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Media Release - Results

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PACE Canadian Squash Classic OPENING DAY RESULTS

*John Bassett Theatre at Metro Toronto Convention Centre
February 13-16, 2008*

Toronto - Action opened with two Canadian players in the first two matches of the 2008 PACE Canadian Squash Classic at the John Bassett Theatre in Toronto. Top ranked Canadian Shahier Razik, ranked 22 in the world, earned his way to the quarter-finals with a 3/0 victory over the 29th ranked Miguel Rodriguez of Colombia. Matthew Guiffre of Edmonton, lost in straight games to the reigning World Champion and World #1 Amr Shabana of Egypt.

Shabana, playing his first tournament this year, showed no rusty signs in his first round match. He took just 26 minutes to finish Guiffre with a dazzling array of winners and inch perfect length that left the Canadian without any answers.

"I couldn't handle his length and accuracy," Guiffre commented after the match. "It's awesome playing the best in the world. I wasn't shell-shocked because I used to play Jonathon Power a lot. But I simply don't get that level of opposition back in Edmonton." When asked to compare the great Canadian, (now retired from professional squash) and Shabana, Guiffre said that Power was the more aggressive player.

"He hit the ball harder than Shabana, but Shabana is so incredibly accurate."

Troubled with a wrist problem, Shabana has not played a tournament for almost two months.

"I took four weeks off after the World Team Championships in December and only started practising a month ago. Right now I'm relaxed because I am happy to be playing. When you have an injury you never know if you will play again," said Shabana who won the PACE Canadian Squash Classic two years ago.

The Razik-Rodriquez match was unexpectedly short; both players tend to like the two hour match and can push attritional squash to the limit. Rodriguez was particularly puzzling in his quest for winners, hitting a string of unforced errors on his way to helping Razik to a straight games victory in 46 minutes.

Razik will be thankful for the short work-out as he faces Ramy Ashour, the wonderboy of squash, in the quarter-finals tomorrow and will need all his energy to contain the speedy shotmaking of the 20 year old Ashour, who occupies the number two spot in the world rankings.

Earlier in the day, Canadian qualifier Shawn Delierre (Montreal, Quebec) fell to the superior power and experience of Egypt's Wael El Hindi, seeded 5th for the tournament, in a three game, 46 minute match.

Yasser El Halaby from Egypt suffered a similar, if somewhat quicker, fate against his fellow countryman, 7th seed Mohammed Abbas in a resounding 33 minutes.

EARLY DAY ONE RESULTS:

Wael El Hindi (EGY) bt Shawn Delierre (CAN), 11-7, 11-8, 11-4, 46 minutes.

Mohammed Abbas (EGY) bt Yasser El Halaby (EGY) 11-7, 11-4, 11-4, 33 minutes

EVENING RESULTS:

Amr Shabana (EGY) bt Matthew Guiffre (CAN), 11-4, 11-9, 11-7, 26 minutes

Shahier Razik (CAN) bt Miguel Rodriguez (COL), 11-8, 11-8, 11-7, 47 minutes

Stewart Boswell (AUS) bt Hisham Ashour (EGY), 11-4, 11-4, 11-8, 35 minutes

Karim Darwish (EGY) bt Eric Galvez (MEX), 11-8, 11-5, 11-9, 36 minutes

Ramy Ashour (EGY) bt Jan Koukal (CZE), 11-9, 11-7, 11-6, 30 minutes

For tournament information, visit: www.prosquash.ca



Shahier Razik advances to the quarterfinals of PACE Canadian Squash Classic

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