

## **First-ever Players Cup Squash Circuit Culminates in Boston with Launch of Players Cup**

### **\$25K in First-Place Earnings the Largest in North America**

Tournaments in New York City, Dayton, Toronto, Portland and Richmond Lead to Top Player Showdown in Boston

BOSTON November 15, 2007. A bigger, bolder, brassier game of squash takes off in North America. The Players Cup Circuit is comprised of five world-class pro tournaments sanctioned by the Professional Squash Association, the international governing body for world-ranking professional squash competition. Boston will serve as the pinnacle of competition as the Circuit's top players clash the first-ever Players Cup Squash Championship, a special playoff event.

Beginning in New York City on January 10 and ending in Richmond, VA on March 1, the continuous five tournament Series will climax with the Players Cup in Boston March 4-7. The \$50,000 Players Cup is an 8-man, single elimination competition presented over four nights at the Back Bay Events Center. Six competitors will qualify for the Players Cup based on their cumulative prize money earned in the five preceding events, while two players will earn a berth through local qualifying events.

With the Players Cup Series, we now have a perfectly coordinated winter pro squash schedule with events that all North Americans can follow. Nimick's plan to conclude with the Players Cup brings me back to the days of the Mennen Cup in the early 1980s, when the top eight players in the world came to Toronto for a special, invitation-only event that electrified the squash world, notes James Zug, author, Squash, A History of the Game.

John Nimick, Players Circuit founder and three-tournament promoter explains, This city has a rich tradition of hosting world-class squash and we are very excited to add to that wonderful legacy by launching the Players Cup here in Boston. This event is a true slam-bang showdown. Eight of the world's best players will qualify to compete for a winner's purse of \$25,000, which will be the largest first-place prize money ever awarded in North American squash history.<sup>2</sup>

The inaugural Circuit events will all take place in January and February and lead immediately to the playoff event in Boston. Nimick continues, Squash has grown considerably in North America and this sort of elite, end-of-season event will showcase the sport in a new and more focused way that is sure to thrill sports fans. Governed by US Squash ([www.us-squash.org](http://www.us-squash.org)), more than 400,000 people play squash in the USA and the sport is growing strongly at the junior and college level.

Zug concurs, Having the Players Cup in Boston, the heartland of squash and the home to some of the greatest pro tournaments, college teams and the world's first after-school youth enrichment squash program, makes it the perfect way to end the winter squash season.<sup>2</sup>

The Players Cup Squash Series will feature the top male players on the PSA World Tour, including world #1 Amr Shabana (EGY) and #2 Ramy Ashour (EGY), perhaps the most dynamic players in the field; as well as #3 Gregory Gaultier (FRA), #4 David Palmer (AUS), #5 James Willstrop (ENG), #6 Nick Matthew (ENG) who moved up four rankings this month alone, and #7 Thierry Lincou (FRA), all competitive players at the top of their game. The highest ranked North Americans in the top 50 are Shahier Razik (#25, CAN), Graham Ryding (#38, CAN) and Julian Illingworth (#50, USA).

### **2008 Schedule:**

January 10 - 16

Bear Stearns Tournament of Champions, Grand Central Terminal, NYC

January 24 - 27

EBS Dayton Open, Dayton Squash Center, Dayton, OH

February 13 - 16

PACE Canadian Classic, Toronto Convention Center, Toronto, ON

February 20 - 23

West Coast Bank Oregon Open, Multnomah Club, Portland, OR

Feb. 25 - Mar.1

Davenport Pro Championships, University of Richmond, VA

March 4 - 7

Players Cup, Back Bay Events Center, Boston, MA

### **2008 Players Cup Schedule:**

Quarterfinals            Tuesday, March 4, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

Quarterfinals            Wednesday, March 5, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

Semifinals                Thursday, March 6, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

Finals & Exhibition    Friday, March 7, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.

Further information will be available soon at [www.playerscupsquash.com](http://www.playerscupsquash.com)  
<<http://www.playerscupsquashseries.com/>>

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Colleen Turner  
Burnieika/Turner Communications  
Phone: 617.429.2217  
Fax: 866.849.5967  
15 Otis Place, Unit 1  
Newburyport, MA 01950  
[colleen@btc-boston.com](mailto:colleen@btc-boston.com)