Heartfelt Tribute

The pinnacle of He Bing Jiao's career came at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. In a thrilling campaign, she reached the women's singles final, where she faced off against top seed An Se Young of South Korea. Although He Bing Jiao fell just short, her silver medal was the biggest achievement of her career, marking her as one of the top players in the world.

Her performance at Paris 2024 was memorable not only for her on-court prowess but also for her sportsmanship. After her semifinal opponent, Carolina Marin, was forced to retire due to injury, He Bing Jiao paid tribute to the Spanish star by holding a Spanish pin on the podium—a gesture that won her admiration from fans worldwide.

A Lasting Legacy

He Bing Jiao's retirement from international competition leaves a void in the world of badminton, but her legacy is secure. With two World Championship bronze medals (2018 and 2021) and numerous titles on the World Tour, she has firmly established herself as one of the sport's greats. Her journey from a promising junior to an Olympic silver medallist is a testament to her hard work, resilience, and passion for badminton.

As He Bing Jiao transitions to playing only domestic tournaments, fans and fellow players will remember her for her contributions to both individual and team successes, as well as her exemplary sportsmanship. Her career will inspire future generations of badminton players in China and beyond, ensuring that her impact on the sport endures long after she has left the international stage.



QUESTIONS ANSWERED

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A - When a stringer shows a GRSA certification, this is a clear sign that they have received the best training currently available and will provide a professionally balanced service.

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