

GRSA INTERNATIONAL ATW MAGAZINE

MARCH - 2025

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INDIAN WELLS - 2025

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Serena Williams Joins Ownership Group of Toronto Tempo WNBA Team

Serena Williams is making her mark on women’s basketball. The 23-time Grand Slam champion and global sports icon is officially joining the ownership group of the WNBA’s newest franchise, the Toronto Tempo.

The team, set to debut in 2026, announced Williams' involvement Monday, adding yet another high-profile name to its leadership. Businessman Larry Tanenbaum, whose Kilmer Sports Ventures owns the club, called Williams an "icon, a role model, and a force for change in the world."

"Serena is a champion," said Tempo president Teresa Resch. "She's the greatest athlete of all time, and her impact on this team and this country is going to be incredible. She's set the bar for women in sport, business, and the world—and her commitment to using that success to create opportunities for other women is inspiring."

For Williams, this move is more than just an investment.

"This moment is not just about basketball; it is about showcasing the true value and potential of female athletes," Williams said. "I have always said that women's sports are an incredible investment opportunity. I am excited to partner with Larry and all of Canada in creating this new WNBA franchise and legacy."



Williams, who already holds stakes in the NFL’s Miami Dolphins and NWSL’s Angel City FC, hinted last year that adding a WNBA team to her portfolio was something she was open to, calling women’s sports “a safe bet.”

In a Q&A shared on the Tempo’s Instagram, she reflected on her passion for competition and the chance to give back.

"I love sports, and I'm so grateful for everything I gained from competing on the court, day in and day out," Williams said. "I'm thrilled to be able to play a role in creating those opportunities for more women."

Rafael Nadal Cashes In: Sells Part of Tennis Academy Stake for \$94 Million

Rafael Nadal's off-court empire continues to expand, and now the 22-time Grand Slam champion is set for a major payday. Reports have emerged that Nadal has sold nearly half of his stake in the Rafa Nadal Academy for close to €95 million (\$94 million USD) to private investment firm GPF Capital.

Founded in 2016 in his hometown of Manacor, the academy was Nadal's way of "giving something back" to the sport, helping shape the next generation of champions. Since its inception, the facility has grown into one of Spain's premier sports institutions, attracting elite players—including Venus Williams and Casper Ruud—as well as rising young talents looking for a world-class training ground.

Beyond its reputation as a tennis powerhouse, the academy has expanded its footprint, adding a hotel that has drawn international visitors to Mallorca. However, the project hasn't been without controversy, with the hotel's approval requiring amendments to Balearic housing laws. During peak seasons, hotel stays have reportedly reached €500 a night, further cementing the academy's role as a luxury sports destination.

"We had a very interesting conversation about a word that I think is very important: legacy," Nadal said at a recent Academy graduation ceremony, recalling a discussion with fellow tennis great Roger Federer. "How would we like to be remembered in a few years? How do we want the future generations to think of us?"

Nadal's reach extends far beyond Mallorca—his academy brand also operates facilities in Cancun, Kuwait, and Greece, managed by Aspemirm, a company led by his mother, Ana Maria.

GPF Capital's Growing Stake

GPF Capital, a Madrid-based firm with over €600 million in assets under management, first invested in the academy in November 2023. Now, with a 44.9% stake, the firm is poised to help drive further international expansion.

"GPF is firmly committed to investing in education and sports as fundamental pillars of society, and no project brings them together better than the Rafa Nadal Academy," said Martin Rodriguez-Fraile, founding partner of GPF. "We will work to accelerate the international expansion of the group."

The deal comes just months after severe flash floods and extreme weather in Valencia and the Balearic Islands caused extensive damage to the Mallorca academy, requiring millions in repairs.

Boasting 40 indoor and outdoor clay and hard courts, swimming pools, padel courts, a football pitch, an international school, and a high-end hotel, the Rafa Nadal Academy has become a landmark in the world of tennis. And with this latest move, Nadal is ensuring its legacy—and his investment—continues to grow.

WTA Foundation backs UNICEF

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. – Ahead of International Women’s Day, the WTA Foundation’s Global Women’s Health Fund announced a new partnership with UNICEF to help close the women’s health gap by improving health and nutrition resources for women and children worldwide. Calling on tennis fans to join the rally, tennis icon Maria Sharapova voiced her support for the mission, which aims to empower mothers and children to reach their full potential.

Earlier in the month, the WTA Foundation’s Global Women’s Health Fund reached its fundraising target to support 1 million women. Building on this progress, the foundation has partnered with UNICEF to provide access to life-changing prenatal vitamins, one of the most effective investments in global health which support safe pregnancies and give children a healthier start in life.



Globally, women spend 25% more of their lives in poor health than men — a challenge that is passed down through generations and worsened by poor nutrition. Prenatal vitamins can help change this, reducing the risk of stillbirth, infant mortality, and low birth weight while improving maternal health. However, nine in ten women in low and middle income countries lack access to prenatal vitamins. With a donation of less than the cost of a tennis ball, tennis fans can help provide critical nutrition support to pregnant women in vulnerable communities, covering an entire pregnancy for both mother and baby.

“I am so proud to support the WTA Foundation as it rallies the world this International Women’s Day,” said Maria Sharapova, a former WTA World No. 1. “As an athlete and a mum, I understand the powerful role that good health care and nutrition plays — especially during pregnancy in determining life outcomes.”

The WTA Foundation’s Global Women’s Health Fund was established in partnership with the Gates Foundation to address this critical issue.

“Malnutrition is a silent crisis for women and children around the world, responsible for half of child deaths and one in five maternal deaths. Prenatal vitamins are one of the most cost-effective ways to tackle this issue, and thanks to this partnership, they will now reach more women in low- and middle-income countries,” said Anita Zaidi, President of Gender Equality at the Gates Foundation. “Investing in the health of women and children is not a zero-sum game it’s an investment with ripple effects that benefit everyone.”

To amplify the impact, every dollar raised during the year-long partnership will be matched, doubling the support provided. Funds will directly support the UNICEF-led Child Nutrition Fund (CNF), which is designed to address current malnutrition challenges while also building systems to prevent them in the future.

“Worldwide, one in three pregnant mothers suffer from anemia, largely due to lack of access to good nutrition,” said Dr. Victor Aguayo, Director of Child Nutrition and Development at UNICEF. “But an anemia-free tomorrow is possible. Through the work of the UNICEF-led Child Nutrition Fund, this impressive group of partners can provide life-changing prenatal vitamins and other essential nutrition services to women in vulnerable communities, helping to ensure safer pregnancies and a better start in life for their children.”

“Access to health care and basic nutrition should be an equal right for everyone — no matter who you are or where you live,” said Naomi Osaka, four-time Grand Slam singles champion and mom. “Together we can help to change the game for women and babies around the world, rallying behind the WTA Foundation Global Women’s Health Fund, and start closing the women’s health gap today.”

For more information about Women Change the Game and the WTA Foundation’s Global Women’s Health Fund, visit their page, click the link below!

[CLICK HERE](#)

Women Change the Game

WTA FOUNDATION

GLOBAL WOMEN'S
HEALTH FUND



WTA UNVEILS BOLD NEW BRAND



RALLY THE WORLD

The WTA recently unveiled a bold new brand identity, signalling a new era shaped by players, fans, and partners worldwide. Developed by WTA Ventures, the WTA's commercial division, the rebrand is part of a strategy to drive the growth of professional women's tennis. After a year-long collaboration with branding specialists ChapterX and Nomad Studio, the new identity reflects insights from athletes, fans, and partners, aiming to increase engagement, elevate players, and drive long-term value. The result is a WTA brand that is bigger, bolder, and built for the future.

Growing the WTA's Impact Worldwide

The new brand comes at a time of strong momentum for the WTA and its global reach. Recently, onsite attendance at Hologic WTA Tour events increased by 15%, followers on WTA social channels jumped by 25%, and the cumulative global audience grew by 10% to a record 1.1 billion on television and streaming platforms.

Rally the World: Welcome to the New WTA

Off the court, WTA players rank among the world's most prominent and highest-earning female athletes. The WTA is home to 11 of the world's 20 highest-earning female athletes and set a new benchmark recently with a record \$4.8 million prize awarded to singles champion Coco Gauff at the WTA Finals Riyadh presented by PIF. This was part of an unprecedented \$221 million total prize fund for the season.

In addition to championing its athletes, the WTA continues to use its platform to create positive change beyond the sport. The WTA Foundation remains at the heart of this commitment, working to inspire the next generation and support communities worldwide through advocacy and action for women's health and empowerment.

New Identity Rolling Out

The new identity launched across all WTA platforms, including social media and wtatennis.com, and will feature on broadcast graphics starting earlier in the month. Onsite branding on the Hologic WTA Tour will continue throughout the 2025 season, starting with the BNP Paribas Open at Indian Wells.

To amplify the launch, WTA players will share their personal stories about what it means to Rally the World and take the stage with the WTA. The campaign includes 30- and 60-second spots created by Brothers & Sisters, featuring stars like Coco Gauff, Ons Jabeur, Naomi Osaka, Zheng Qinwen, and Aryna Sabalenka. With the tagline "This is not a tennis court", the ads position the court as a stage where the game's greatest players perform, becoming their most powerful, influential, and unfiltered selves.

Portia Archer, WTA CEO, stated: “The WTA has the largest global reach in women’s sport. The competitive landscape of sports and entertainment, coupled with the growing momentum in women’s sport, creates the perfect time to stand tall and take our leadership position alongside our incredible athletes and tournaments. This bold new brand provides a distinct and powerful voice to tell our stories and showcase the WTA as the global sports and entertainment brand where women’s tennis shines. We invite our fans around the world to join us as we rally the world and break even more boundaries in the years to come.”



Marina Storti, WTA Ventures CEO, added: “The WTA has been on an unbelievable journey, redefining competition and showcasing the world’s greatest athletes. As we look ahead to a new era, our mindset is all about pushing forward, finding our edge, and elevating our impact as the home of women’s tennis. Reintroducing the WTA brand has been one of our biggest priorities since the launch of WTA Ventures, and we’re energized by the opportunity to ignite excitement for the biggest stars and stages of tennis.”



Shelton Fires 150 mph Bomb, But Navone Fights Back

Ben Shelton continues to establish himself as one of the ATP Tour’s most exciting young talents, thanks largely to his blistering left-handed serve. The 22-year-old American wowed fans at the BNP Paribas Open by unleashing a 150 mph serve — the fastest of the 2025 tournament — during his second-round match against Mariano Navone.

Despite Shelton’s raw power, Navone managed to stay in the point, responding with a quick forehand chip and eventually winning the exchange. However, Shelton ultimately secured a dominant 6-3, 6-2 victory.

Fastest Serves in Tennis History

Shelton’s 150 mph rocket places him among tennis’ fastest servers, but the all-time record belongs to Sam Groth, who hit a 263.4 km/h (163.7 mph) serve at a Challenger event in 2012. John Isner holds the ATP record with a 253.0 km/h (157.2 mph) serve during the 2016 Davis Cup. On the women’s side, Georgina García Pérez holds the record at 210.8 km/h (131.0 mph). The fastest second serve was 235 km/h (146.0 mph) by Milos Raonic and Giovanni Mpetshi Perricard.



Sam Groth



John Isner



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Mirra Andreeva Shocks Sabalenka to Capture Indian Wells Title

Tennis has a new rising star, and her name is Mirra Andreeva.

The 17-year-old Russian phenom delivered a jaw-dropping performance at the BNP Paribas Open, taking down World No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka in a gripping three-set final, 2-6, 6-4, 6-3. The packed crowd at Indian Wells was left stunned as Andreeva secured the biggest win of her young career — and her second WTA 1000 title.

Taking Down the Best

Andreeva's path to the title was anything but easy. On Friday (March 14), she battled past World No. 2 Iga Swiatek in another three-set showdown, edging out the Polish star 7-6 (1), 1-6, 6-3. Back-to-back wins over the top two players in the world? That's the stuff of champions.

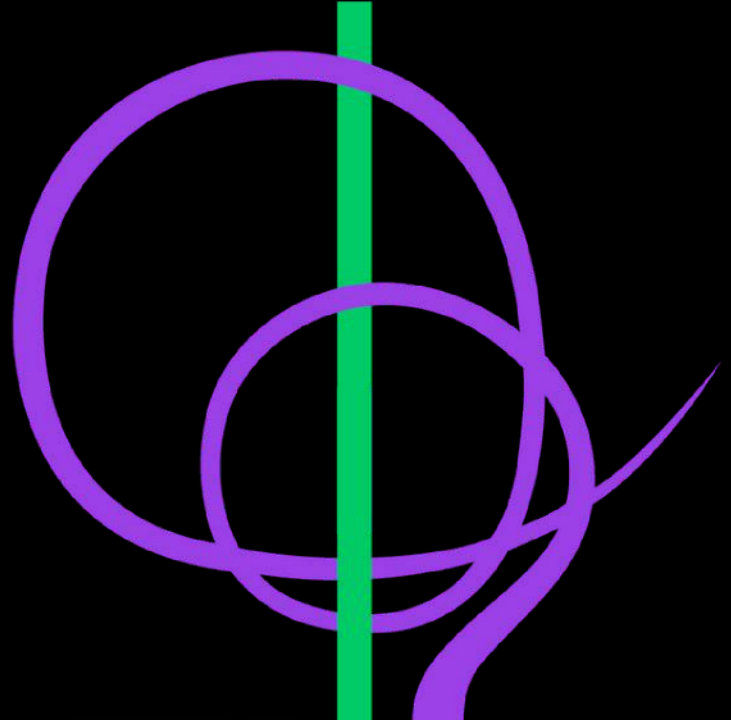
A-List Crowd in the House

The final wasn't just a win for Andreeva — it was a must-see event. Watching from the FILA VIP suite were The Bachelor star Joey Graziadei and his fiancée Kelsey Anderson, along with musician Max Schneider (MAX), model Natalia Bonifacci, and top interior designer Giampiero Tagliaferri. Celebrity stylist Karla Welch and social media personalities Jordan Huxhold and Payton King were also spotted soaking in the action.

Climbing the Rankings

With this win, Andreeva rockets up to World No. 6 in the WTA rankings, cementing her place among the game's elite. Tennis fans are already asking the big question — could this be the year she makes a serious Grand Slam run?





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Jack Draper Breaks Into Top 10 with Indian Wells Triumph

Jack Draper has silenced lingering doubts about his durability and mental toughness by claiming the biggest title of his career at Indian Wells. His victory has propelled the 23-year-old into the world's top 10 for the first time, a significant milestone that reflects his progress on and off the court.

Turning Point After Australian Open

Draper's rise comes just eight weeks after a setback at the Australian Open, where he was forced to retire from a match against Carlos Alcaraz due to a hip injury. The Briton had already shown impressive resilience by grinding through three consecutive five-set matches to reach the fourth round, but the toll on his body was clear. After the tournament, Draper acknowledged that managing his hip tendonitis would be a long-term challenge.

Instead of pushing through discomfort, Draper made strategic decisions to protect his body. He skipped the Davis Cup tie against Japan and withdrew from a tournament in Rotterdam, focusing on recovery and conditioning. That calculated break allowed him to return stronger, reaching the final in Qatar before heading to Indian Wells in peak form.

Tactical and Technical Improvements

Draper's success in the Californian desert was built on a foundation of consistent, powerful serving and sharp footwork. His left-handed serve combined pace with clever variation, keeping opponents off balance. His forehand, blending spin and aggression, became a key weapon, while his improved fitness allowed him to sustain high-intensity rallies.

James Trotman, Draper's coach since his teenage years, has been instrumental in shaping this tactical evolution. Trotman emphasized Draper's need to "impose his weapons" and take control of matches early. That approach was evident in Draper's confident shot selection and ability to dictate play under pressure.

Influence of Team Murray

A major factor behind Draper's improved fitness and mental toughness is the support from Andy Murray's former team. Physiotherapist Shane Annun and fitness coach Matt Little, who worked closely with Murray during his peak years, have brought their expertise to Draper's camp. Their influence has helped Draper develop the physical resilience required to compete at the highest level.

Draper has spoken openly about the mental grind of life on the ATP Tour, comparing it to a regular job with early starts and demanding routines. His commitment to putting in the work whether in the gym, on the practice court, or in post-match recovery has been key to his rise.



"Some days you don't want to get out of bed, but you do it anyway because you know it will pay off on the big stage," Draper said.

Poised for Grand Slam Success?

Draper's upward trajectory began last year with a title on the grass in Stuttgart, followed by an ATP 500 hard-court win in Vienna. His US Open semi-final run, though ending with a tough loss to eventual champion Jannik Sinner, signaled his readiness to challenge at the sport's highest level.

Winning Indian Wells cements Draper's status as a contender, but the next challenge will be translating that success to the Grand Slam stage. Hard courts have been his most successful surface, but Draper is determined to improve on clay and grass. His improved footwork and confidence in rallies should help him adapt to Roland Garros, while his powerful serve and aggressive baseline game are well-suited to Wimbledon's quicker surface.

"I didn't get it going on clay last year, but I don't see why I can't push the best players now," Draper said. "And on grass, I feel my game has improved massively."

Draper's journey from a promising talent to a top-10 player reflects not just his technical growth, but also his ability to make tough decisions and trust the process. If his Indian Wells triumph is any indication, a Grand Slam breakthrough may not be far away.



Fair or Too Harsh? The Debate Over Clotestebol Sanctions and Accidental Contamination

The recent doping case involving tennis world No. 1 Jannik Sinner has reignited concerns within the sports community regarding the unintentional transmission of banned substances, particularly Clotestebol, and the severity of sanctions imposed by anti-doping authorities. This incident has sparked discussions among players, coaches, and experts about the potential for accidental contamination and the need for a more nuanced approach to doping regulations.

The Sinner Case: A Closer Look

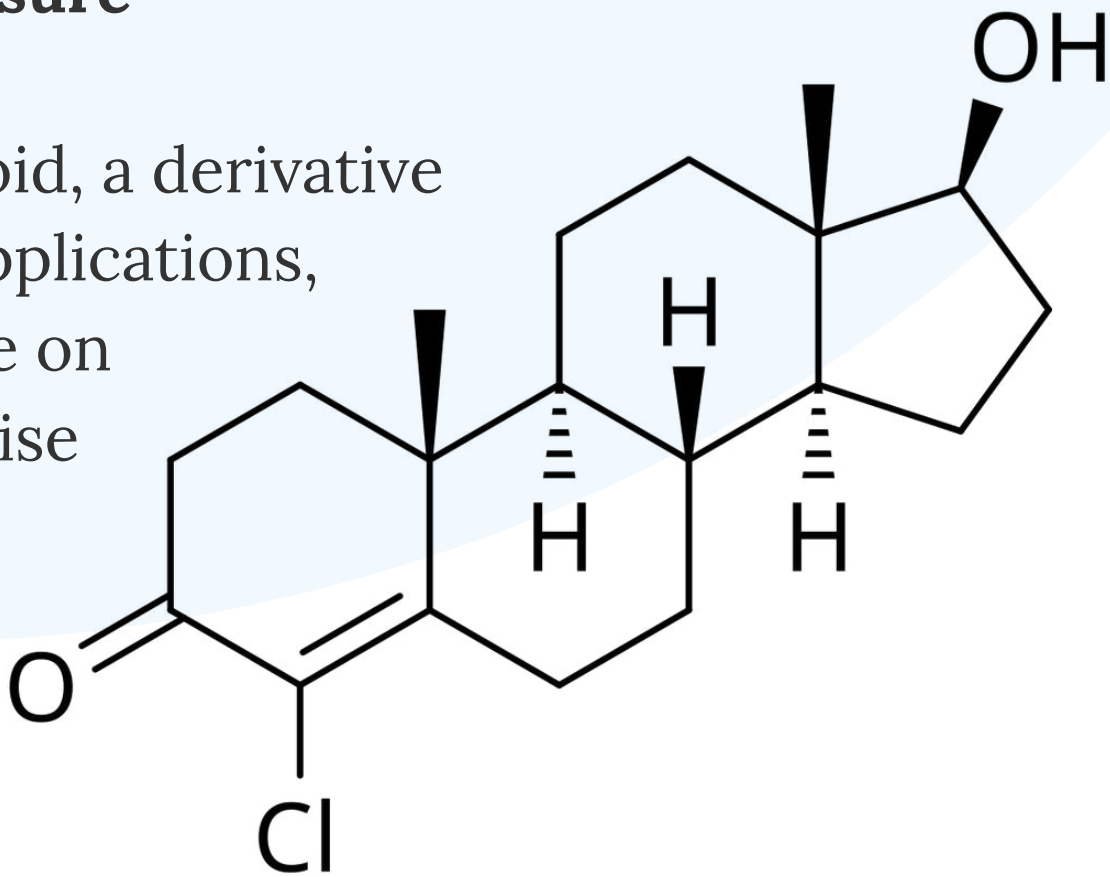
In March 2024, during the ATP Masters 1000 event at Indian Wells, Jannik Sinner tested positive for Clotestebol, an anabolic steroid prohibited by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA). Sinner's defence attributed the positive result to accidental contamination from his physiotherapist, who had used a healing spray containing Clotestebol to treat a personal injury before attending to Sinner. An independent tribunal accepted this explanation, resulting in Sinner losing his prize money and ranking points from the tournament but avoiding a suspension.

However, WADA appealed the decision, emphasizing that athletes are ultimately responsible for substances found in their bodies, regardless of intent. Subsequently, a case resolution agreement led to Sinner accepting a three-month suspension, effective from February 9 to May 4, 2025.

Clotestebol: A Substance Prone to Accidental Exposure

Clotestebol is a synthetic anabolic-androgenic steroid, a derivative of testosterone. While it has legitimate medical applications, such as in dermatological treatments, its presence on WADA's prohibited list means athletes must exercise caution. Notably, Clotestebol has been implicated in several doping cases where athletes claimed accidental exposure:

- **Viktoria Orsi Toth (2016):** The Italian beach volleyball player tested positive for Clotestebol just before the Rio Olympics. She maintained that she never knowingly used the substance and was uncertain how it entered her system.
- **Fernando Tatís Jr. (2022):** The San Diego Padres star was suspended after testing positive for Clotestebol, which he claimed was due to a medication used to treat ringworm.



Holger Rune's Mother's Perspective

Aneke Rune, mother of Danish tennis player Holger Rune, has expressed concerns about the ease of Clostebol transmission and the stringent sanctions that follow. She highlighted the potential for unintentional contamination through common medical treatments, emphasizing the need for athletes and their support teams to be vigilant. Her comments underscore the challenges athletes face in navigating anti-doping regulations while managing health and injuries.

Expert Insights: Balancing Strictness with Fairness

The Sinner case has elicited varied reactions from the tennis community. Some, like Australian player Nick Kyrgios, have criticized the perceived leniency in Sinner's initial exoneration, arguing that it sets a concerning precedent.

Conversely, experts like sports scientist Ross Tucker have pointed out the complexities in distinguishing between intentional doping and accidental contamination. Tucker suggested that while Sinner's defence was plausible, it also highlighted potential loopholes that could be exploited, calling for more rigorous investigations in such cases.

Impact on Players and the Sport

The potential for accidental contamination poses significant challenges for athletes:

- **Reputational Damage:** Even when exonerated, athletes may face public scepticism, affecting their careers and endorsements.
- **Mental and Emotional Toll:** The stress of defending against doping allegations can impact an athlete's mental health and performance.
- **Operational Precautions:** Athletes and their teams must implement stringent protocols to avoid accidental exposure, which can be resource-intensive.

Moving Forward: Recommendations for the Future

To address these challenges, several measures could be considered:

- **Enhanced Education:** Comprehensive programs to inform athletes and support staff about substances that could lead to inadvertent doping violations.
- **Clearer Guidelines:** Developing detailed protocols for the use of common medications and treatments that may contain banned substances.
- **Case-by-Case Assessments:** Adopting a more individualized approach in doping cases, considering intent and context to ensure fair sanctions.

The issue of Clostebol contamination underscores the delicate balance anti-doping authorities must maintain between upholding the integrity of sports and ensuring fair treatment of athletes. As cases like Jannik Sinner's illustrate, the potential for accidental exposure is a pressing concern that necessitates nuanced policies and heightened awareness within the sporting community.

Venus Williams Takes Centre Stage at Paris Fashion Week: Where Tennis Meets High Fashion

Venus Williams, a trailblazer in both tennis and fashion, recently graced Paris Fashion Week with her presence, exemplifying the seamless fusion of athleticism and style. Her attendance at the Lacoste Fall/Winter 2025-2026 show, held at the iconic Roland Garros stadium, underscores her enduring influence beyond the tennis court.

Venus Williams at Lacoste's Paris Fashion Week Show

On March 9, 2025, Venus Williams attended the Lacoste Womenswear Fall/Winter 2025-2026 show as part of Paris Fashion Week. The event took place at Roland Garros, the historic venue synonymous with the French Open. Williams, known for her impeccable fashion sense, donned an all-green ensemble that resonated with Lacoste's classic aesthetic. Her attire included a dark, knee-length dress complemented by jade and emerald accents, accessorized with a matching scarf, handbag, and crocodile-inspired shoes. A long coat unified the ensemble, drawing admiration from fashion enthusiasts and media alike.

Seated in the front row, Williams was accompanied by notable personalities such as Academy Award-winning actor Adrien Brody and fellow Lacoste ambassador Taylor Zakhar Perez. The event showcased Lacoste's Fall Ready-to-Wear 2025 collection, designed by Pelagia Kolotouros, highlighting the brand's commitment to blending sport and fashion.



The Intersection of Tennis and Fashion

Venus Williams' presence at Paris Fashion Week is a testament to the growing synergy between tennis and fashion. Throughout her illustrious career, Williams has been at the forefront of this convergence, not only through her on-court attire but also via her entrepreneurial ventures.

In 2007, Williams launched her own fashion line, EleVen by Venus Williams, which offers fashion-forward activewear designed for both performance and style. The brand reflects her philosophy that fashion should empower individuals to express themselves confidently, both on and off the court.

Fashion Week Engagements and Brand Collaborations

Williams' involvement in fashion extends beyond her own brand. She has been a muse and collaborator for various high-profile designers and brands. Earlier in the year, she attended Dior's Haute Couture Spring/Summer 2025 show in Paris, where she captivated audiences with her chic ensemble—a black cargo jumpsuit that seamlessly blended elegance with modernity.

Her collaborations with renowned fashion houses and consistent presence at major fashion events underscore her status as a style icon. Williams' ability to navigate the realms of professional sports and high fashion exemplifies the versatility and broad appeal of athletes in contemporary culture.

Impact on the Tennis Community

Venus Williams' engagement with the fashion industry has had a profound impact on the tennis community. By embracing fashion, she has challenged traditional perceptions of athletes, showcasing that sports professionals can be influential in diverse industries.

Her endeavors have paved the way for other tennis players to explore fashion, leading to a more dynamic and enriched portrayal of athletes. This fusion has also contributed to evolving tennis apparel, with players now having access to attire that is both functional and stylish, enhancing their performance and confidence on the court.

Venus Williams' appearance at Paris Fashion Week serves as a compelling example of the harmonious blend between tennis and fashion. Her contributions continue to inspire both industries, encouraging innovation and collaboration. As she gracefully transitions between the tennis court and fashion runways, Williams embodies the limitless possibilities that arise when passion meets creativity.



Serving up performance: How Ugo Humbert's Dietary Shift Highlights a Growing Trend in Tennis

French tennis professional Ugo Humbert has taken a proactive approach to his nutrition by hiring a personal chef ahead of the Indian Wells and Miami tournaments. Citing challenges with food quality in the United States and personal dietary sensitivities, Humbert aims to optimize his performance through tailored nutrition.

Humbert's Decision: Addressing Dietary Concerns

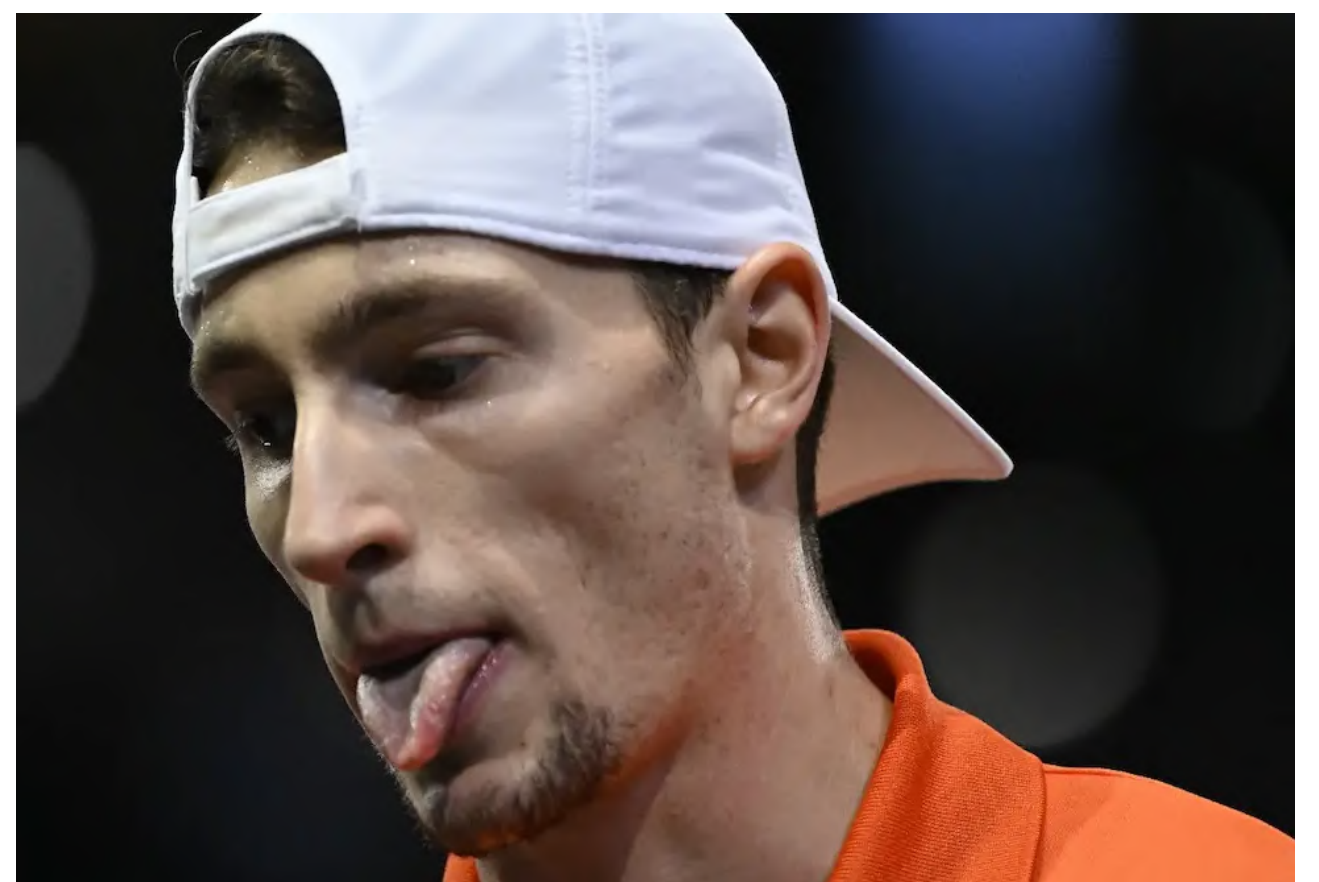
Humbert has openly expressed difficulties with the food quality in the U.S., particularly highlighting issues such as "plastic salads" and subsequent stomach discomfort. His sensitivity to nutrition and gluten intolerance have further complicated his dining experiences during tournaments. To mitigate these challenges, Humbert has enlisted a personal chef to ensure access to meals that align with his dietary requirements and performance goals.

The Role of Nutrition in Elite Tennis Performance

Proper nutrition is integral to the success of professional tennis players, influencing energy levels, recovery, and overall performance. A well-balanced diet rich in carbohydrates, proteins, and essential nutrients supports the physical demands of the sport. By hiring a personal chef, Humbert can receive individualized meal plans that cater to his specific needs, potentially enhancing his on-court performance.

Trend Among Professional Athletes

Humbert's initiative reflects a broader trend among elite athletes who prioritize personalized nutrition. The availability of private chefs allows athletes to have meals tailored to their training regimens and health requirements, ensuring optimal performance and recovery. This approach underscores the growing recognition of the critical role nutrition plays in professional sports.



Expert Perspectives on Tournament Nutrition

Nutrition experts emphasize the importance of high-quality, tailored diets for athletes. The presence of personal chefs can address specific dietary needs and preferences, reducing the risk of adverse reactions and ensuring consistent nutritional intake. This personalized approach is particularly beneficial during tournaments, where standard catering may not meet individual athlete's requirements.

Humbert's decision highlights the increasing focus on personalized nutrition within professional tennis. As athletes seek to gain competitive advantages, the integration of customized dietary strategies is becoming more prevalent. This shift may encourage tournament organizers to re-evaluate and enhance the quality and variety of food options available to players, promoting overall health and performance.



From the Baseline to the Front Row: Jannik Sinner Joins Gucci's Milan Fashion Show with Anna Wintour

Italian tennis star Jannik Sinner recently made headlines not for his on-court prowess but for his sartorial presence at Gucci's Fall/Winter 2025 fashion show during Milan Fashion Week. Seated alongside fashion luminaries such as Anna Wintour, Editor-in-Chief of Vogue Global, and Chinese actor and singer Xiao Zhan, Sinner's appearance underscores the evolving relationship between tennis and high fashion.

On February 25, 2025, **Jannik Sinner** attended Gucci's Fall/Winter 2025 fashion show in Milan. Dressed in an all-Gucci ensemble paired with white Nike sneakers, Sinner exuded a blend of athleticism and style. His front-row seat next to Anna Wintour highlighted his growing influence beyond the tennis court.

The Intersection of Tennis & Fashion

Historically, tennis attire was confined to traditional whites and functional designs. However, in recent decades, tennis players have increasingly embraced fashion, both on and off the court. Collaborations with designers, personalized apparel lines, and appearances at fashion events have become commonplace. This shift reflects a broader trend of athletes leveraging their platforms to influence and engage with the fashion industry.

Sinner's foray into fashion parallels that of **Venus Williams**, who attended **Lacoste's Paris Fashion Week** show at Roland Garros. Williams, a seasoned fashion entrepreneur with her own line, EleVen, showcased her deep-rooted connection to fashion. While Sinner's appearance signifies a burgeoning interest, Williams' presence reflects an established fashion persona.

The Broader Influence of Fashion on Tennis

The symbiotic relationship between fashion and tennis has enhanced player marketability and broadened the sport's appeal. Fashion collaborations offer players additional revenue streams and platforms to express individuality. Brands benefit from the athletic association, aligning themselves with values of performance and excellence. This fusion has also led to more dynamic and stylish on-court apparel, influencing consumer trends and perceptions of the sport.

The evolution from traditional attire to fashion-forward designs mirrors societal shifts towards personalization and branding. Players now serve as ambassadors for luxury brands, attending fashion shows and participating in campaigns. This integration signifies a departure from rigid norms, embracing a more holistic representation of athletes as multifaceted public figures.

What This Means for the Future

As tennis continues to intertwine with fashion, we can anticipate more players engaging with luxury brands, influencing both industries. This trend reflects the sport's adaptability and the athletes' desire to expand their personal brands. The convergence of tennis and fashion not only elevates the sport's cultural relevance but also showcases the players' versatility beyond the baseline.

DID YOU KNOW?

The combination of motivation, dedication, preparation, education, investment, patience and love for your work, will all contribute to great success.

Unknown

There have been some extremely high level sports personalities involved in substances being found in their system, some have been left with considerable sanctions, in some cases, stripped of titles and careers ended, here are some others from the tennis world.

1

Maria Sharapova – Suspended for 15 months in 2016 after testing positive for meldonium at the Australian Open. Meldonium was added to WADA's banned list in 2016.

2

Martina Hingis – Banned for two years in 2007 after testing positive for benzoylecgonine (a metabolite of cocaine) at Wimbledon. Hingis denied taking the drug.

3

Viktor Troicki – Suspended for 18 months in 2013 (reduced to 12 months on appeal) for failing to provide a blood sample during a drug test.

4

Richard Gasquet – Banned for 2.5 months in 2009 after testing positive for cocaine. Gasquet claimed it was from kissing a woman at a party.

5

Wayne Odesnik – Banned for 15 years in 2015 after testing positive for multiple banned substances, including steroids. Previously banned in 2010 for HGH possession.



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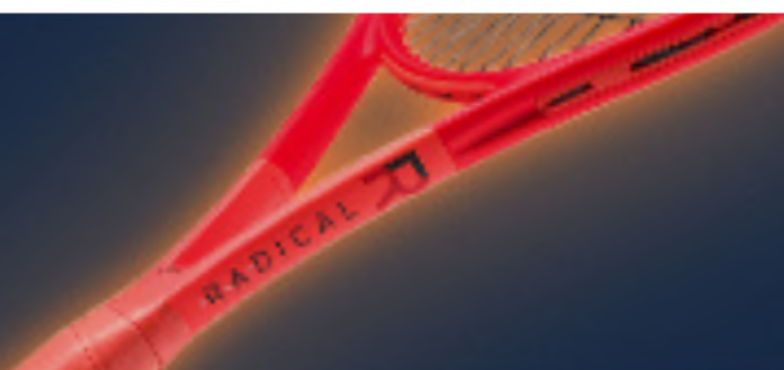
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Parnell Knot - 2012, Parnell Academy - 2016, Parnell Language Services - 2016



In 2022 GRSA was launched



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In 2024



In 2025



GRSA Certifications - PRS

On Saturday 15th of February the first Competition Stringer Series of workshops were launched in Germany with Stefan Müller, Benjamin Reuffurth, Dominik Baumann and Gianluca Coloma Heck.

We congratulate Gianluca and Stefan for successfully passing their exams to achieve their new levels of certification.

Benjamin and Dominik will be taking their exams in the next weeks to complete their competition certifications.

We're also happy to welcome Philipp Felde and thank him for joining GRSA International and attending a Masterclass in customizing on march 22nd **at PRS Headquarters.**





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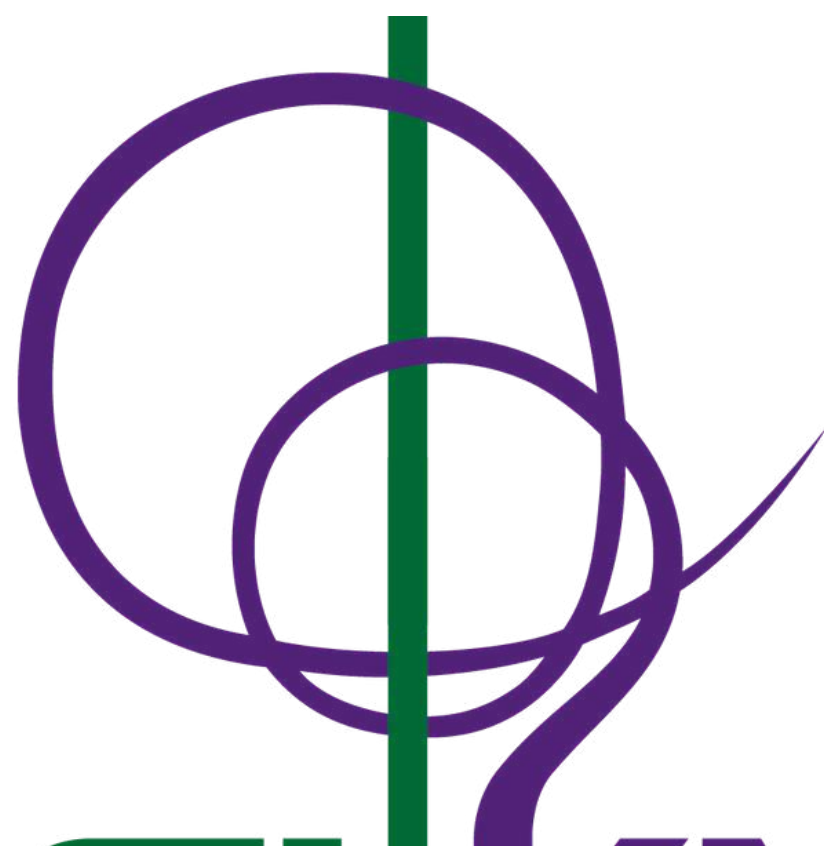
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GRSA IN SHENZHEN

As the forefront of China's economic reform, countless high-tech companies have blossomed in this technology driven city. The location of our workshop was chosen in the Nanshan District. The GRSA stringing workshops started on February 21 and ended on February 23. We recruited a total of 10 participants for the Pro stringer and Pro Master Stringer workshops. Our participants came from all over China, some from as far as Xinjiang, the westernmost part of China, and some from the Guangdong bay area.

In Shenzhen, we conducted the third and fourth GRSA workshop in China this year. We found that our students are not limited to individuals in the stringing industry. Half of all the participants we had so far are tennis enthusiasts. They all share a deep passion for tennis and wish to learn more about racket service and how equipment can affect their game.

The main instructor of these workshops in China is Ken, the Asia Chief Instructor of GRSA. In particular, we welcomed three participants with no basic knowledge in racket stringing. Ken specially optimized the teaching process so that all students regardless of their level can receive the best training experience. This training followed the GRSA teaching syllabus to teach students: basic knowledge of strings, racket stringing methods, grip enlargement, grip installation and changing of bumper guards & grommets. All students really enjoyed this experience and after the first day of training, everyone got to know each other and actively discussed the learning points in class. On the second day of the workshop, all students were actively learning and practicing. GRSA is delighted to see the students' positive learning attitude and robust discussions among themselves.

We hope to visit more cities in the coming months and bring world class stringing education to you.



惠风和畅，烟云浮空。深圳湾波澜，高楼林立。很开心这次我们GRSA第一此来到这个全中国最年轻的城市-深圳，作为中国改革开放的最前沿，无数的高科技企业在这个城市里开花结果。我们本次课程地点选在了深圳市南山区，如同高科技企业一样，GRSA将最先进最好的穿线课程带到这里。GRSA穿线师培训班深圳站于2月21开始至2月23日结束，本次培训班我们共计招收了8+2名学员，让人不可思议的是我们的学员来自于中国的天南海北，有的来自于中国最西部的新疆，也有来自于湾区的东方明珠虽然大家各不相同但都因为一个相同的事情共聚在我们的深圳课堂上。深圳站是GRSA第三期培训，我们发现我们的学员不在拘泥在所谓的穿线行业，有一半的学员是深度的网球爱好者，他们想更深度的了解网球和网球器材所以来到GRSA的培训课堂上，他们有的是学生，企业领导，体育俱乐部的经营者，程序员，金融行业的从业者，咖啡师。学员们可以从他们特有的职业思维上来理解穿线，也更多地影响着我们，让我们的教学和穿线技术更加多元从而让我们的培训更加的适用于中国市场。本次的穿线师培训班深圳站主讲师是GRSA亚洲首席讲师ken，特别是本次穿线师培训班我们迎来了三位零基础的学员，ken老师特意优化了教学流程让零基础和有基础的学员都能接受到最好的培训体验。本次培训一概遵循了GRSA的教学大纲教授学员：球拍球线的基础知识，球拍的穿线方法，扩柄，护线管安装等课程，学员们非常享受本次的培训班课程，特别是经过一天的培训后大家互相熟知，会和老师或者是学员们自己会积极讨论课上以及穿线过程中的知识点，在第二天的课堂上所有学员都在积极的学习和练习，非常高兴的看到学员们积极的学习态度和各位学员相互帮助相互讨论的精神。我们很高兴看到我们的教学深受学员的喜爱，在中国区有很多潜在学员，希望我们将GRSA穿线师培训带到他们的城市。我们一直所做的就是将全世界的穿线师联系在一起！



Stringer Solutions

With Richard Parnell

An easy tip on how to keep the cross strings straighter during their installation.

One of the most important aspects of stringing, and one that will separate the experts from the rest, is the straightness of the crosses. This is also an integral part of being able to string on the Tour, many a player has complained about crooked cross strings and rightly so.

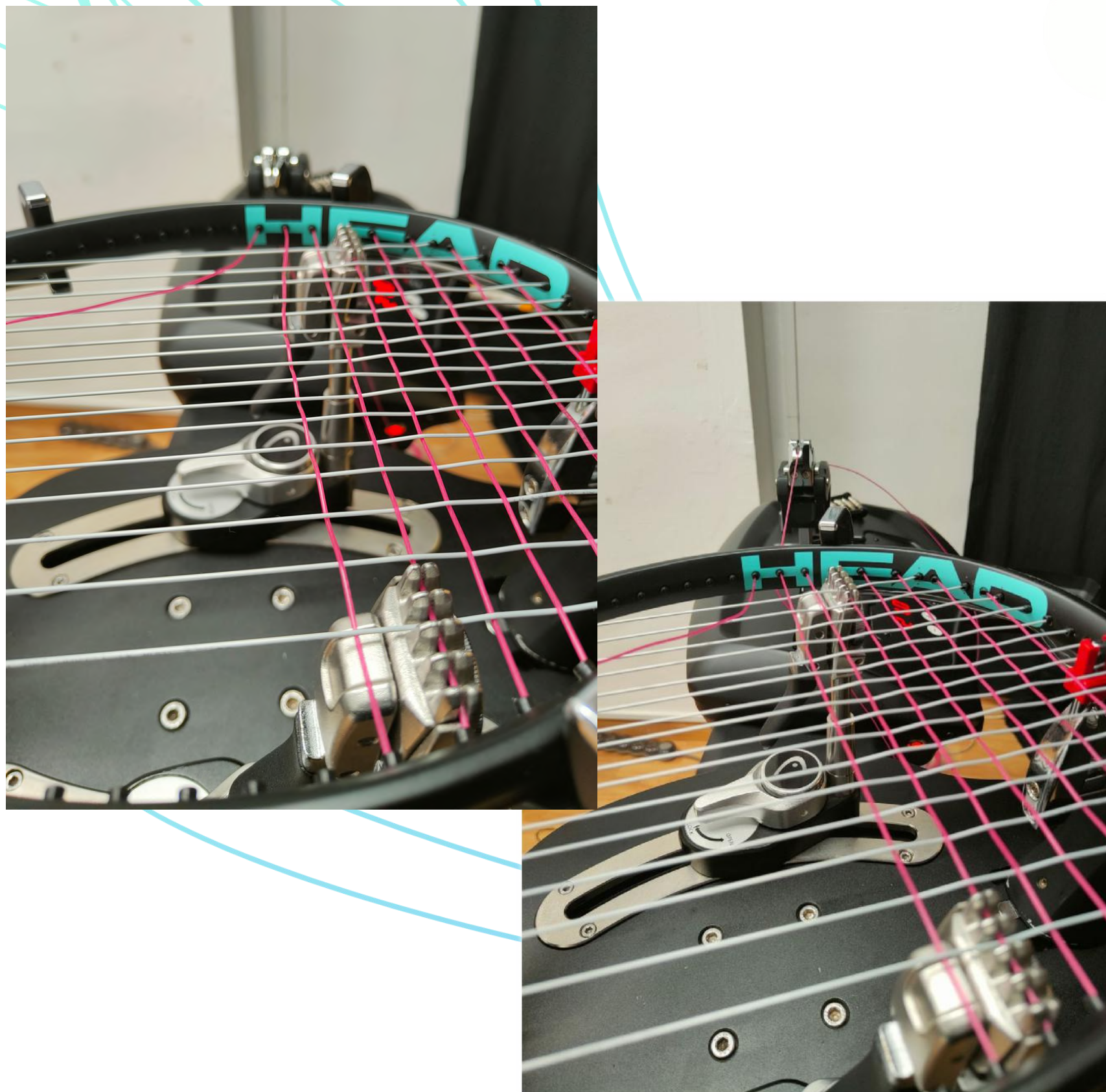
Straightening the crosses can be done in different ways, there is obviously the setting off awl which can be used at any time during the stringing of the crosses, however, here I would like to jump in at the basic technique of stringing those crosses.

When a cross string is tensioned, it can be in one of three positions:

- a. Curved
- b. Recurved
- c. Straight

Let's look at each of these individually and compare their effect on the string bed and straightness of the cross.

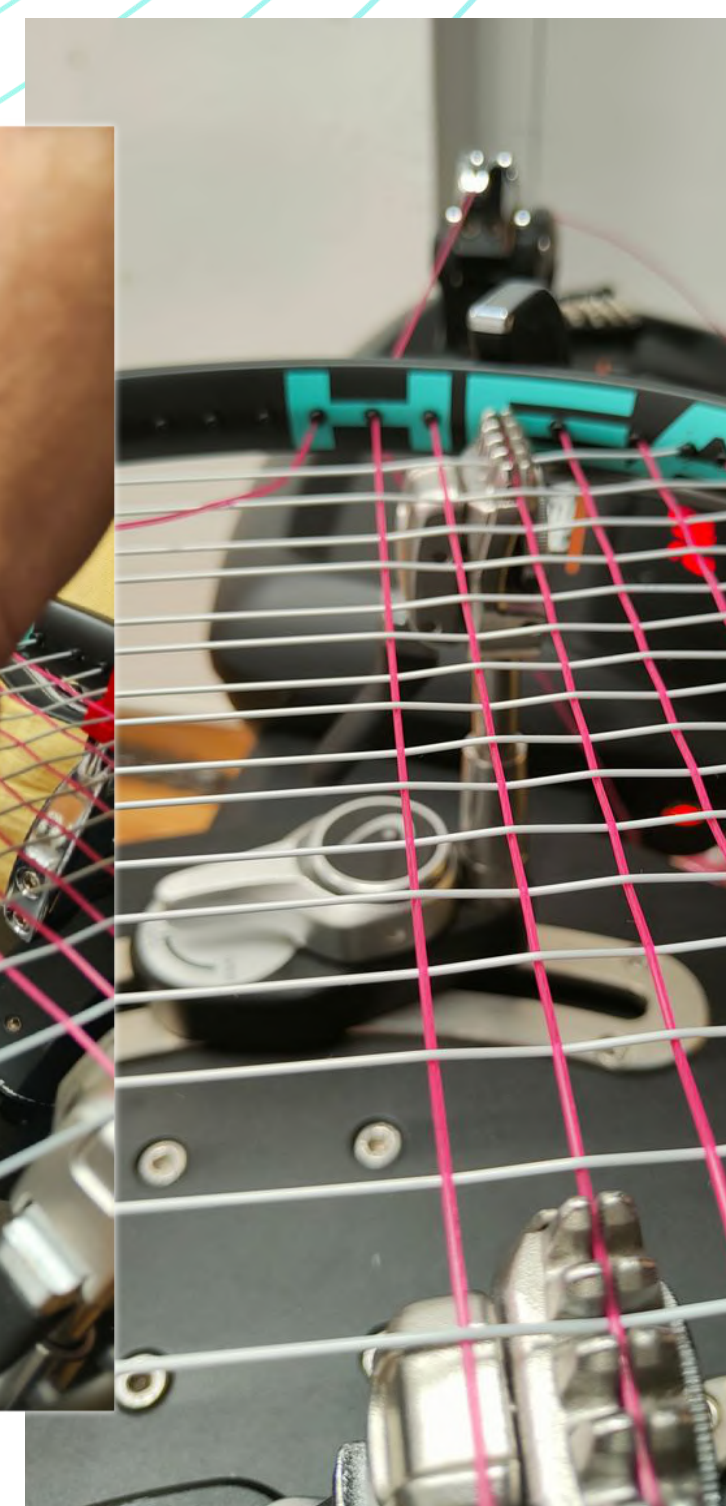
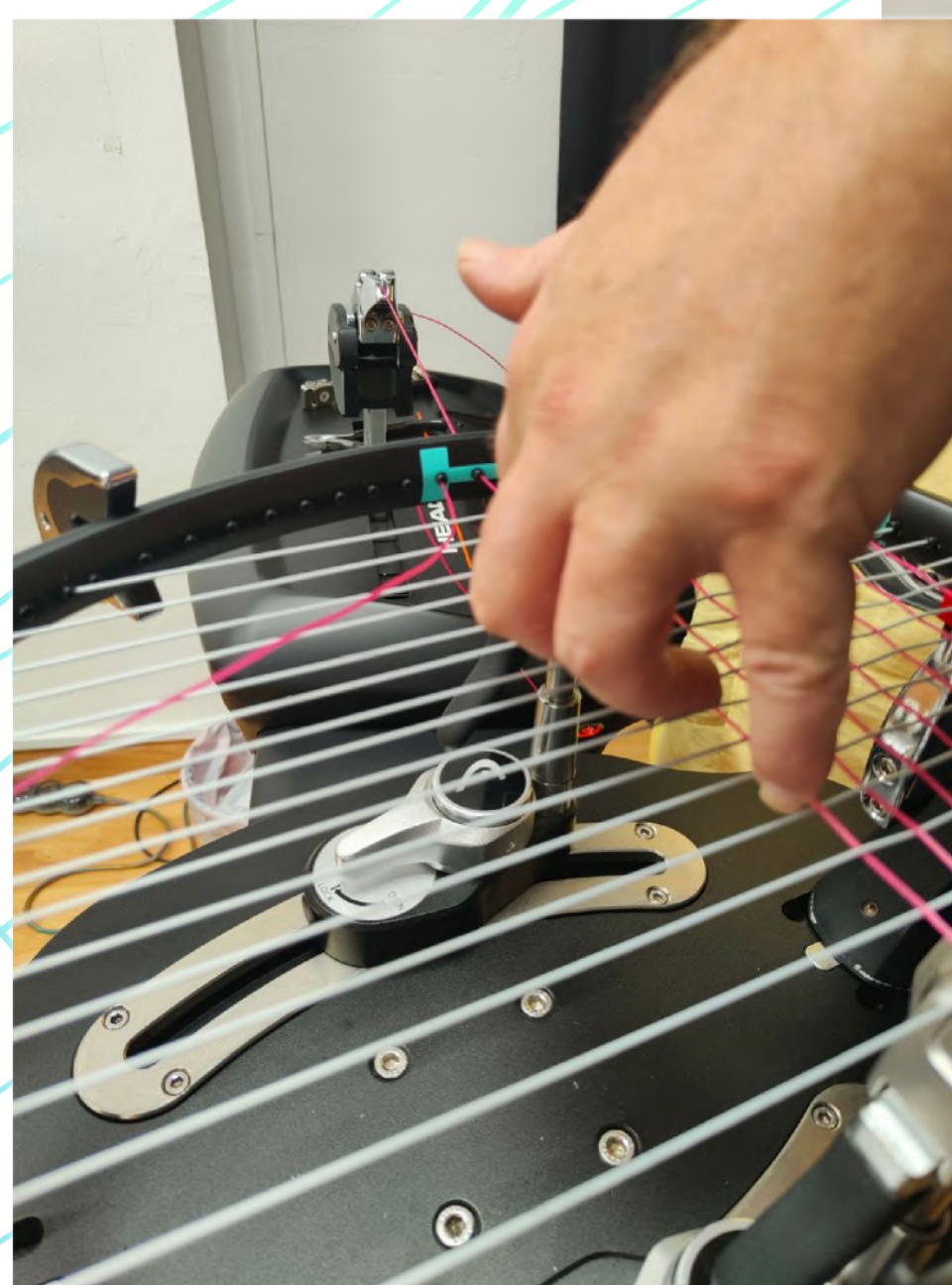
a. **Curved** - By leaving the string curved while tensioning, as we see in image A, the string, by not being straight is longer which means that the string will not be as "tight" as a straight string (the shortest route from A to B is a straight line). Once the tension head has stopped moving, we move the string to its straight position, the tension head often has difficulty picking up that small difference in length. Normally a lower DT will be attained. If the crosses are straightened at the end of the stringing process, then the strings will be prone to moving more and be less responsive.



b. **Recurved** – By leaving the string curved inversely against the previous cross while tensioning, as we see in image B, the string, by not being straight is longer which means that the string will not be as “tight” as a straight string. This also means that when the string is tensioned it will automatically move away from the previous cross string and will never stop at the perfect “straight” position, rather move past it and again be curved but in the opposite direction. This string will then need to be pushed straight.... Which means that pushing the string up against the previous cross was a waste of movement and creates more cross string movement. If the crosses are moved straight at the end of the stringing process, then the strings will be prone to moving more and be less responsive.



c. **Straight** - By ensuring that the string is straight while tensioning, as we see in image C, the string, by being straight is shorter which means that the string will be as “tight” as possible, because, as we have mentioned before, the shortest route from A to B is a straight line. This cross string, by being held in place by fingers that are guiding it and making sure it doesn't become curved will stay in its place longer and play better. When we have weaved the string we need to pull it as tight as possible by hand so that the tension head is working with the shortest string length possible.



If the main strings are natural gut and the crosses a monofilament, which is a harder string, then the indentations left in the natural gut need to be in the right place straight away, otherwise the cross strings will always slip back into these indentations and the cross strings will never remain straight.

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

Shape the Future of Our Conference: Your Feedback Matters!

As we plan the next edition of our annual conference this November, we're reaching out to you – our dedicated and vibrant community of professionals. Your insights and feedback are invaluable in helping us craft an event that's engaging, inspiring, and perfectly tailored to your interests. Let's work together to make this year's conference even better than the last.

Help Us Create the Ultimate Experience

We're committed to delivering an event that provides exceptional value to every attendee. From innovative workshops and expert-led presentations to the latest in tech and branding, we want to ensure that every aspect of the conference exceeds your expectations.

Accommodation, Travel, and Extra Activities

The conference will be held at a beautiful resort, where accommodation will be available for attendees. Staying on-site ensures you have easy access to all sessions, networking opportunities, and activities without the hassle of commuting. If you need discount codes or additional information, feel free to contact us.

For those looking to explore beyond the conference schedule, we are also planning extra activities to enhance your experience. Whether it's local excursions, group outings, or relaxation options, we'll have something for everyone.

When it comes to flights, timing can make all the difference. Here are some tips to help you snag the best deals based on your location:

North America: Book domestic flights 1-3 months in advance for the best prices. For international flights, aim for 2-8 months ahead.

Europe: Book flights within Europe 1-2 months in advance, while international flights are best booked 3-6 months prior.

Asia: For domestic flights, book 2-3 weeks in advance. For international routes, start looking at prices 4-8 months ahead.

Australia and New Zealand: Domestic flights are cheapest 4-6 weeks in advance, while international travel should be planned 6-12 months ahead.

Flight prices fluctuate based on demand, so set alerts on platforms like Google Flights or Skyscanner to track fare changes. Tuesdays and Wednesdays are often the best days to find deals.

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NICK DOWN

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Prince 03

Like last month's Triple Threat pattern, I am going to look at the Prince O3 Pattern; it has been around for years. There are several models that use this pattern, and I regularly see them. For the purpose of this article I have used the Prince O3 Black (which is silver), it also applies to the tour (pictured here).

There are similarities in that the throat still has a powering, but there are only 16 crosses not 17.

There are still double-barrelled grommets on each side of the head, but with this pattern there are only 2 on each side, not 3!

It is still necessary to finish up with a hard weave all round; the ring, the bottom cross and the double-barrelled grommets.

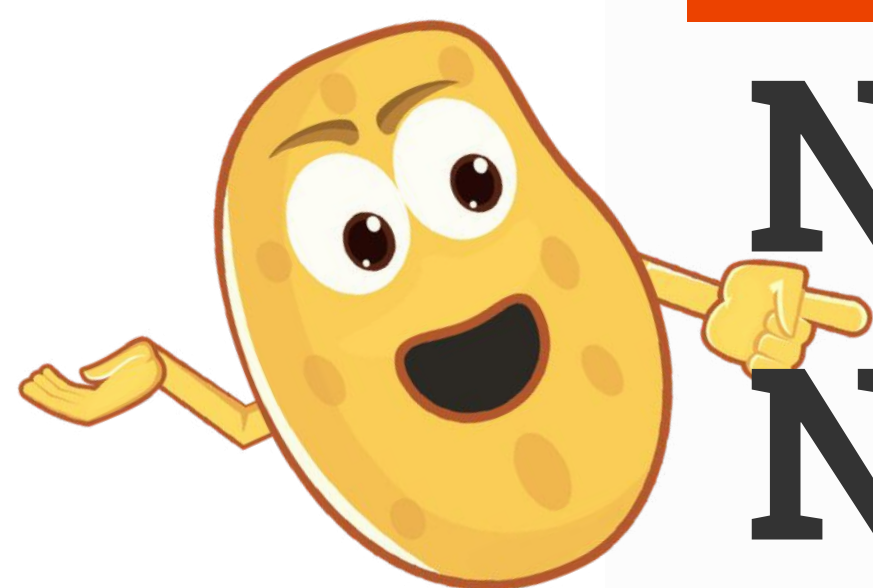
The O3 technology is not reserved for squash only.

With this pattern, when installing the mains, it's important that you put the mains into the opposite hole wherever there are double-barrelled grommets.



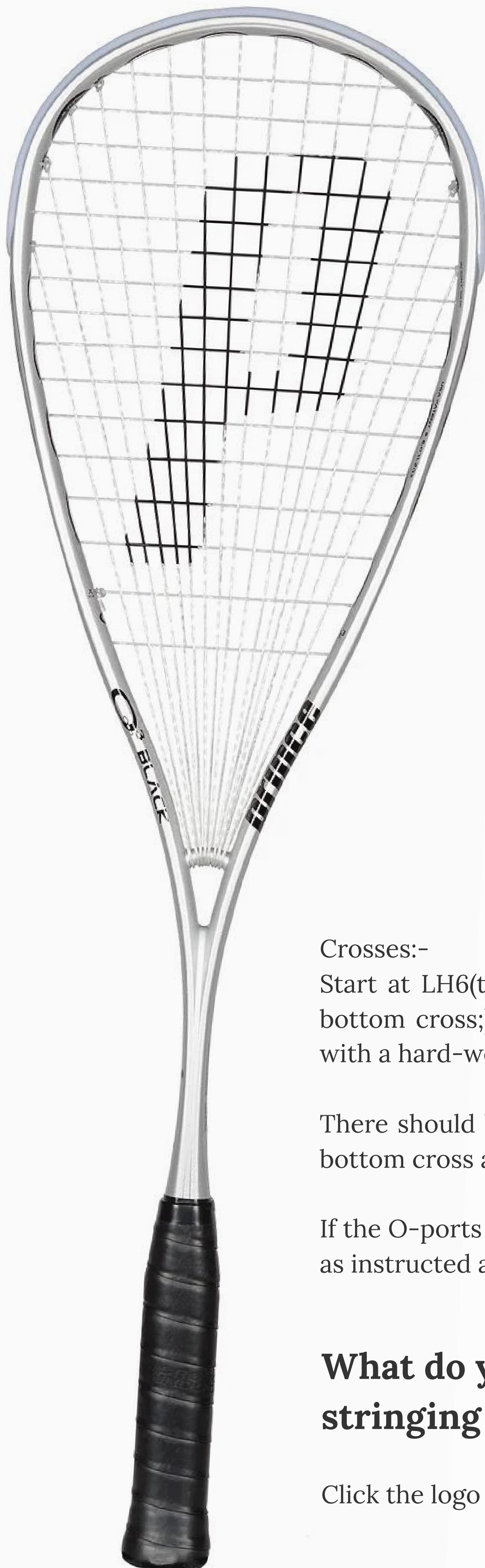
EMAIL ME AT:

nick@grsa-international.com



Nick's Nugget

It is acceptable to string the crosses up from the throat on two patterns only, from the list of non-standard rackets.



2 Piece) Mains:

LH1(O-Port LH1-right side) to below ring
 Above ring to LH2(O-Port LH1-left side).
 RH1(O-Port RH1 left side) to above ring
 Below ring to RH 2(O-Port RH1 right side).
 RH2(O-Port RH1 right side) to RH3(O-Port RH2 left side)
 RH3(O-Port RH2 left side) to above ring
 Below ring to RH4(O-Port RH2 right side)
 LH2(O-Port LH1 left side) to LH3(O-Port LH2 right side)
 LH3 (O-Port LH2 right side) to below ring
 Above ring to LH4(O-Port LH2 left side)
 LH4(O-Port LH2 left side) to LH6
 LH6 to below ring
 Above ring to LH7(bottom hole)
 RH4(O-Port RH2 left side) to RH6
 RH6 above ring
 Below ring to RH7(top hole)
 RH7(top hole) to RH9
 RH9 above ring
 Below ring to RH12(top hole)
 Tie off at RH9.
 LH7 (bottom hole) to LH9
 LH9 to below ring
 Above ring to LH12(bottom hole)
 Tie off at LH9.

Crosses:-

Start at LH6(tie off is LH5) (soft weave to ensure a hard weave at the bottom cross;) Then weave all crosses (16 in Total) ensuring you finish with a hard-weave at the bottom, then tie off at LT2.

There should be alternating mains at the powering, hard-weaves at the bottom cross and all double-barrelled grommets, plus no crossovers!

If the O-ports don't line up correctly, you didn't start on the correct side, as instructed above.

What do you listen to when you're in the stringing room?

Click the logo to listen to my list



Tandon Upset by Chandran in Thrilling Comeback

Playing in front of a home crowd brings its own unique pressures — just ask Indian squash star Ramit Tandon. The world No. 33 and top seed at the JSW Indian Open Squash suffered a shock defeat at the hands of unseeded Malaysian Ameeshenraj Chandran, despite taking a two-set lead. Tandon ultimately fell 3-2 (11-5, 11-1, 6-11, 4-11, 6-11) at the Bombay Gymkhana.

“I don’t want to take away the credit from my opponent — he really played well,” Tandon admitted afterwards. “But definitely I was overwhelmed by the pressure of being a top seed at home. No matter how well you prepare, a slight dip in concentration here or there can shake your confidence, and it’s a regular struggle during matches.”

The 32-year-old, who uses breathing exercises and yoga to strengthen his mental game, looked in control after the first two sets. However, Chandran’s resilience and sharp shot-making turned the tide, leaving Tandon to reflect on what might have been.





Egoli Squash Inspires Johannesburg Youth Through Packed Weekend of Action

Young squash players from inner-city Johannesburg schools were given the chance to sharpen their skills and build confidence as Egoli Squash Youth Empowerment hosted a series of energetic programmes across multiple locations.

Egoli Squash is committed to transforming young lives through squash, fitness, tutoring, community service, and mentoring. From Thursday to Saturday, youth took part in a range of coaching sessions, training camps, and tournaments designed to elevate their game and foster personal growth.

A group of Egoli Gazankulu players benefitted from an intensive training camp, focusing on refining their technique and improving match fitness. “Some of our rising stars trained at UJ, gaining exposure to top-level coaching and competitive drills,” Egoli shared.

The St. Andrew’s Girls Tournament saw fierce competition as girls tested their skills against strong opposition, gaining valuable match experience. The weekend wrapped up with the Roedean Girls School Festival — a celebration of sportsmanship and fun.

Egoli Squash continues to play a vital role in making the sport accessible to children from inner-city schools. According to the PSA Foundation, without Egoli’s support in providing coaches and court time, squash wouldn’t feature in these schools’ programmes.

By bringing squash directly to the communities, Egoli is helping to smash barriers and create new opportunities for young players.



‘The Big Three’ Documentary Explores the Dominance of Egyptian Squash Stars

A new documentary, *The Big Three*, shines a spotlight on the remarkable rise of Nour El Sherbini, Nouran Gohar, and Hania El Hammamy — three Egyptian women who have held a firm grip on the top three spots in world squash in recent years.

Their dominance hasn’t come without its challenges. The series captures the highs and lows of life on tour, from injury setbacks to the relentless pressure of staying at the top.

El Sherbini, the youngest and first Egyptian woman to win the World Championships, has already secured seven world titles — just one shy of Nicol David’s record of eight. Did you know that Nicol David held the World No.1 ranking for an incredible 108 consecutive months, the longest reign in squash history? El Sherbini’s pursuit of that record adds another layer of intrigue to her already glittering career.

Gohar, the current World No.1, has collected an impressive haul of Platinum titles, including the U.S. Open — a tournament she holds close to her heart. Gohar also played a key role in lobbying the International Olympic Committee to have squash included in the LA28 Olympic Games.

El Hammamy, the youngest of the trio, became a top seed in the women’s junior squash rankings at just 16. After a shock exit in the third round of the U.S. Open at the hands of unseeded Sabrina Sobhy, El Hammamy turned to former World No.1 Laura Massaro to strengthen her game and take the fight to her Egyptian rivals.

The Big Three offers a behind-the-scenes look at their lives during the 2023/24 season — from El Sherbini’s downtime with her parrot in Egypt to Gohar’s barista skills in Cincinnati, and El Hammamy’s growing partnership with Massaro.

The documentary is available to stream on SquashTV and YouTube, with new episodes released every Friday.

Kirsty Coventry Becomes First Female and African IOC President

Kirsty Coventry has made history by becoming the 10th President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) after being elected at the 144th IOC Session in Costa Navarino, Greece.

The 41-year-old Zimbabwean secured 49 votes in the first round — exactly the number needed for a majority from the 97 votes cast — beating six other candidates to win an eight-year term. Coventry will succeed Thomas Bach, who was first elected in 2013 and re-elected in 2021. She will officially take office on Olympic Day, 23 June, when Bach steps down and assumes the role of Honorary President.

Coventry becomes the first woman and the first African to lead the IOC. “I’m very proud to call myself a Zimbabwean and to have grown up there, for my mum to have been born there, my grandmother,” she said afterwards. “And, [my message] to Africa: this is our time.”

Reflecting on her historic achievement, Coventry said: “This is an extraordinary moment. As a nine-year-old girl I never thought I’d be standing up here one day, getting to give back to this incredible Movement of ours. This is not just a huge honour but a reminder of my commitment to every single one of you that I will lead this organisation with so much pride, with the Values at the core. And I will make all of you very, very proud.”

Coventry’s first major test will come quickly, as she will oversee the Olympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026, with under 11 months to go until the Opening Ceremony.

Outgoing President Bach praised his successor’s appointment: “Congratulations to Kirsty Coventry on her election as the 10th IOC President. I warmly welcome the decision of the IOC Members and look forward to strong cooperation, particularly during the transition period. There is no doubt that the future for our Olympic Movement is bright and that the values we stand for will continue to guide us through the years to come.”



Premier Padel Makes Key Changes to Draw Sizes and Prize Money, Takes Legal Action Over Boycott

Premier Padel is staying true to its promise of listening to players and improving the tour for everyone involved. Last week, several Ranking Committee meetings took place, bringing together representatives from Premier Padel, the International Padel Federation (FIP), the Professional Padel Association (PPA) representing the men's side, and the International Padel Players Association (IPPA) speaking for the women's game.

Women's Draw and Prize Money Boost

After discussions with the IPPA, Premier Padel and the women's association agreed to keep the current draw sizes for the 2025 season. The IPPA backed the recent sporting changes, recognizing them as a positive step forward for the tour.

In a big win for the women's game, Premier Padel will also increase the prize money for P2 tournaments by €10,000 per event, effective immediately. On top of that, the IPPA has committed to covering hotel costs for women's players during qualification rounds, starting from the Santiago P1 and continuing through the end of the 2025 season. This move is a landmark moment, giving rising talent more support and helping grow the sport globally.

Men's Draws and a Major Concession

The conversation with the PPA focused on the size of men's draws. Interestingly, the PPA stated they had no strong preference on draw size changes, despite previous public criticism from men's players. However, in a notable concession, Premier Padel and FIP have decided to revert to the 2024 draw sizes for P1 and P2 events, starting with the Santiago P1.

Legal Action Over Boycott

Premier Padel isn't holding back when it comes to the recent boycott by certain men's players. The organization described the walkout as "unprecedented and illegal," pointing to serious financial and reputational damage to the tour, sponsors, and broadcasters. As a result, Premier Padel is launching legal action for breaches of the Long Form Agreement a contract negotiated over more than a year with the PPA. Additionally, FIP will begin disciplinary proceedings against the players involved to uphold the integrity of the tour.

Thanks to Cancun and Support for Mexico

Premier Padel gave a big shoutout to the Cancun P2 team for hosting this week's tournament, following the success of last week's Gijon P2. In a meaningful gesture, Premier Padel has also made a significant donation to support rebuilding efforts in Mexico after the devastating hurricane that hit Acapulco in 2024, the same promoter behind the Cancun event is leading that recovery effort.

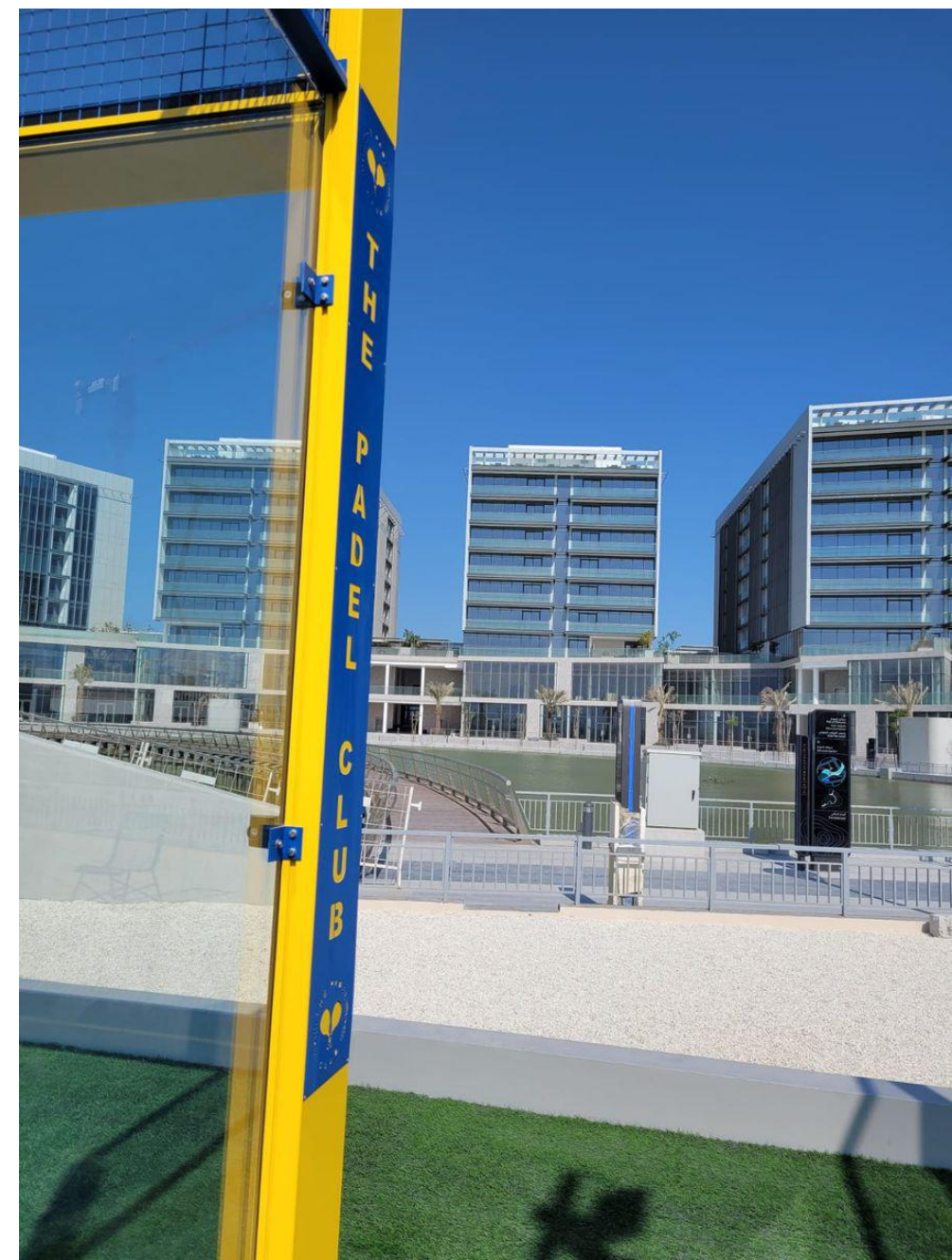
Exciting Times Ahead

The tour is set to break new ground with the Miami P1 (March 17-23), Premier Padel's first-ever tournament in the USA, followed by the Santiago P1 (March 24-30). The tour's continued expansion is helping to elevate padel on the global stage, paving the way for FIP's Olympic ambitions.

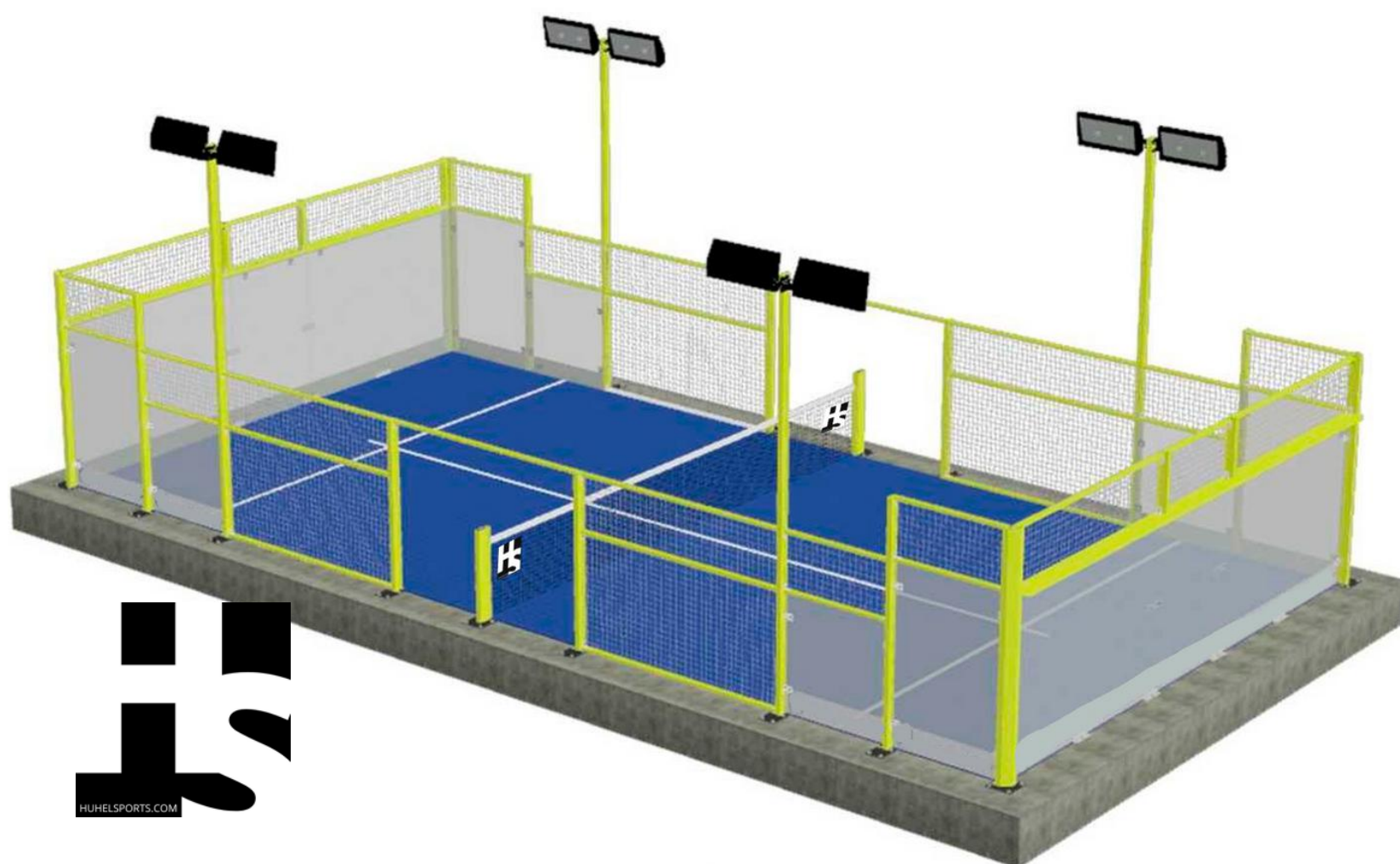
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Game, Set, Padel: How Sporting Legends Are Driving the Global Padel Boom

Padel, a dynamic racket sport blending elements of tennis and squash, has experienced remarkable global growth in recent years. This surge in popularity has not only attracted millions of enthusiasts but also captivated prominent sports figures who have embraced the sport as players and investors. Notably, icons such as Cristiano Ronaldo, Andy Murray, Zinedine Zidane, Rafael Nadal, and Novak Djokovic have ventured into the padel arena, contributing to its expansion and visibility.



In December 2024, **Cristiano Ronaldo** expanded his investment portfolio by acquiring the Lisboa Racket Centre, a premier facility in Lisbon specializing in racket sports, including padel. This strategic move underscores Ronaldo's commitment to promoting padel in Portugal. Ricardo Oliveira, president of the Federação Portuguesa de Padel (FPP), highlighted that Ronaldo's involvement is poised to transform the sport both nationally and globally. Portugal currently boasts over 300,000 padel players, a number projected to rise to 500,000, driven by the "Ronaldo effect."

Andy Murray, a fervent advocate for padel, co-founded Game4Padel, the UK's largest padel court operator. His dedication to the sport extends beyond infrastructure; in November 2023, Murray established the AD/advantage padel team, which clinched the inaugural Hexagon Cup. The team's success attracted notable investors, including boxing champion Anthony Joshua, reflecting the sport's burgeoning appeal. Murray's initiatives have been instrumental in introducing padel to a broader UK audience, fostering its rapid development.





Zinedine Zidane has demonstrated a profound interest in padel through significant investments. In early 2025, he announced a £4 million project to construct a state-of-the-art padel centre in Aix-en-Provence, France. The facility will feature 13 padel courts, alongside amenities for other sports. This venture aligns with Zidane's previous investments in padel centres in Turin and Toulouges, underscoring his commitment to nurturing the sport's growth in France.

Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic: Embracing Padel's Appeal

While specific investment details are limited, both **Rafael Nadal** and **Novak Djokovic** have expressed enthusiasm for padel. Their engagement ranges from participating in exhibition matches to advocating for the sport's inclusion in broader athletic communities. Their involvement has significantly boosted padel's visibility, inspiring fans and athletes to explore the sport.



Padel's Global Expansion: A Statistical Overview

The involvement of these sports luminaries coincides with padel's exponential global growth. As of 2024, there are approximately 60,000 padel courts worldwide, spanning over 130 countries. Europe leads this expansion, housing 70% of the global courts, with Spain boasting 16,000 courts and Italy 8,300. This infrastructure supports an estimated 30 million players globally, with 40% being female, highlighting the sport's universal appeal.

Impact of Celebrity Involvement on Padel's Growth

The active participation and investment by high-profile athletes have significantly influenced padel's trajectory:

- **Increased Visibility:** Celebrities attract media attention, introducing padel to diverse audiences and potential enthusiasts.
- **Infrastructure Development:** Investments in facilities enhance accessibility, encouraging community engagement and participation.
- **Commercial Interest:** Endorsements and involvement from renowned athletes attract sponsors and brands, fuelling further growth and professionalization of the sport.

So it's quite obvious that, the engagement of sports icons like Cristiano Ronaldo, Andy Murray, Zinedine Zidane, Rafael Nadal, and Novak Djokovic is playing a pivotal role in elevating padel's profile. Their contributions, coupled with the sport's inherent appeal, have propelled padel into a global phenomenon, with infrastructure and participation rates soaring worldwide. As padel continues to evolve, the synergy between celebrity influence and grassroots enthusiasm promises a vibrant future for this dynamic sport.

It doesn't matter if you're an experienced player or just starting out, knowing where you can go to take part in open competitions is part of the fun of this forever growing sport, so here are some of the dates, visit the Pickleball Global website for more info.

3. Gifhorn Pickleball Open

EID: 1946 **PRICE** EUR 35

Organizer: MTV GIFHORN

EVENT - TOURNAMENT

Starting: June 14, 2025 to June 15, 2025

City: Winkeler Straße 2, 38518 Gifhorn, Deutschland

Tournament Venue: Mtv Gifhorn

Registration Deadline: May 31, 2025 (OPEN)

Tier Level: 1

WaPickleball 3rd Edition - Tournai, Belgium

EID: 1887 **PRICE** EUR 35

Organizer: Nicolas Bonsignore

EVENT - TOURNAMENT

Starting: May 30, 2025 to June 01, 2025

City: Brunehaut, Belgique

Tournament Venue: Pickleball Tournai

Registration Deadline: March 31, 2025 (OPEN)

Tier Level: 3

DUPR ROME OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP - 4TH ED.

EID: 1766 **PRICE** EUR 40

Organizer: Marco Maurizi

EVENT - TOURNAMENT

Starting: May 09, 2025 to May 11, 2025

City: Via Castore Durante, 88, Roma, Metropolitan City of Rome Capital, Italy

Tournament Venue: Augustea Sport City

Registration Deadline: May 03, 2025 (OPEN)

Tier Level: 3

**MORE
INFO**

Tech Meets Pickleball: Apple Fitness+ Launches Training Program with Catherine Parenteau

Apple has expanded its Fitness+ offerings to include pickleball training, reflecting the sport's rapid growth and popularity. This addition aims to provide enthusiasts with structured workouts to enhance their on-court performance.

Apple Fitness+ Introduces Pickleball Training

In January 2025, Apple announced the integration of pickleball-focused workouts into its Fitness+ platform. This initiative underscores Apple's commitment to catering to diverse fitness interests and acknowledges pickleball's burgeoning community.

Collaboration with Catherine Parenteau

Renowned pickleball professional Catherine Parenteau leads the new training program. Titled "Strength, Endurance, and Agility for Pickleball," the series draws inspiration from Parenteau's personal training regimen. It combines strength training, high-intensity interval training (HIIT), and dynamic agility drills tailored specifically for pickleball players.

Program Highlights

- **Strength Training:** Exercises designed to enhance muscle power essential for effective shots and movements on the court.
- **Endurance Workouts:** Sessions aimed at improving cardiovascular fitness, allowing players to maintain high performance throughout matches.
- **Agility Drills:** Drills focusing on quick directional changes and reflexes, crucial for both offensive and defensive plays.

Accessibility and Integration

The pickleball training program is accessible to all Apple Fitness+ subscribers. Users can seamlessly integrate these workouts into their fitness routines, benefiting from guided sessions that cater to various skill levels.

Impact on the Pickleball Community

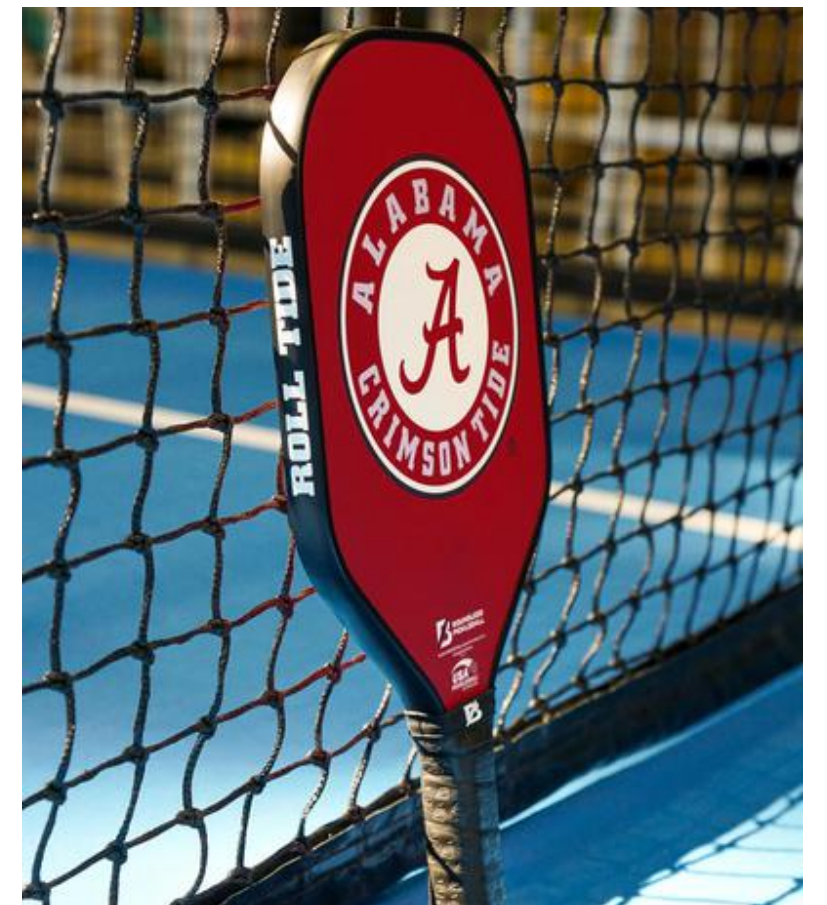
Apple's foray into pickleball training signifies mainstream recognition of the sport's growth. By providing structured workouts led by top professionals like Parenteau, Apple offers valuable resources to both new and seasoned players aiming to improve their game.

The inclusion of pickleball training in Apple Fitness+ highlights the sport's rising prominence and the tech giant's responsiveness to emerging fitness trends. As pickleball continues to attract a diverse range of participants, resources like these play a pivotal role in supporting player development and sustaining the sport's momentum.

University of Alabama Invests \$1.6 Million in Pickleball: A Game-Changer for Campus Recreation

Pickleball's Rising Influence in College Sports

Pickleball, the fast-growing sport blending elements of tennis, badminton, and table tennis, has captured the attention of universities across the U.S. The University of Alabama (UA) is the latest institution to recognise its potential, committing \$1.6 million to expand its Parker-Haun Tennis Facility with 10 new pickleball courts. This investment reflects the sport's rapid rise and the university's broader efforts to enhance student life.



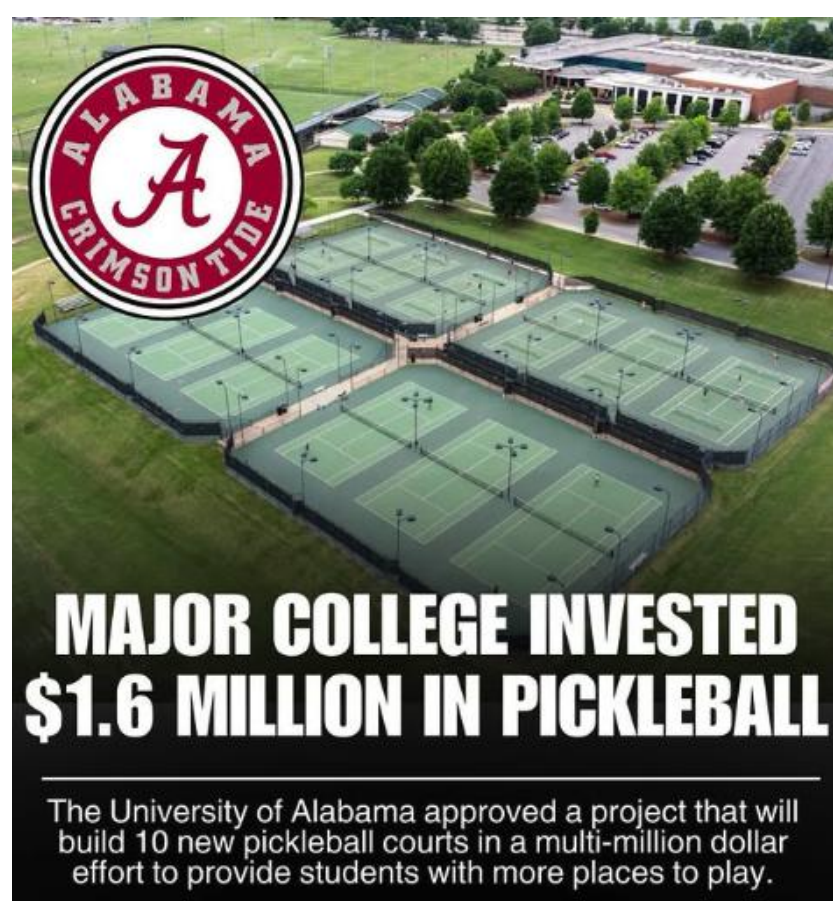
The University's Investment in Pickleball

Funding and Purpose

- UA's \$1.6 million allocation is part of a \$75 million campus-wide investment in student well-being.
- The project is financed through the Education Trust Fund (ETF) Advancement and Technology appropriation.
- The goal: Expand recreational opportunities and meet growing student demand for pickleball facilities.

Why Now? The Pickleball Boom at UA

- The university launched intramural pickleball leagues in response to overwhelming student interest.
- Six temporary courts were introduced at the tennis complex, hosting matches twice a week.
- Carlo Spalloni, Sport Programs Coordinator for University Recreation, acknowledged UA is "jumping on the craze" as participation in intramural sports continues to grow.



Impact on the University & Student Life

A New Era of Campus Recreation

- The new pickleball courts will be a permanent addition to UA's athletic infrastructure.
- Students can train, compete, and engage in social play in a state-of-the-art environment.
- Increased recreational offerings enhance student well-being, social engagement, and fitness levels.

Part of a Larger Campus Development Plan

- The investment in pickleball is part of UA’s Student Well-Being Initiative, which includes:
A \$60 million Student Well-Being Hub to house counselling, health services, and recovery programs.
- New outdoor and recreational spaces aimed at improving student quality of life.

Potential for Competitive Growth

- Dedicated pickleball courts set the stage for intercollegiate and regional competitions.
- UA could become a hub for collegiate pickleball, influencing other universities to follow suit.
- Increased participation may pave the way for scholarship opportunities and varsity-level programs.

The Bigger Picture: What This Means for Pickleball’s Future

Colleges Embracing Pickleball Nationwide

- UA joins other universities investing in pickleball facilities, reflecting its mainstream acceptance in collegiate sports.
- Other institutions, including Texas A&M and Michigan State, have expanded pickleball offerings to meet growing demand.
-

Pickleball’s Growth Beyond Campus

- The USA Pickleball Association (USAPA) reports over 36 million players nationwide, a 400% increase in participation over the last five years.
- With college investments, pickleball is positioned to become a long-term staple in recreational and competitive sports.

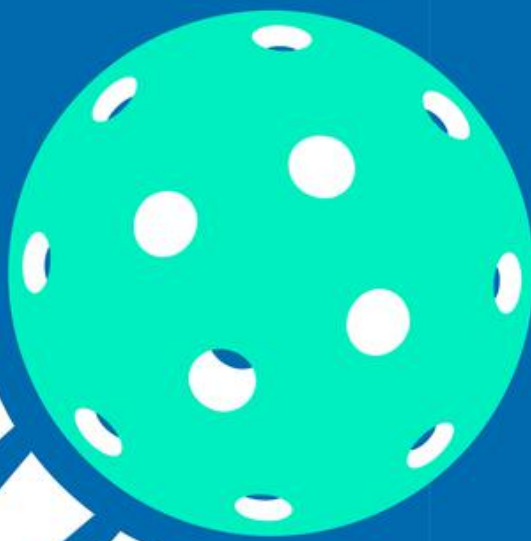
A Forward-Thinking Investment

The University of Alabama’s \$1.6 million investment in pickleball is more than just a facilities upgrade, it’s a testament to pickleball’s growing influence in sports culture. By providing top-tier courts and fostering student engagement, UA is setting a precedent for universities nationwide. Whether for casual players, student-athletes, or future competitors, this move cements pickleball’s future as a key part of collegiate recreation.



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Badminton England Announces New Travel Partnership with Destination Sport Group

Badminton England has secured a new official travel partnership with Destination Sport Group, a leading global sports travel company that specialises in delivering travel experiences for teams, governing bodies, and fans worldwide.

Under the agreement, Destination Sport Travel will manage the travel needs of Badminton England's athletes and coaches for tournaments, as well as handling day-to-day business travel for staff and the wider organisation.

SportsBreaks, part of Destination Sport Group, is known for providing fans with access to some of the biggest sporting events globally — from Premier League matches at Liverpool, Manchester City and Manchester United to Formula 1 race weekends. As part of the partnership, SportsBreaks will offer ticket-inclusive travel and accommodation packages to the YONEX All England Open Badminton Championships — the oldest and most prestigious competition on the BWF World Tour — starting from 2026.

Ben Nicholson, Director of Commercial and Engagement at Badminton England, welcomed the partnership:

“This partnership is tailored to benefit badminton in this country in several ways. We will be getting the very best support in sending our athletes around the world in a cost-effective, sustainable and elite performance-minded manner, and excitingly we will be encouraging badminton fans from across the globe to come to Birmingham to experience six days of world-class badminton at next year's YONEX All England Open.

“I am looking forward to working closely with Destination Sport to help open up new opportunities to grow the sport in this country and provide more inspirational moments to an engaged international audience.”

Sue Storey, CEO at Badminton England, added:

“I am delighted to welcome Destination Sport on board as a partner. At the heart of both Badminton England's long-term strategy and our clear objectives for the YONEX All England Open is the delivery of inspirational moments to more people in this country and across the world. I am confident that this new partnership will help us achieve those aspirations.”

Andrew Boyle, Head of Business Development at Destination Sport Group, echoed the excitement:

“We are honoured to partner with Badminton England and to play a part in supporting their mission to grow the sport. This partnership showcases the unique ability of Destination Sport Group to deliver exceptional experiences to athletes and fans alike, so we look forward to providing a best-in-class service in the years to come.”

Tough Draw for Indian Shuttlers at Badminton Asia Championships

India's top shuttlers, including Lakshya Sen, face a challenging road at next month's Badminton Asia Championships, with several tough matchups lined up from the opening rounds. The USD 500,000 individual competition will take place from 8 to 13 April.

Lakshya Sen, a bronze medallist at the 2021 World Championships, will open his campaign against Chinese Taipei's Lee Chia-Hao, a finalist at the All England Championships earlier this month.

HS Prannoy, still working his way back to form after a bout of chikungunya, faces a difficult opener against China's Guang Zu Lu.

In the men's singles, Priyanshu Rajawat will take on Thailand's Kantaphon Wangcharoen, while Kiran George has been drawn against a qualifier.

Two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu begins her women's singles campaign against Indonesia's Ester Nurumi Tri Wardoyo, ranked world No. 34. Elsewhere in the women's draw, Anupama Upadhyaya faces a tough test against former world champion and eighth seed Ratchanok Intanon of Thailand. Malvika Bansod will meet China's Fang Jie Gao, while Aakarshi Kashyap faces second seed Yue Han, also from China.

In women's doubles, Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand, ranked ninth, will face a qualifier in their opening match. Priya Konjengbam and Shruti Mishra will also compete in the women's doubles event.

India's men's doubles hopes will rest on the unseeded pairings of Hariharan Amsakarunan and Ruban Kumar Rethinasabapathi, as well as Pruthvi Krishnamurthy Roy and Sai Pratheek K.

The mixed doubles draw includes four Indian pairs: Rohan Kapoor and Ruthvika Shivani Gadde, Sathish Karunakaran and Aadya Variyath, Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto, and Ashith Surya and Amrutha Pramuthesh.



B Sumeeth Reddy Retires from Badminton to Focus on Coaching

India's doubles badminton specialist B Sumeeth Reddy has announced his retirement from professional badminton to fully commit to coaching. A key figure in Indian badminton, Sumeeth was part of the silver medal-winning squad at the 2022 Commonwealth Games and enjoyed a successful career spanning over a decade. He shared the news on social media, expressing gratitude for his playing career and excitement for the next chapter.

A Remarkable Career in Doubles

Sumeeth Reddy established himself as one of India's top doubles players, excelling in both men's and mixed doubles. His performances on the international stage alongside some of India's best shuttlers cemented his place in the country's badminton history.

Men's Doubles Partnership with Manu Attri

- Reached a career-high world ranking of 17
- Won gold at the 2016 South Asian Games
- Qualified for the 2016 Rio Olympics
- Represented India at the Asia Team Championships in Hyderabad

Success in International Tournaments

- Champion at the 2015 Mexico City Grand Prix
- Winner of the 2016 Canada Open
- Runner-up at the 2015 US Open and Dutch Open

Mixed Doubles Highlights

- Sumeeth also found success in mixed doubles, partnering with top Indian shuttlers, including his wife N. Sikki Reddy and Ashwini Ponnappa.
- Finished runner-up at the 2017 Syed Modi International



Transition to Coaching

Sumeeth had already begun laying the foundations for his post-playing career. In 2021, he co-founded the Sikki Sumeeth Badminton Academy in Hyderabad, dedicated to nurturing young talent. His commitment to coaching has now been formalised, with Sumeeth taking on the responsibility of coaching India's women's doubles players.

Legacy and Future Impact

Sumeeth Reddy's career has been a source of inspiration for aspiring shuttlers. His experience as an Olympian and top-ranked doubles player will undoubtedly benefit India's next generation of badminton stars.

His academy provides structured training programmes for young players.

His insights and expertise will strengthen India's women's doubles setup.

Sumeeth's transition from player to coach marks the beginning of an exciting new phase, one where his legacy on the court will continue to shape Indian badminton's future.



QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Q - Why is a GRSA certification good for me?

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.

Q - What makes GRSA stand out from the rest?

A - GRSA is a globally recognised association that includes some of the best and most knowledgeable Professionals, Master Stringers and Grand Master Stringers in the industry, this means the knowledge base is incomparable.

Q - What does GRSA teach its certified stringers?

A - GRSA teaches the importance of looking after the player, from the basics to the most intricate of details. How to provide accurate information, how to help improve and guide each individual.

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