

PROSQUASH

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14TH ASIAN SENIOR SQUASH KUWAIT 2008

It was the closest India came to beating Pakistan

(21/2/2008)



Ritwik Bhattacharya



Saurav Ghosal



Siddharth Suchde

Siddharth Suchde, who played at No 3 for India at the 14th Asian Squash Championship, reflects on India's show, saying that the future is incredibly bright.

The recently-concluded 14th Asian Squash Championships were, for the first time, held in Kuwait's newly-inaugurated National Squash Center. The Indian team comprising of Ritwik Bhattacharya, Saurav Ghosal, Naresh Kumar and myself were to compete in both the

Individual Championships followed by the Team Championships.

In the Individual category expectations were high as Saurav Ghosal was given a 3/4 seeding, while Ritwik Bhattacharya was placed 5/8. We all managed to win our first round matches fairly comfortably which is always a relief! In the second round Ritwik, who'd been suffering from a sore shoulder in previous weeks, fell to ex-Kuwaiti no.1 Mohammed Hajeyah by the narrowest of margins.

Naresh also lost to Wong Wai Hang from Hong Kong. Saurav and myself were more fortunate and managed to win our second rounds as well as the pre-quarter finals which placed us in more daunting territory. In the quarters, Saurav lost in a great match to the crowd favorite and Kuwaiti no.1, Abdullah Al-Mezayen 3-1. I on the other hand also lost 3-1 to the eventual finalist Ong Beng Hee. Mohd Azlan Iskander was, for the first time, crowned as the Asian Champion after he exhausted Beng Hee in a two-hour marathon edging out his teammate 9-7 in the fifth. I take partial credit for that result as Beng Hee was bound to feel the effects from his quarters!!!

Following a two-day break to enjoy our luxury hotel in Kuwait, Team India was ready to start the second phase of these championships. The initial rounds went as expected as we grabbed wins over Japan, Qatar and Korea. In the semi-finals we drew Malaysia, the no.1 seeds and defending champions. Despite the great disparity in rankings, Ritwik and Saurav, playing at positions 2 and 1 respectively put on an amazing show of guts to cause the Malaysians some serious anxiety during our tie.

Unfortunately, the Malaysians had their way and we were left with the disappointment of having come so close. The other semi-final however didn't go according to plan. Kuwait caused the biggest upset of the Championships by defeating the second seeds, Pakistan. It was the first time in Asian Squash history that Pakistan would not compete in a final. That meant India would have to take on their arch-rivals Pakistan in order to secure the bronze medal. Despite Saurav winning at the no.1 position Ritwik and myself were unable to convert and lost our ties 3-2. It's the closest in recent years that India has ever come to beating Pakistan and while the result wasn't in our favor this year, the future looks incredibly promising. In the finals, Kuwait weren't able to continue their winning ways and Malaysia showed why they were the top seeds by securing their second consecutive Asian title.

Contd...2

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RESULTS

MENS FINALS (TEAM EVENT)

Malaysia bt Kuwait 2-1:

Mohd Azlan Iskandar bt Abdullah Almezayen 10-8, 9-2, 9-6
 Mohd Nafizwan Adnan lost to Ali Alramezi 2-9, 8-10, 4-9
 Ong Beng Hee bt Salem F Mohammed 9-3, 9-0, 9-8

MEN (THIRD PLACE):

Pakistan bt India 2-1

Yasir Ali Butt lost to Saurav Ghosal 8-10, 9-4, 5-9, 1-9;
 Bilal Zaman bt Siddarth Suchde 9-2, 7-9, 9-10, 9-5, 9-1;
 Majid Khan bt Ritwik Bhattacharya 9-4, 1-9, 5-9, 9-3, 9-1.

SEMIFINALS:

Malaysia bt India 2-0

Ong Beng Hee bt Ritwik Bhattacharya 10-9, 10-8, 9-3
 Azlan Iskandar bt Saurav Ghosal 7-9, 9-5, 9-3, 9-4

Kuwait bt Pakistan 2-0

WOMEN FINAL (TEAM EVENT)

Malaysia bt Hong Kong 2-1

Nicol David bt Rebecca Chiu 9-1, 9-5, 9-0
 Della Arnold lost to Joey Chan 3-9, 3-9, 9-5, 2-9
 Sharon Wee bt Elise Ng 9-6, 9-2, 6-9, 9-1

FIFTH PLACE:

India bt China 2-0

Joshna Chinappa bt Wu Zhen Zhen 9-6, 9-0, 9-1
 Surbhi Misra bt Xiu Chen 9-0, 9-2, 9-0

ASIAN SENIORS INDIVIDUAL SQUASH
CHAMPIONSHIP 2008

Joshna wins bronze

(21/02/2008)

KUWAIT: There was shock and dismay for India after Joshna Chinappa, the lone Indian survivor gave up her singles semi final midway against Rebecca Chiu of Hong Kong complaining of a 'slippery court' in the Asian senior squash championship.

RESULTS

ALL RESULTS:

Women's Final:

Nicol David (MAS) bt Rebecca Chiu (HKG) 9-5, 9-2, 9-2

Semi-finals:

Nicol David (MAS) bt Christina Mak (HKG) 9-0, 9-2, 9-0
 Rebecca Chiu (HKG) bt Joshna Chinappa (IND) 9-0, 9-2 ret

Quarter-finals:

Joshna Chinappa (IND) bt Sharon Wee (MAS) 9-5, 4-9, 9-7, 9-5

2nd round:

Sharon Wee (MAS) bt Anwesha Reddy (IND) 9-1, 9-4, 9-6
 Joshna Chinappa (IND) bt Maria Toor Pakay (PAK) 9-1, 9-6, 9-2

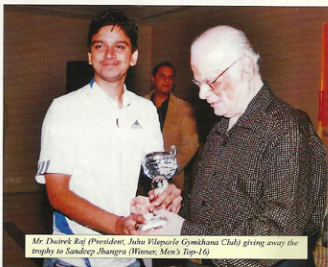
1st round:

Chinatsu Matsui (JPN) bt Harita Omprakash (IND) 9-4, 9-0, 9-3
 Christina Mak (HKG) bt Surbhi Misra (IND) 9-0, 9-6, 9-7
 Anwesha Reddy (IND) bt Hsieh Ssu Han (TPE) 9-1, 9-0, 9-1
 Joshna Chinappa (IND) bt Wu Zhenzhen (CHN) 9-0, 9-4, 9-1

JVPJ CLUB - ISP SQUASH CLASSIC

Jangra downs Malhotra for title

(13/2/2008)



Mr. Dhirendr Raj (President, Juhu Vileparle Gymkhana Club) giving away the trophy to Sandeep Jangra (Winner, Men's Top-16)

Sandeep Jangra, the former boys under-15 and under-17 National champion, wore down the early resistance from Vikram Malhotra to emerge men's singles winner in four games in the Rs. 50,000 prize money JVPJ Club-ISP Squash Classic, which concluded at the glass-back courts of the Juhu Vile Parle Gymkhana Club.

Jangra, the better player on the day, won the first game 12-10, lost the close second 9-11 and the romped home in the next two 11-4, 11-4 to bag the winner's purse of Rs.7,500. Malhotra, not in the best of form, had to be content with Rs.5,000.

The handicap doubles final saw Cyrus Vakil and Auloke Mathur record a comfortable 15-10, 15-10 win over Vijay Waghela and Amit Bhutani to take home Rs. 10,000.

RESULTS

MEN'S TOP 16

FINALS:

Sandeep Jangra bt Vikram Malhotra 12-10, 9-11, 11-4, 11-4

SEMI-FINALS:

Sandeep Jangra bt Abhishek Pradhan 11-4, 11-8, 11-7
 Vikram Malhotra bt Mahesh Mangaonkar 11-4, 8-11, 11-7, 11-6

HANDICAP DOUBLES

FINALS:

Cyrus Vakil & Auloke Mathur bt Vijay Waghela & Amit Butani 15-10, 15-10

SEMI FINALS:

Cyrus Vakil & Auloke Mathur bt Kishore Vanmari & Tushar Bambhani 15-13, 13-15, 15-10
 Vijay Waghela & Amit Butani bt Ayub Ghori & Sunil Goel 15-10, 15-12

MAHARASHTRA'S NATIONAL CHAMPIONS FELICITATED

13/2/2008

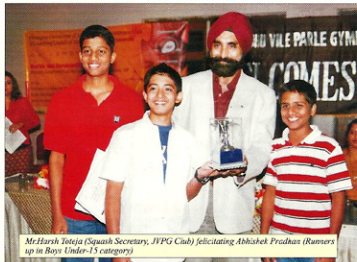


All the National winners along with Mr Anil Mahesh (Hon. Sec. JVPG Club), Mr Ashish Gupta (President, ISPG), Mr Dhirek Raj (President, JVPG Club), Mr Harshvardhan Patil (Chief Patron ISPG & Minister of Marketing, EGS, Women and Child Development & Parliamentary Affairs) Mrs Fatil, Mr Mahendra Agarwal (Founder Director, ISPG) & Noreena (Vice-President, ISPG)

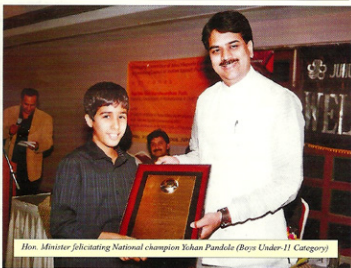
At the Junior Nationals 2007 at Ajmer, the Maharashtra players had done exceedingly well. The players were felicitated by Indian Squash Professionals at the prize distribution ceremony of JVPG - ISPG Squash Classic. Mr. Harshvardhan Patil (Chief Patron ISPG and Minister of Marketing, EGS, Women and Child Development and Parliamentary Affairs) gave the awards to the players.



Hon. Minister felicitating National champion Mahesh Mangaonkar (Boys under-15, category)



Mr Harsh Toteja (Squash Secretary, JVPG Club) felicitating Abhishek Pradhan (Runner up in Boys Under-15 category)



Hon. Minister felicitating National champion Yohan Pandole (Boys Under-11 Category)

EGYPTIAN PUSH FOR MUMBAI KIDS



Tareek Soloman Awad

PRADEEP VIJAYAKAR on two Egyptians who could make the difference to Mumbai's squash kids

Train the Egyptian way. That's the mantra of ISPG. The trio of Mahendra Agarwal, Shiv Malhotra and Sanjay Goel have pitched in to get high-level coach Tareek Soloman Awad and fitness trainer Ahmed Youssef to train the top eight juniors of Mumbai to take them to higher levels.

The youngsters have been working out at Gold's Gym at Oshiwara who have thrown open their doors to the players and coaches. And the results have been there for all to see. Mahesh Mangaonkar beat Vikas Jangra in the tournament at Gold's Gym to enter the final. That is sure to encourage the others to raise their game.

Tareek, 42, belongs to the famous Awad squash family of Egypt, as famous as the Khans of Pakistan. His uncle was the famous Gamal Awad who won the British Open men's title in 1977 and 1978. Other uncles Mohamed Awad and Ibrahim Awad were also good players. His two trainees who have done Tareek proud are Mohamed El Shourbagy who won the British Junior U-19 title in 2008 and Heba El Torkey who has been winning girls titles the last two years.

Tareek was a No 16 world player in 1986 when playing in Europe in Sweden and in the Bundesliga league in Germany. He was part of the world champion Egyptian team that beat England at Bromley. He played at No 3.

When he found he couldn't make it higher he began coaching and has done well in Europe. He coached Iran who reached the top 16 at the Asians in Chennai two years ago.

In between he plays in the Masters events



Ahmed Youssef

winning the over-35 title once.

Tareek also coached Deepika Pallikal. He says Indians juniors have a way to go, they need to work on their power and speed. "It is a lot of hard work but I am sure your kids can do it."

Mere playing is no use if it not backed up by peak fitness. Adding the fitness inputs is Ahmed Youssef. A club-level player Ahmed began studying to be a fitness trainer seven years ago. He has worked with the modern Egyptians greats like Amr Shabana, Karim Darwish, Rami Ashour. In between training in various parts of the world, Ahmed has also been broadening his knowledge of the science of fitness and rehabilitation. Ahmed has worked with kids like Deepika Pallikal, Mahesh Mangaonkar, Shivangi Paranjpe.

Ahmed's commitment is such that he says: "The fitness levels of the kids is not very good. They struggle when it comes to power and action. We are looking to build a pool of 40-50 players who will be the best in India."

GOLD'S GYM-ISP SQUASH MASTERS

Sandeep Jangra bags a grand double (15/03/2008)



Men's Doubles Top-8 winners Vikas & Sandeep Jangra along with chief guest Oshima Sarin (Actress), Riddhi Jadhav (Sponsor) & Mahendra Agarwal (Founder Director, ISP)

Sandeep Jangra, the former under-19 National champion bagged a grand double in the Gold's Gym-ISP Squash Masters 2008, winning the men's top singles and the men's top 8 doubles titles at the glass-back squash court of Gold's Gym.

In the singles final, pitted against talented squash teenager Mahesh Mangaonkar, Jangra prevailed 11-6, 11-5, 11-6 to take home the winner's purse of Rs 8,000. Sandeep then partnered with his cousin Vikas Jangra to get the better of Mangaonkar and Abhishek Pradhan 15-5, 15-10.

The celebrity event was won by Sandeep Rajora, who played Vikram Chaturvedi 11-4, 11-6.

Though Sandeep Jangra won in straight games, it was not as easy a victory as the scores suggest. The young Mangaonkar kept Jangra guessing with his change of pace and shots into the corners, but lacking a bit of consistency, would squander away points after a few rallies. Mangaonkar also seemed a bit overawed by the occasion against the vastly experienced Jangra.

In the semi-finals, the talented teenager Mahesh Mangaonkar defeated professional Sachin Jadhav in three straight games. Mangaonkar was in total control over his senior and more experienced rival and was also in fine form as he found the nicks and corners to win 11-6, 11-8, 11-5 to set up a title clash with Sandeep Jhangra, who was equally impressive in his 11-5, 11-4, 11-3 semi-finals victory over Sujat Barua.

In the semi-finals of the celebrity event, Vikram Chaturvedi, who has acted in the recent release Black & White defeated Sandeep Sachdev, the winner of the recent reality show Biggest Loser 11-2, 11-3.

RESULTS

FINALS :

Men's top 8 singles:

Sandeep Jangra bt Mahesh Mangaonkar 11-6, 11-5, 11-6.

Men's top 8 doubles:

Vikas Jangra & Sandeep Jangra bt Abhishek Pardhan & Mahesh Mangaonkar 15-5, 15-10.

Celebrities Event:

Sandeep Rajora bt Vikram Chaturvedi 11-4, 11-6.

SEMI FINALS :

Men's top 8 singles:

Mahesh Mangaonkar bt Sachin Jadhav 11-6, 11-8, 11-5
Sandeep Jhangra bt Sujat Barua 11-5, 11-4, 11-3

Men's top 8 doubles:

Sandeep Jangra & Vikas Jhangra bt Sachin Jadhav & Anil Mohite 15-6, 15-4
Abhishek Pardhan & Mahesh Mangaonkar bt Rajesh Rajani & Vijay Waghela 15-17, 15-3, 15-14

Celebrities Event:

Vikram Chaturvedi (Movie Black & White) bt Sandeep Sachdev (Biggest Loser) 11-2, 11-3
Sandeep Rajora W/o Shakti Anand (Ek Ladki Anjani Si)

QUARTER-FINALS:

Men's Top 8 Doubles :

Sandeep Jangra & Vikas Jangra bt Mahesh Gulia & Mohd Jahabaz 11-5, 11-7
Sachin Jadhav & Anil Mohite bt Sujat Barua & Imroze Pathan 12-10, 11-6
Abhishek Pardhan & Mahesh Mangaonkar bt Sanjay Goyal & Ashish Gupta 11-6, 8-11, 11-3
Rajesh Rajani & Vijay Waghela bt Riaz Mohd & Siraj Mohd 11-2, 11-8

Men's Top 8 Singles:

Sachin Jadhav bt Kunwarpal Singh 11-8, 11-7
Sujat Barua bt Vijay Waghela 11-5, 11-4
Sandeep Jangra bt Abhishek Pradhan 11-6, 11-6
Mahesh Mangaonkar bt Vikas Jangra 17-15, 6-11, 11-8

ISP CELEBRATES WORLD SQUASH DAY IN GRAND FASHION

(15/03/2008)



Ms. Oshima Sawhney (Actress) cutting the cake of World Squash Day which was celebrated in Gold's Gym, Lokhandwala, Mumbai.

The city's squash fraternity, led by Mahendra Agarwal, the Founder Director of Indian Squash Professionals and the Managing Committee members of the Squash Racquets Association of Maharashtra celebrated World Squash Day with much gusto and enthusiasm even while making a commitment to spread the game of squash to more centres throughout the state.

Going with the motto of the ISP to bring more clubs into the squash fold, Gold's Gym, Oshiwara became a proud member of the ever growing squash family in the suburbs and proved the perfect venue for the celebrations of World Squash Day, which also coincided with the final of the Gold's Gym-ISP Squash Masters Tournament, an event involving the top 8 singles players and top 8 doubles pairs along with celebrities.

An exciting range of activities was planned by ISP for the participants, which began with Fun Cricket on the Court...Squash Style. This involved playing normal cricket in the squash court, having a squash tournament with a foam ball, best of 1 game and using a squash racket instead of the regular bat to play cricket, with the batsman facing the front wall with the door being the stumps.

There was also doubles Badminton but played with a squash racket.

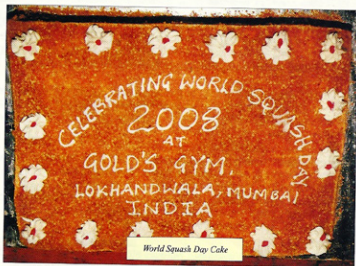
Then a squash coaching camp was held, and squash racquets were provided to the beginners.

All participants who attended the celebrations of World Squash Day received a gift. A World Squash Day cake was also cut.

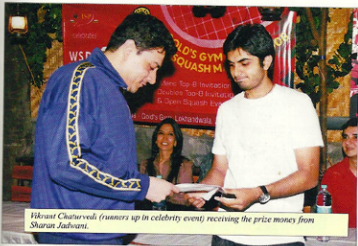
The celebrations ended with the prize distribution of the Gold's Gym-ISP Squash Masters, attended by actress Oshima Sawhney, Mr. Kishore & Mrs. Ridhi Jadhani the owner's of Gold's Gym, Oshiwara, Mahendra Agarwal and other dignitaries. The prize distribution was followed by cocktails and dinner.



Sandeep Rajora (winner in celebrity event) receiving the prize money from Ridhi Jadhani (Gold's Gym)



World Squash Day Cake



Vikrant Chaturvedi (runner up in celebrity event) receiving the prize money from Sharan Jadhani.



Celebrities along with sponsor Ridhi & Kishore Jadhani.

BRITISH JUNIOR SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIP 2008

06/01/2008

Deepika wins British Junior U-17 title



Deepika Pallikal receiving the trophy from the wife of Mayor, Sheffield

Deepika Pallikal beat Egyptian top seed Heba El Torky 9-6, 5-9, 9-6, 1-9, 9-5 to win the British Junior Open U-17 title at Abbeydale in U.K. Deepika was seeded 5-8. She had won a battle royale against Canadian second seed Laura Gemmell 9-10, 9-4, 10-9, 10-9 earlier.

For years Deepika Pallikal was in the shadow of Joshna Chinappa. Now she is finally out of it and has gone one better by beating an Egyptian. Joshna has usually come a cropper against her Egyptian arch-rival, Omneya.

One remembers seeing a young Deepika in events in Mumbai. She was the dusky beauty. It was sad to see her in tears losing to Anwesha in U-15 final at the Little Masters. But the smile was back when she won the U-17 final beating Anwesha. Anwesha was also there at Abbeydale losing in the last eight. Dipika Rebecca Pallikal, to give her full name, was born on September 21. Sport runs in the family.

Her Grandmom represented Kerala state in athletics, grandpa represented three states in basketball, Father played cricket for his college and Mother Susan represented India in cricket. One sister Diya plays basketball while the other Divya's sport is cheering Deepika!

Deepika had won the German, Indian ever to break into the top 100 of squash (WISPA ranking) rankings rising to a Dutch, French, Australian and Scottish Opens but not the British in five attempts. She is only the second career-high 91 in May 2007.

Her family and Mahesh Bhupathi's Globosport spared nothing to make her game grow. They had an apartment in Cairo where she trained from time to time.

Deepika was offered to star in Tamil movies which she refused for the moment as squash was her passion. The year 2001 was the turning point in her career. She gave up tennis for squash. She gave notice by beating the boys of her age. She got membership to the India Cements Squash Academy in 2002. She became the National Champion at the age of 11 and never looked back.

By Pradeep Vijayakar

SCOTTISH JUNIOR OPEN 2007

(31-12-2007)

Indians shining at Scottish Jr Open



Mahesh Mangaonkar with his trophy

Edinburgh : 4 Indian kids emerged champs in Scottish Junior Open being played in Edinburgh. Harinder Pal Singh beat Kelly Shannon from Canada after being in the lead by 2-1. In the 4th game which was a thriller Harinder beat Kelly by 10-8. Harinder became only the second Indian to win this title in the under 19 category after Siddharth Suchde in 2003.

Anwesha Reddy become the only Indian to win the Girls u17 category, while Mahesh Mangaonkar won his first u15 title defeating Dylan Murray whom he had beaten last year also in Under 13 category. Sandeep Ramachandran had an easy final defeating Ryan of USA in 3 straight games.

2 Indian who lost in the finals were Aparajitha and Karan Melik.

RESULTS

FINAL RESULTS :

Boys Under-19: Harinder Pal Singh {Ind} bt Kelly Shannon {Canada} 9-4, 4-9, 9-1, 10-8

Girls Under-17: Anwesha Reddy {Ind} bt Kimberley Hay {England} 9-3, 9-5, 10-8

Boys Under-15: Mahesh Mangaonkar {Ind} bt Dylan Murray {U.S.A} 9-7, 9-6, 9-7

Boys Under-11: Sandeep Ramachandran {Ind} bt Ryan Murray {U.S.A} 9-0, 9-0, 9-2

Girls Under-15: Aparajitha Balamurukan {Ind} lost to Tamika Saxby {Aust} 5-9, 1-9, 2-9

Boys Under-17: Karan Melik {Ind} lost to Andrew Schnell {Canada} 1-9, 1-9, 4-9

JOSHNA LOSSES IN THE FINALS OF WISPA EVENT

(26-3-2008)

National Champion Joshna Chinappa failed to cross the final hurdle once again. After storming into the final in the NSC Tour I tournament, a \$12,000 WISPA event in Kuala Lumpur, Joshna went down to the top seed Jaclyn Hawkes of New Zealand in straight games in the title round.

The sixth-seeded Joshna did put up a fight, but it came quite late after she was down by two games in this 30-minute encounter. Jaclyn won 9-4, 9-2, 10-8.

In the Semi finals Joshna chalked out one of the finest wins of her career when she eclipsed the second seed and home favourite Sharon Wee in five games after being 1-2 down. She won 9-6, 3-9, 1-9, 9-7, 9-2. Sharon had earlier ended the run of another Indian, Dipika Pallikal.

In the quarterfinal, Joshna had beaten Line Hansen of Denmark 9-1, 9-4, 8-10, 9-0 and prevailed over Siti Munirah Jusoh of Malaysia 9-3, 3-9, 9-3, 9-2 in the first round of the 16-player draw.

KOLKATA INTERNATIONAL SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIP

(8/2/2008)

Mansoor wins Kolkata title



Mansoor Zaman

Pakistani Mansoor Zaman, son of the legendary former world champ Qamar, beat Malaysian Ong Beng Hee to claim the Kolkata International Squash Championship.

The local hope and India's pride Sourav Ghosal lost to Omar Mossad in four games in the quarterfinals. Mossad ranked no.27 in the world got the better of Sourav 11-8, 4-11, 11-9, 11-1. Mossad said: "I think I played well in the third and fourth games. The third game was close, but in the fourth, Sourav, I think, calmed down a bit giving me the chance. Sourav is swift and has good strokes and it was difficult to beat him before his home crowd."

RESULTS

FINALS :

Mansoor Zaman bt Ong Beng Hee 11-8, 11-7, 4-11, 11-8

SEMIFINALS:

Mansoor Zaman bt Omar Mosaad 11-5, 4-11, 7-11, 11-7, 11-9;
Ong Beng Hee bt Omar Abdel Aziz 11-8, 9-11, 6-11, 11-8, 11-4.

QUARTERFINALS :

Mansoor Zaman bt Shahid Zaman 5-11, 11-6, 11-8, 11-6;
Omar Mosaad bt Sourav Ghosal 11-8, 4-11, 11-9, 11-1;
Omar Abdel Aziz bt Aamir Atlas Khan 6-11, 11-3, 7-11, 11-1, 11-7;
Ong Beng Hee bt Farhan Mehboob 11-10 (2-0), 11-9, 11-4

ROUND 1:

Omar Mosaad (Egy) bt Gaurav Nandrajog (Ind) 11-8, 11-7, 11-9.
Saurav Ghosal (Ind) bt Mohamed El Shorbagy (Egy) 10-12, 11-7,
12-10, 11-7
Aamir Atlas Khan (Pak) bt Ritwik Bhattacharya (Ind) 11-8, 11-7, 11-6.

INDIAN SQUASH PLAYERS SHINE OVERSEAS

Aditya Jagtap and Dipika Pallikal have made splendid achievements in the last couple of months. At the British Junior Open, Dipika became only the second Indian girl to win a title after Joshna. She won the Girls Under 17 title, beating top seed Heba El Torky (EGY) 9-6, 5-9, 9-6, 1-9, 9-5 from Egypt. Aditya Jagtap topped the 2nd seed Farhan Zaman in the pre-quarters, despite losing the first two games 1-9, 0-9. In the Quarterfinal played the same evening, he narrowly missed beating the eventual winner-Karim Abdel Gawad (Egypt), losing the fifth game 7-9.

At the next event- the French Junior Open, Aditya won the Under-17 title, propelling him to the European Squash Federation No-2 position. With over a year to go in the Under-17 age group, Aditya is certain to be ranked No-1. As it is, his current No-2 position is the highest ever attained by an Indian.

It might seem therefore that Indian squash is doing well. It is indeed, but not in India! Both these players train in Egypt. India's per-se the Squash Rackets Federation of India do nothing to help the players. On the contrary, SRFI has done a lot to hamper the players. Dipika was not selected for the Asian Championships at Kuwait and has filed a case on SRFI for this. All SRFI is doing is ensuring talented players get training in courts of law rather than squash courts! Other top players also have to train abroad- Ritwik, Joshna, Saurav, Aditya and Siddharth etc.

NAISHAD JOINS IVY LEAGUE



Naishad Lalwani

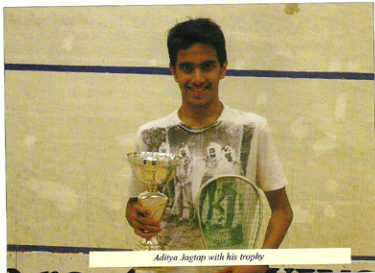
Naishad Lalwani the young gun of CCI squash has joined the trail of Indian youngsters going to the Ivy League. Naishad has got a scholarship with Yale University, whose best recent product has been Julian Illingworth who played for US in the recent World Team squash at Chennai.

Naishad, India's former U-13 National champ, has been among the top four in later age groups. He is known for his sizzling strokeplay. Naishad made a big sacrifice of a year of studies after his 12th but it was worth it as he got to represent the country at the World Juniors in New Zealand in 2006 and also won the Tri-University Squash tournament.

Above all he is happy that during that period he was able to give back to the club which brought him up in the sport, CCI by way of coaching some beginners and intermediates, some of whom play at competitive level.

Naishad, who played T.T and basketball loves squash because, as he puts, "Sweat dripping down my forehead, adrenaline pumping through my veins, and the undeniable ache for victory, each a feeling I truly relish."

INTERVIEW WITH ADITYA JAGTAP



Aditya Jagtap with his trophy

Prosquash : What new did you learn in the 2007 season?

Aditya : The most important thing is the fitness aspect of the game and playing out the crucial points patiently. Regarding fitness, I have got stronger since I have worked very hard on my stability, strength and speed. It is important in the U-17, U-19 as the Europeans and other players work very hard on fitness during these years. Also, the fact that being patient is very important and hence these days I'm not going for the winners too soon, thus waiting for the perfect opportunity and then playing the right shot.

Prosquash : What were the high points?

Aditya : The high points were, I won German Junior, French Junior, Indian Junior Nationals and was runner-up in the Nordic and Belgian Junior Open, 7th position in the most prestigious British Junior Open. This was my first year of U-17 and hence I'm confident that I'll do even better in 2008.

Prosquash : Is the field for the French Juniors really strong?

Aditya : It is pretty strong, especially the final in French Junior Open was a very hard match with Lucas Serme, before this tournament we had 1-1 record, I beat him in the finals and now it is 2-1, Lucas prepared very well for this tournament and he was determined to win but I managed to keep cool and dig it out. My semi-final with Geoff Demont was also tough. According to me after Egyptian juniors, French players are the best in the world, they have a very structured programme and there are some very good junior players coming up in various age groups. I think they are being benefitted immensely because of good senior players like Thierry Lincou, Greg Gaultier and others.

Prosquash : Was it tough trying to reach another peak after the British Juniors?

Aditya : It was actually ok, I was planning to take little bit easy for some time and then get back but I had very little time before French Open so I just tried to keep the same momentum going as in the British and thankfully was able to be consistent.

Prosquash : What is the difference you feel between you and Awad and how can you bridge the gap?

Aditya : I think he has got a very good anticipation and he gets to the ball really fast, he also has a very good deception. I'm working very hard on my fitness and hopefully once I become stronger, I'll be able to beat him.

Prosquash : What did the Pakistanis feel after you beat Farhan?

Aditya : The guys from Peshawar were sad as they were really expecting Farhan to win the tournament as he had beaten all the U-19 boys in Pakistan before coming to British Junior Open. But, I know that a few of the

players from Pakistan were also happy for me.

Prosquash : Which of the seniors have you hit the ball with?

Aditya : I have had a hit with Ritwik, Manish, Lawrence Anjema, Karim Darwish, Hisham Ashour and a couple of more players from England and Egypt.

Prosquash : What areas you still need to improve?

Aditya : I'm working really hard on my fitness especially on my core, flexibility and strength. I have started a tough gym work out to help me on these aspects. Regarding the game I'm trying to develop a slow game.

Prosquash : What are the targets for 2008?

Aditya : To win super series tournaments like Dutch, Pioneer, Nordic, Belgian, French, Indian Junior Nationals and British Junior Open in 2009.

Prosquash : Will you also concentrate on U-19?

Aditya : Yes, I might be playing only U-19 and Men's tournaments in India this year as I will get better games and will get used to play against fitter and tougher opponents.

Prosquash : Who have been your guiding lights?

Aditya : My parents, Neil Harvey, Amir Wagih and A.I. Singh in India.

Prosquash : And studies how do you cope?

Aditya : Very well, actually whenever I'm travelling I'm carrying my books and I make it a point to sit down every day and study, I have been managing it pretty well and I hope will continue doing it.

By Pradeep Vijayakar

CSA NATIONAL TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

Four Indian lads part of Trinity's best day in US collegiate squash

Four Indian lads may have figured in the finest performance of Trinity College in the history of US collegiate squash made famous by Indians like Anil Nayar, Adrian Ezra and Siddharth Suchde, who all won the singles title.

These four were among the eight winners as Trinity College won the US collegiate squash title beating Princeton 8-1 in the final. They were Manek Mathur, Parth Sharma, Rushab Vora and Supreet Singh.

It was Trinity's tenth successive title. Trinity also kept alive a 182-match winning streak, which in addition to being the longest ever in college squash, is also a national record for successive wins in any college sport in the USA.

Princeton coach, Bob Callahan, whose squad has come the closest to topping Trinity over the past few campaigns, paid tribute to the Trinity effort this year. "We've been frustrated by Trinity before," said Callahan, "But I feel that this may well have been Trinity's finest effort. Their level of focus and overall effort and performance throughout the match may be the best I've ever seen from them."

The event involved 51 teams and required four large squash facilities across Boston to stage. Total attendance at the three day event exceeded 6500.

RESULTS

TRINITY BT PRINCETON 8-1

Basel Chaudry (T) def Mauricio Sanchez (P) 9-4 9-1 9-0
 Gustav Dettler (T) def Kimlee Wong (P) 9-7 9-4 9-2
 Manek Mathur (T) def David Letourneau (P) 9-4 9-1 9-10 9-6
 Andres Vargas (T) def David Canner (P) 9-2 9-4 2-9 9-5
 Parth Sherma (T) def Heshem El Halaby (P) 9-5 9-1 9-5
 Supreet Singh (T) def Santiago Imberton (P) 9-4 9-7 2-9 9-4
 Tom McKay (P) def Randy Lim (T) 5-9 9-1 9-5 9-6
 Simba Muhwati (T) def Peter Sopher (P) 9-4 9-4 9-6
 Rushabh Vora (T) def Philip Sopher (P) 9-2 9-3 9-2

How they finished:

1. Trinity College. 2. Princeton University. 3. Yale University. 4. Harvard University. 5. University of Pennsylvania.

SUCHDE HAPPY OVER A 'SYMBOLIC' WIN

Siddharth Suchde became a path-breaker in Indian squash by being the first player to return from the Ivy League and join the PSA circuit. Most Indian kids have gone to the US universities, mostly on squash scholarships, and taken up careers because squash wasn't such a lucrative career for them.

But Suchde took the risk and it was great to read that he won the first PSA title of 2008. In that respect he began the new year bright for Indian squash. Deepika Pallikal added the good news when winning the U-17 British Junior title.

Suddharth upset two higher-seeded players to reach the final of the Regions Racquet Club Pro Squash Series at the Racquet Club in St Louis. The US-based eighth seed from Mumbai removed Canada's fourth seed Ian Power in the quarter-finals before toppling top-seeded Australian Tony James in straight games in the semi-finals.

His unseeded opponent Cesar Salazar reached the final after overcoming seeds in the three earlier rounds. But the 20-year-old Mexican was no match for Suchde in the final as the 22-year-old former US Intercollegiate champion claimed a 11-9, 11-6, 11-4 victory, and his first PSA title success since joining the association almost four years ago.

Said Suchde about his triumph: "I am absolutely delighted to win my first event only six months after graduating from Harvard and taking squash up professionally. What made it even more special is that I wasn't even one of the top four seeds. I was seeded 8th and beat the 4th and 1st seeds on the way. Plus its also symbolic to win the first PSA of the year and the first of my career. I should be very close to the top-100 mark by the end of February, so its been quite a jump from 350 in September 2007.

By Pradeep Vijayakar

RESULTS

FINALS:

[8] Siddharth Suchde (IND) bt Cesar Salazar (MEX) 11-9, 11-6, 11-4

SEMI-FINALS:

[8] Siddharth Suchde (IND) bt [1] Tony James (AUS) 11-7, 11-8, 11-9
 Cesar Salazar (MEX) bt [2] Wade Johnstone (AUS) 4-11, 11-4, 11-4, 9-11, 11-9

HAMDARD DELTON SQUASH INVITATION CHAMPIONSHIP 2008

(29/01/2008)

Jindal's Saumya Karki and ex-Jindal lad Sandeep Jangra won the open titles in the Hamdard Delton invitation squash championship at Delhi.



RESULTS

FINALS:

Men's: Sandeep Jangra bt Laxman Joshi (Jindal) 9-0 9-4 10-8
Women's: Saumya Karki bt Zoya Khalid (Pak) 9-2 7-9 2-9 9-4 9-1
Boy's U-19: Laxman Joshi bt Gunraj Singh (Delhi) 9-2 9-2 10-8
Boy's U-17: Asif Khan (Pak) bt Ali Khan (Pak) 10-8 9-1 9-5
Boy's U-15: Rashid (Pak) bt Nematullah (Pak) 2-9 9-4 9-1 9-2
Boy's U-13: Bilal Zakir (Pak) bt Ali B. (Pak) 9-5 7-9 9-6 8-10 9-7
Boys & Girls U-11 and U-13: Israr Ahmad (Pak) bt Pankuri Malhotra (Delhi) 9-4 9-3 9-2

SEMI FINAL:

Boy's U-15:

Nematullah beat Deepak Mishra (9-5, 8-10, 9-6, 9-6)
 M. H. Rashid beat Kush Kumar (9-0, 9-0, 9-2)

Boy's U-13:

Bilal Zakir beat Mohd. Farhan (9-3, 9-0, 9-1)
 S.A.M.S Bukhari beat Kush Kumar (9-4, 9-0, 9-5)

Boy's U-11 & 13:

Pankuri Malhotra beat Shweta Yadav (9-5, 9-6, 3-9, 10-8)
 Israr Ahmad beat Urvasi Joshi (9-4, 9-4, 9-2)

Women's Open:

Saumya Karki beat Muqaddas Ashraf (9-1, 9-7, 10-9)
 Zoya Khalid beat Sachika Ingale (9-4, 4-9, 6-9, 9-4, 9-4)

Boy's U-17:

Asif Khan beat Waqas Mehboob (0-9, 1-9, 9-3, 9-1, 9-1)
 Ali Ayub beat Karm Kumar (9-1, 9-1, 9-2)

Boy's U-19:

Laxman Joshi beat Farman (9-1, 9-4, 9-3)
 Gunraj Singh beat Md. Naveed Alam (9-1, 9-1, 9-4)



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SRAM RANKING MARCH 2008

BOYS UNDER 15

1. Mahesh Mangaonkar
2. Abhishek Pradhan
3. Aakash Borwankar
4. Caran Arora
5. Vrishab Kotian
6. Rohan Vora
7. Ness Billimoria
8. Samir Mistry
9. Rahul Fazalbhoy
10. Shashi Pandey
11. Nitin Singh
12. Arjun Kochhar
13. Raghav Mehrotra
14. Ishan Advani
15. Aditya Kochhar
16. Viraj Nayyar

BOYS UNDER 19

1. Vikram Malhotra
2. Aditya Jagtap
3. Laxman Joshi
4. Sujat Barua
5. Mahesh Mangaonkar
6. Abhishek Pradhan
7. Naveen Jangra
8. Abhinav Sinha
9. Akhilesh Nayak
10. Anup Sharma
11. Jay Dalal
12. Kumwarpal Singh
13. Aditya Gupta
14. Angad Marwah
15. Aakash Borwankar
16. Caran Arora

GIRLS UNDER 15

1. Saumya Karki
2. Ankita Sharma
3. Sachika Balwani
4. Urvashi Joshi
5. Namrata Purohit
6. Anju Sharma
7. Shiweta Yadav
8. Sanjana Merchalt
9. Khushi Agarwal
10. Anissa Malhotra
11. Jui Kalgutkar
12. Anmol Gill
13. Gayatri Raheja
14. Zarina Saini
15. Meghana Haryani
16. Kunashini Parekh

GIRLS UNDER 19

1. Shivangi Paranjpe
2. Saumya Karki
3. Ankita Sharma
4. Sachika Balwani
5. Rinki Soni
6. Shaheen Madraswala
7. Shaheda Madraswala
8. Urvashi Joshi
9. Namrata Purohit
10. Tanya Arora
11. Sanjana Merchalt
12. Khushi Agarwal
13. Anissa Malhotra
14. Jui Kalgutkar
15. Anmol Gill
16. Gayatri Raheja

NOW, IT'S DR JAHANGIR KHAN

Jahangir Khan, President of the World Squash Federation, has been awarded an honorary Doctor of Philosophy degree from London Metropolitan University. The distinguished squash figure joined a wide range of public figures from the world of business, sport, the arts, politics and public administration in receiving honorary degrees from the University this year - including Lord Moynihan, the former British Sports Minister and Chairman of the British Olympic Association since 2005; Manny Lewis, Chief Executive of the London Development Agency, which contributed greatly to London's 2012 Olympic bid; and Philip Lane, CEO of the British Paralympic Association and a member of the London 2012 Olympic Board Strategy Group.

In 1979, Jahangir Khan became the youngest player ever to win the World Amateur title - at only 15 years old. Two years later, he became the youngest player (at 17) to claim the World Open Championship, beating Australia's Geoff Hunt in the final.

Jahangir went on to win the prestigious British Open title a record ten times and the World Open trophy six times. Furthermore, he established an unprecedented unbeaten record for an incredible five years and eight months - an achievement unsurpassed in any other equivalent sport. Jahangir not only dominated international squash, but also North American hardball squash.

Jahangir retired from competitive squash in 1993, after helping Pakistan win the World Team Championships for the sixth time. In 1984 the government of Pakistan honoured him by putting his image on a postage stamp and presenting him with the President's Award and the civil award of Bilal-e-Imtiaz. Jahangir has also been named as one of Asia's Heroes by Time Magazine.

Jahangir had become a household name throughout the world - and later was voted the greatest ever male player by a poll on the World Squash Federation website.

In 1990 he was elected Chairman of the Professional Squash Association (PSA) and Vice President of the Pakistan Squash Federation in 1998. In November 1998 he was elected Vice President of the World Squash Federation - and he was made President four years later on 26 October 2002.

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FROM THE COLLECTION OF ARTICLE WRITTEN BY LATE RAJU CHAINANI FROM 1971-2001

Take squash to the public

Article in Times of India (2/1/1993)



Raju Chainani

GIVE me some of your hair and I shall teach you some squash", was Gogi Allaudin's suggestion to our junior national champion, Paul Ferreira. In days gone by, Allaudin was one of Pakistan's all-time greats, he was runner-up in the British Open twice, to Jonah Harrington in 1972 and to QamarZaman in 1974. Those were the days of the wooden rackets, the relatively untried squash shoes and a winner's cheque of around £ 1,000 in major events.

Times have changed. The current breed of players use expensive graphite rackets which retail around £ 100 and have a range of shoes to choose from. In addition, there are lucrative endorsements and exhibitions. Gogi Allaudin has seen the transformation in the last two decades. His message to Paul Ferreira was well meaning and aimed at making him understand that materialistic values should take second place.

Indeed, if one reflects on the champions of squash since the days of Hashim Khan, one thing sticks out like a sore thumb. The Pathans originated from little villages on the North-West Frontier. Their lifestyle was simple and the going was very tough for them. To have learnt the game on some courts without a roof and with broken rackets and on bare feet is remarkable enough. To have then gone on and taught it to the world is quite another thing.

The great champions came from villages, from humble surroundings, it has only been in the last decade, with the advent of western thinking, that others have offered a serious challenge to the Pathans. The Australian Institute of Squash is a prime example of changing times and, in England, there's a certain gentleman called Jonah Harrington who is their director of excellence. Despite these recent developments, the fact remains that it was Nawakille, A little village close to Peshawar, that came up with a Khan tribe who went out to dominate world squash.

Of course, the backing that the players received had a lot to do with their success. Hashim had the Pakistan Air Force behind him whilst Roshan (Jahangir's father) was sent to England by their Navy. In later years, PIA was 16 come on the scene and now it plays a major role in Pakistan squash.

Is there something for us to learn from this? Many of the Khans were ballboys at their clubs but, in time to come, they changed things round and were accepted on par. This transformation from being accepted as a marker or a second-class citizen to a situation where one is respected as a coach and even called "Sir" has yet to come about in Indian squash. It's almost as if our professionals were children of a lesser God.

Considering that we have millions of villages in the country perhaps there is still the chance of finding a potential champion from amongst them. As long as they are assured of a roof over their head and a regular income to sustain their families, there is no earthly reason why we cannot attempt, to do what our illustrious neighbors have. Today, squash in India is regarded as an elitist sport and confined

to a handful of private clubs. All over the world, it is an different story where the man off the street can even squeeze in a game at lunchtime.

A squash court occupies just 672 square feet. Since the game can be played throughout the year, it could find an appeal amongst the masses. Even if one look the cost of construction at around Rs 5 lakhs, it's peanuts compared to the good, that could be done. For Indian squash to really come up in those long term, the game has to be taken to the public, it is from the boys who have to run five miles to fetch a pall of water that we may see a potential champion emerge. It's a situation where materialistic values would come a distant see and

TRAINER MITUL GADA



Mitul Gada

"Mitul Gada" is a personal trainer in Math for CAT/GMAT/SAT/ IB/ IGCSE/ A Levels and working with IMS, Mumbai since last 7 years as a trainer and GMAT/ SAT product head. Earlier, he was the academic consultant and used to train other trainers at Princeton and Kaplan.

He trains students with clarification of concepts, timesaving shortcuts and smarter approaches, intensive coaching, authentic reference material and regular follow-ups with personalized coaching programs.

He is also an honorary career and study abroad counselor. He is also a freelance journalist and writes regularly in Times of India, Mid-day with career based articles.

He has trained many squash players including Dhiraj Nagpal who was his student for both SAT and GMAT. He will advice squash Enthusiasts about their physical fitness as well as the areas mentioned at subsidized charges.

Contact: 9819715357 Email: gmitul2001@yahoo.com Website : www.mitulgada.com

QATAR JUNIOR OPEN- ANOTHER FIASCO BY SRFI.

The Qatar Junior International Championship 2008 was held from 14-17 March. In a surreptitious manner, SRFI used this tournament to "reward" its subservient players, instead of sending the best players from the country. Note that this championship included a TEAM as well as individual event.

The Under-15 team consisted of Deepak Misra, Kush Kumar, both from Dhampur Sugar Mills, Roshan Kumarakannan from Chennai, and one Tim Vadlahovsky from God-knows where! The U-19 team consisted of Ravi Dixit, Karan Malik, Laxman Joshi and Paramjit Singh. Laxman Joshi is from Jindal Squash Academy. The other three players are from Chennai.

The best players India has in Under-15 are- Mahesh Mangaonkar, Abhishek Pradhan, Akash Borwankar. Vrishabh Kotian/Samir Mistry.

The best players in the U-19 category India has are- Vikram Malhotra, Aditya Jagtap, Laxman Joshi, and Karm Kumar.

It isn't difficult to guess what the results would be. India finished 5th out of 6 teams, followed only by Qatar. Even Jordan fished ahead of India!

In the Individual events, in U-19, Paramjit Singh lost in the 1st round, and Laxman in the 2nd.

In U-17, both Ravi and Karan lost in the 2nd round. In U-15, Deepak Misra lost in the 1st round. In U-13, Kush and Roshan lost in the 2nd round. Hence, the best that any Indian player managed was to reach the second round!

Perhaps this was an effort by SRFI to give the lesser Indian players some exposure. After all, losing is a stepping-stone to success. Perhaps this way, even SRFI will win some credibility. Someday.

NEW ORGANISING SECRETARIES OF ISP



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INTERNATIONAL RESULTS ALL FINALS

23-03-2008 : IRELAND OPEN 2008, GALWAY
Scott Handley bt John Rooney 11-6, 11-8, 12-10

20-03-2008 : VIETNAM OPEN 2008, HANOI
Louise Cromie bt Joshna Chinappa 9-7, 9-1, 9-7

08-03-2008 : CIMB KL OPEN 2008, KUALA LUMPUR
Nicol David bt Natalie Grinham 9-4, 9-2, 9-2

02-03-2008 : WOMEN'S DES PYRAMIDES 2008, LE PORT MARLY
Isabelle Stoehr bt Jaclyn Hawkes 9-0, 9-5, 9-4

09-03-2008 : KRANZ OPEN 2008, SLOVENIA
Bralley Hindle bt Jethro Binns 11-8, 11-9, 11-9

09-03-2008 : 35TH SWISS OPEN, GENEVA, SWITZERLAND
Shaun Le Roux bt Carl Hampson 11-3, 11-5, 11-1

19-02-2008 : FRENCH NATIONAL SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIPS, FRANCE

Mens : Thierry Lincou bt Renan Lavigne 11-4, 11-6, 11-2
Womens : [1] Isabelle Stoehr bt [2] Camille Serme 9-7, 9-4, 5-9, 9-4

19-02-2008 : DUTCH NATIONAL SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIPS, AMSTERDAM

Mens : Laurens Jan Anjema bt Dylan Bennett 11-6, 11-3, 11-3
Womens : Annelize Naude bt Vanessa Atkinson 14-12, 11-8, 6-11, 6-11, 11-3

19-02-2008 : BELGIAN NATIONAL SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIPS, FLEMISH

Mens : Stefan Casteleyn bt Wim van Asten 9-2, 9-0, 8-10, 5-9, 9-4

Womens : Kim Hannes-Teunen bt Annabel Romedenne 9-1, 9-7, 9-1

16-02-2008 : SAVCOR FINNISH OPEN 2008, MIKKELI
Olli Tuominen bt Davide Bianchetti 9-11, 11-10 (2-0), 11-6, 9-11, 11-6

10-02-2008 : BLUENOSE CLASSIC 2008, NOVA SCOTIA

Laurens Jan Anjema bt Borja Golan 8-11, 11-10 (2-0), 11-5, 4-11, 11-10 (3-1)

10-02-2008 : CASE SWEDISH OPEN, LINKÖPING
James Willstrop bt Peter Barker 11-7, 11-4, 11-4

03-02-2008 : MANITOBA OPEN 2008, CANADA
Borja Golan bt Nafizwan Adnan 11-3, 11-6, 7-11, 11-6

04-02-2008 : APAWAMIS OPEN 2008, NEW YORK
Nicol David bt Natalie Grinham 9-1, 9-6, 6-6 ret.

27-01-2008 : TALISMAN ENERGY BANKERS HALL OPEN 2008, CANADA
Shahier Razik bt Majid Khan 11-9, 9-11, 11-8, 11-10 (2-0)

MENS RANKING MARCH 2008

RANK	PLAYER	COUNTRY
1	Amr Shabana	EGY
2	Ramy Ashour	EGY
3	Gregory Gaultier	FRA
4	James Willstrop	ENG
5	David Palmer	AUS
51	Saurav Ghosal	IND
66	Ritwik Bhattacharya	IND
117	Gaurav Nandrajog	IND
120	Siddharth Suchde	IND
144	Harinder Pal Sandhu	IND

WOMENS RANKING APRIL 2008

RANK	PLAYER	COUNTRY
1	Nicol David	MAS
2	Natalie Grinham	NED
3	Rachael Grinham	AUS
4	Natalie Grainger	USA
5	Tania Bailey	ENG
39	Joshna Chinappa	IND
57	Dipika Pallikal	IND
133	Anwesa Reddy	IND
157	Surbhi Misra	IND

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