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- Gabe Jarmillo Training
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- Tips

issue 3- 2016

RACQUETTECH



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prince[®]

New Prince TeXtreme Collection

COMING SOON



TeXtreme
Pro Airstick Lite 550

TeXtreme
Pro Beast 750 PB

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Pro Shark 650 PB

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Pro Warrior 600

Prince TeXtreme Racquet Collection

TeXtreme woven laminates are developed with a thinner, lighter structure and straighter Carbon fibers to create a composite material that is **20% lighter** than traditional graphite materials. This results in superior torsional stability at impact creating a bigger sweet spot for unparalleled power, response and accuracy for all squash players.

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Yonex Opens New Factory

My Serve

RACQUETTECH EUROPE

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European Racquet Stringers Association
Lenastr. 38 40470 Düsseldorf
DE Germany
Phone / Fax +49(0)211-68814151
www.ersa-stringers.com

Welcome to the latest issue of RacquetTech Magazine!



Lots of news this month concerning the expansion of ERSA International with new managers in several countries.

We would like to announce the appointment of Roger Henry as our new manager of ERSA Ireland. We will be announcing the first workshops there shortly.

Steve Chong Wai Keat and Kiew Boon Heng will be organizing the start up of ERSA Malaysia with the first workshops planned this coming October.

Aleksandar Dukic is organizing the launch of ERSA Serbia for late 2016. We will have an information Seminar set up later this year in Belgrade.

Three more ERSA Managed countries will be announced this summer.

We had a lot of questions on stringing the new Yonex Vcore Duel rackets so we have stringing information on the page following the product introduction. Many of the new rackets with shared holes have some things you have to watch out for before stringing.

Gabe Jarmillo, our coaching and pro tennis consultant, has 14 new articles on training world class players. The first article in this issue is on **Adjustment Steps and Footwork**. As most of our members are racquet sports players and many tennis coaches, we think you will enjoy the articles and be able to put them to use. Gabe is the Director of Club Med Academies and has trained 8 number one pro players and many top pros including Kei Nishikori, Maria Sharapova, Andre Agassi, Monica Seles and Marcelo Rios.

The final decision for the 2017 ERSA AGM & Symposium will be announced soon. It looks like it will be just after Easter vacations and the venues are down to England, Germany, Italy, Greece and Croatia. We are checking on sites with tennis courts, meeting rooms and availability of flights from around Europe.



Mark Maslowski



New Certified Stringers, MRT, PTS.

ERSA now offers certification for different levels of stringers, from beginners to the top professional stringers in the world. The first level is ERSA Stringer is for new stringers to show they have completed a stringing course and learned to string correctly. Certified Stringer is for stringing services, such as coaches, club stringers, shop stringers, after passing a day of practical and written tests. Master Racquet Technician is for shop stringers and owners who can tune racquets, string at a high level and have a broad knowledge of products for their customers. Pro Tour Stringer certification is for MRTs who are stringing at ATP and WTA tournaments. There are 3 levels for this certification, Level 1, Level 2 and Master Pro Tour Stringer.

Certified Stringer -

Master Racquet Technician -

**Pro Tour Stringer Level 1 - Richard Musters - Netherlands,
Steve Pilmeyer - Netherlands**

Pro Tour Stringer Level 2 - Timo van Driel - Netherlands

Master Pro Tour Stringer -

Certified Stringer Badminton -

Pro Tour Stringer Badminton -

Master of Racquet Sports -



**STRINGS
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strings & grips

New Products

A special success story calls for a special limited edition. HEAD presents the 2016 SPEED LIMITED EDITION racquet, a powerful young version of the successful SPEED silo. Created for and with hands-on support by young and upcoming player Alexander Zverev, the 2016 SPEED LIMITED EDITION celebrates the SPEED silo with a modern design in sporting anodized metallic colors while providing the right mix between power and control for the versatile game of the next generation.



Based on the GRAPHENE XT SPEED racquet, recommended by Novak Djokovic, this limited edition clearly sets itself apart through its unique design. Entirely left in the hands of the next generation of upcoming SPEED athletes, led by Alexander Zverev— the matt-metallic look fits perfectly with the fast game of the next SPEED generation. The fresh colors also make an appearance in the matching racquet and gym bag, which allows young players everywhere to bring their versatile game to the biggest courts in style.

Just like its big brother, the 2016 SPEED LIMITED EDITION comes with the best technologies. While the revolutionary GRAPHENE XT technology shifts the racquet's weight to where it is needed most for an improved energy transfer and the fastest game yet, its open 16/19 string pattern provides some added spin to the young versatile game.

The 2016 SPEED LIMITED EDITION will conquer HEAD's social media channels in special activations highlighting the fun rivalry between the generations of SPEED players. The racquet is available at selected retailers and online as of April 2016.

For more information please visit:
head.com/tennis
facebook.com/headtennis
twitter.com/head_tennis
instagram.com/headtennis_official



New Products



The new Speed Limited Edition has great cosmetics and a matching racquet bag.



Headsize (cm²)	645
Pattern	16/19
Profile	22 mm
Weight	300 g
Balance	320 mm
Length	68.5 cm

COMING NEXT ISSUE!!!!!!!

- Setting up an Online Shop
- New Products
- 2 NEW Tennis String Tests
- Industry News
- New Certification Standards
- Tips - 2 pages - Tennis - Squash - Badminton

New Products

TWO LEGENDARY BRANDS, ONE INNOVATIVE EXPERIENCE INTRODUCING THE FIRST BABOLAT POP ROLAND-GARROS CONNECTED TENNIS WRISTBAND

Since the origins of the game, Babolat and Roland-Garros have shared a common passion for innovation and competition. Official partners since 2011, these two legendary tennis brands collaborate on innovating to enhance the tennis experience for players and fans alike through world-class services, products and expertise.

Babolat continues to be a pioneer in connected tennis – first connecting the racket on the storied red clay courts of Roland-Garros in 2012, and now connecting the player thanks to its first 100% tennis wearable:

Babolat POP. A special Roland-Garros edition of Babolat POP is available this year along with a full range of Babolat Roland-Garros products for players of all levels.

OFFICIAL BALL: BABOLAT ROLAND-GARROS BALL

A Babolat exclusive, the official ball of the French Open offers players a premium high performance product combining vivacity and durability with a touch of comfort.

Available: April 2016

Recommended Retail Price: Tube of 3 balls £ 7.50

Tube of 4 balls £ 10



BABOLAT ROLAND-GARROS 2016 – OFFICIAL COLLECTION NEW 2016 EXCLUSIVE



THE CONNECTED 100% TENNIS WRISTBAND “BABOLAT POP ROLAND-GARROS”

Babolat invites players to add a fun dimension to their game with a 100% tennis connected wristband in the colors of Roland-Garros. Players can analyze their game, challenge friends and be part of the Babolat connected tennis community. Offer includes a stretchy, comfortable neoprene Babolat POP wristband, sensor and charger. Can be used with

all tennis rackets.

Available: May 2016

Recommended Retail Price: £ 74.99



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- ▶ Hi-Visibility Orange Color

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New Products

BABOLAT, OFFICIAL SUPPLIER OF THE FRENCH OPEN

Official Supplier of the French Open, Babolat operates stringing and racket services for players, provides the tournament ball and designs official Roland-Garros tennis rackets, strings, bags and accessories. This year marks the first time the balls used during the tournament will be co-branded with Roland-Garros and Babolat logos.

DID YOU KNOW?

- In 3 weeks of matches, more than 70,000 Babolat balls will be used on the French Open courts
- 19 stringers from 11 countries will be working on 17 Babolab machines

EN 2015:

- 4467 rackets were strung
- 53 kilometers of strings used (33 miles)
- Average tension requested by players: 24 kg (53 LBS)
- Lowest tension: Mikhail Kukushkin: 9.5 kg (21 lbs)
- Highest tension: Dustin Brown: 32 kg (70.5 lbs)

OFFICIAL RACKET: BABOLAT PURE AERO ROLAND-GARROS

The new generation of the Aero racket, the Babolat Pure Aero has the same DNA as the nine-time French Open winner: Babolat Aeropro Drive. The Pure Aero responds perfectly to players who seek power and optimal spin.

Weight: 300 g

Head size: 645 cm²

Available: April 2016

Recommended Retail Price: £ 210

Available in Lite and Junior Versions



OFFICIAL BAG:
BABOLAT RACKET
HOLDER X 12 PURE
AERO ROLAND-GARROS
Endorsed by Babolat Team
players during the French
Open,
this limited edition co-
branded bag coordinates with the Pure Aero Ro-
land-Garros racket. Holds up to 12 rackets,
provides optimal protection of equipment and

includes two integrated cooler compartments to preserve string tension no matter the temperature.



Available: April 2016

Recommended Retail Price: £ 70

Babolat Roland-Garros products are available in tennis specialty stores and official French Open boutiques.

For more info: babolat.com / #playconnected

New Products

Yonex introduces their new **VCORE Duel G** racquets for 2016.

Designed with a more flexibled shaft and denser stringing pattern at the top of the racket for hard hitters when crushing the ball.



VCORE Duel G 97

Tough G Fiber adds more flex and repulsion in the shaft for a heavier spin for hard hitting players.

Head Size: 97 sq.in.

Weight: HG: 330g/11.6oz, G: 310g/10.9oz

Grip Size: G1, 2, 3, 4, 5/HG1, 2, 3, 4, 5

Length: 27 in.

Width Range: 20.0mm / 20.0mm / 20.0mm

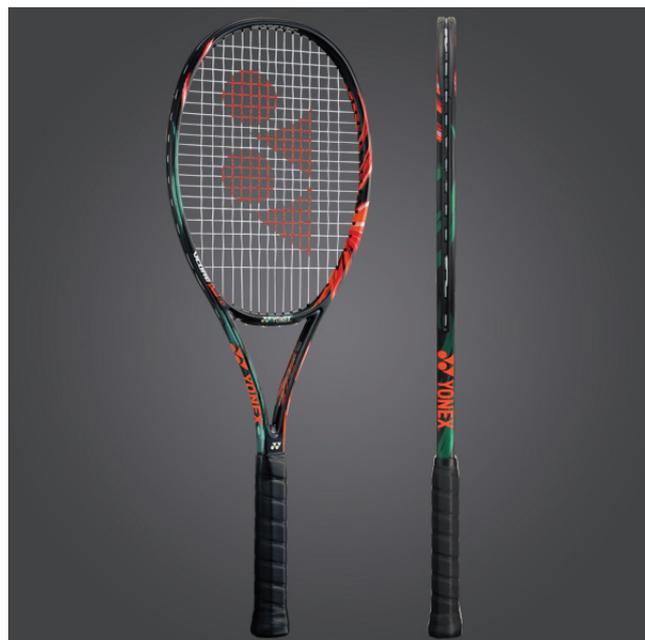
Balance Point: HG:310mm, G:310mm

Material: H.M. Graphite

BLACK MICRO CORE

Tough G Fiber Colour: Black/Orange Rec. String: PTGG125, PTGF125, ATG850P Stringing Pattern: 16/20 Stringing Advice: 50-65 lbs

Made in Japan



VCORE Duel G 100

Head Size: 100 sq.in.

Weight: G: 300g/10.6oz, LG: 280g/9.9oz

Grip Size: G1, 2, 3, 4, 5/LG0, 1, 2, 3, 4

Length: 27 in.

Width Range: 20.0mm / 21.0mm / 21.0mm

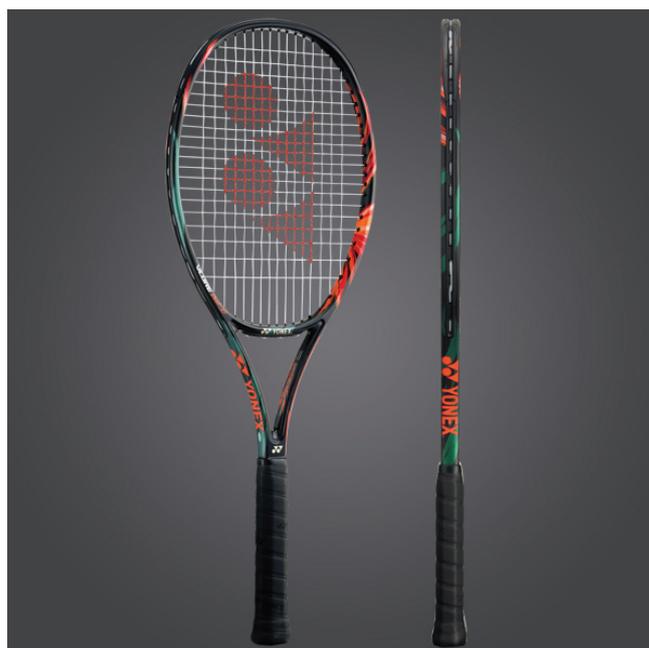
Balance Point: G:320mm, LG:335mm

Material: H.M. Graphite

BLACK MICRO CORE

Tough G Fiber Colour: Black/Orange Rec. String: PTGG125, PTGF125, ATG850P Stringing Pattern: 16/20 Stringing Advice: G: 50-65 lbs, LG: 45-60 lbs

Made in Japan



New Products



VCORE Duel G 97 α

Equipped with new string hole design built for game-changing spin and power.

Head Size: 97 sq.in.

Weight: G: 290g/10.2oz, LG: 270g/9.5oz

Grip Size: G1, 2, 3, 4, 5/LG0, 1, 2, 3, 4

Length: 27 in.

Width Range: 22.0mm / 22.0mm/22.0mm

Balance Point: G:325mm, LG:335mm

Material: H.M. Graphite

Tough G Fiber

Colour: Black/Orange Rec. String: PTGG125, PTGF125,

ATG850P Stringing Pattern: 16/20 Stringing Advice: 50-65

lbs



Stringing Instructions - VCORE Duel G 97, VCORE Duel 100, VCORE Duel 97a

The racquet can be strung with 2 knots or 4 knots.

Because of the shared holes at the top on the 7th and 8th hole a starting clamp is necessary with two piece stringing. The tie-off for the top cross is at 9H. See diagram below.

2 Piece Stringing

16 Mains, 20 Crosses

Shared Holes - 7H, 8H, 8T

Mains - start at Head, No skipped holes,
Tie-off 6H

Crosses - start at 7H, Last cross 8T

Tie-off at 9T

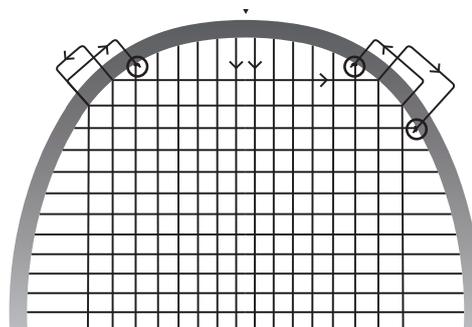
Tie-off first cross at 9H

1Piece Stringing

Mains - start at Head, No skipped holes,
Tie-off 6H

Crosses - start at 7H, Last cross 8T

Tie-off at 9T



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Tennis Drills

ADJUSTMENT STEPS AND FOOTWORK FOR TENNIS

by Gabe Jarmillo

Hit the ball in the sweet spot every time!

The following are the best proven drills to improve your footwork to always be in the right position to execute the shot in your power zone.

Drills are more than just exercises, when doing them the right way the improvement becomes dramatic and through correct repetition this skill will last forever. Train the same motion, increasing the volume gradually to create muscle memory.

By using this exercises just 15 minutes a day it will help any player to improve their footwork using adjustment steps before the loading stage; this will help you hit superior shots on a more consistent basis. The number one reason for missing a tennis shot is being out of position, the small, quick steps that the players use to track the ball and to get the optimal distance or spacing to the ball helps the player being more precise to optimize the contact point, hitting the ball on the sweet spot more often will offer more control and better feel.

These tennis specific drills will improve your footwork to always be in a position to use the fundamentals of the critical adjustment steps, done in a progression basis will make your shots more effective. In todays game, tennis players move more explosively with powerful steps to hit the ball, but as they slow down to execute the shot they must be in the right position to hit the ball in their power zone. And this can only be accomplished by diligently using adjustment steps.

ADVANTAGE OF ADJUSTMENT STEPS



Players use long steps to get to the ball and small adjustment steps before hitting the ball
Adjustment steps help the player transition from tracking the ball to right before the loading process

Those little steps before the loading process are done with speed and control

Tennis Drills



Adjustment steps help gaining the proper distance to the ball

The proper distance to the ball on contact is determined by the grip

The spacing on contact can't be too far or too close to the body



Adjustment steps will help you hit superior shots, making contact with the ball on the sweet spot more often

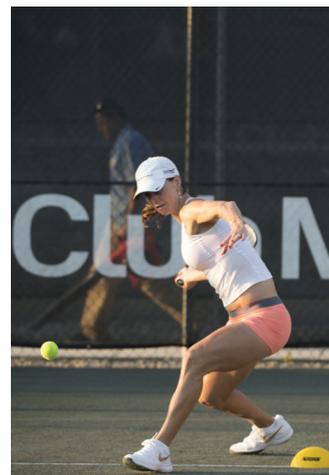
Those little quick steps will help adjusting to the ball spin and bounce of the ball, to make proper contact. The player moves explosively to hit the ball, but as he slows down, the adjustment steps come into place to obtain the best contact point

EXERCISES:

DRILL 1

Objectives:

To move laterally to the ball making sure to optimize the spacing



Tennis Drills

Execution:

Fed ball drill

Player starts from the center of the base line

Coach feeds the ball to the side making sure that the player has to take a few long steps and then desaccelerating with short quick short steps before loading

After hitting the ball the player recovers to the middle of the base line

The recommended progression of the drill is to hit first 10 forehands, then 10 backhands and then alternating one forehand and one backhand 10 times

DRILL 2

OBJECTIVES:

Moving forward aggressively to the ball obtaining the proper distance to the ball

EXECUTION;

Fed ball drill

Player starts from the center of the base line

Coach feeds the ball short forcing the player to move forward, player has to control the acceleration with long steps and the desacceleration with quick adjustment steps

After hitting the ball the player recovers to the middle of the base line

The sequence is the same as in drill 1

DRILL 3

OBJECTIVES

Moving backwards in a defensive position position utilizing the adjustment steps to obtain the proper distance and balance to execute the shot

EXECUTION

Fed ball drill

Player starts from the center of the base line

Coach feeds the ball deep forcing the player to move laterally and backwards. The emphasis continue to be on strong and big steps at the beginning and short steps before loading

After hitting the deep ball the player recovers to the center of the base line

The sequence is the same as drills 1 and 2, 10 balls to the forehand, 10 ball to the backhand and then alternating forehands and backhands 10 times

DRILL 4

OBJECTIVES

Combination of all possibilities while moving to and preparing to execute the proper shot

EXECUTION

Fed ball

Player starts from the center of the base line

Coach feeds the ball alternating laterally, forward and backwards, also alternating the different strokes, forehands and backhands

The player must return to the center after each shot



Designed for Pro's. This monofil polyester string offers ultimate control combined with high ball speed. Now released!

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BLACK FIRE

TECHNICAL DETAILS

Stärke: 1,25 mm / 17
Länge: 200 m / 660 feet

Diese Monofile Polyestersaite wurde speziell für die Anforderungen auf der Profiflour entwickelt. Volle Kontrolle bei hoher Beschleunigung. Jetzt released nach erfolgreichem Einsatz auf der Tour!



www.isospeed.com



www.isospeed.com

Industry News

Rising Squash Star Mathieu Castagnet Switches To Ashaway SuperNick® ZX String



Rising squash star Mathieu Castagnet has been finding things going very much his way of late. Steadily rising through the World Rankings as he reaches his prime, the 29-year-old Frenchman recently won his debut performance at the 2016 Canary Wharf Classic, beating Omar Mosaad and moving up to a career high of World No. 7. He has also changed strings, switching to Ashaway's new orange SuperNick® ZX from their red PowerNick® 18.

He said he switched initially because of the orange color, which is his favorite. He thought it would be "interesting" to see an orange string in his specially designed, all black Black Knight racquet. But he soon discovered that the new Zyex®-enhanced SuperNick brought more than style to his game. It brought more power.

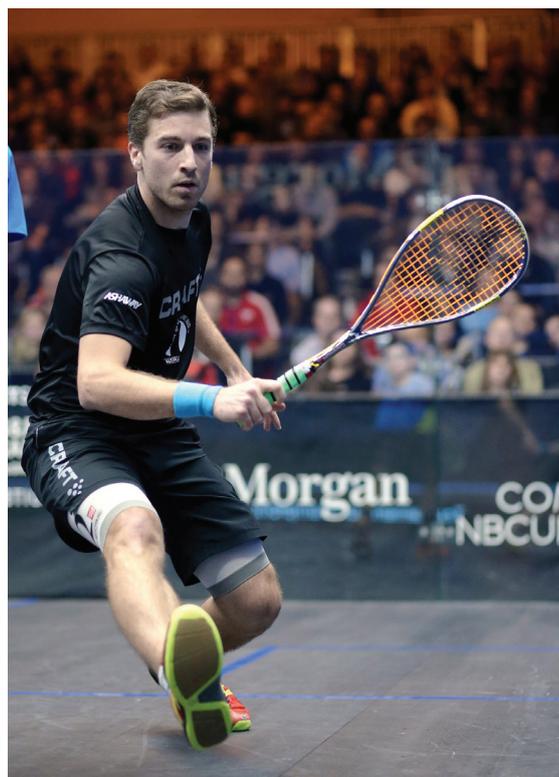
Which was interesting, because of the two strings, PowerNick, with its Zyex monofilament core, is supposed to be the more powerful. The Zyex wear layer on the 1.25 mm (17 gauge) SuperNick ZX is designed to provide better tension stability and durability compared to current SuperNick XL strings, while maintaining the precise response of SuperNick's traditional multifilament nylon core. But that's not how it worked for Mathieu Castagnet. "I can feel more power with the orange than the red string," he said.

Why this was so, he is not really sure. "I can't really tell you if the SuperNick ZX helped me improve my counter-drop game or my consistency," he said. "I've always been good on this part of the game even with the PowerNick string. It could be the combination of the string, the racquet, my physical condition, my experience on the tour and the atmosphere..."

Or it could just be different strokes for different folks, which is why, says Ashaway's Steve Crandall, players should always experiment to find the right string for their game. "The characteristics we try to design into a string and those we print on the labels are based on lab tests and the response of a cadre of playtesters. But you may react very differently. What we see as control you may feel as power. So you owe it to yourself to try a number of strings."

The switch was gradual for Mathieu as it took a couple months to adapt to the feel of the new string. But based on his play of late, it seems to be working as he inches his way towards his goal of being World No. 1. "To be World No. 1, you have to be consistent," he said. "At the moment, I am not consistent enough, even though I am playing my best level this season. A world number one is able to win even if he is not at his best. I have to improve my technical game to make that difference."

For more information visit www.ashawayusa.com.



2015

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Conducted by

Tennis Europe (by constitution European Tennis Federation) is the largest regional association of the sport's governing body, the International Tennis Federation. Based in Switzerland, Tennis Europe is comprised of 49 member nations and co-operates with constituent national federations to sanction, manage and support well over 1,000 international tennis tournaments each year across the continent.

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Tennis Europe ➤ Zur Gempenfluh 36 CH-4059 Basel

Tel: +41 (0)61 335 90 40 ➤ Fax: +41 (0)61 331 72 53 ➤ www.tenniseurope.org ➤ contactus@tenniseurope.org

Industry News

*****News Shorts*****

Kristina Mladenovic and Alizé Cornet are the latest WTA players to endorse USANA Health Sciences nutritional products.

Britain's Lawn Tennis Association has extended the contract of Davis Cup captain Leon Smith until 2018. Judy Murray, meanwhile, has resigned from the British Fed Cup captaincy in order to spend more time with her family.

The ATP World Tour has agreed to its biggest ever sponsorship deal, with airline Emirates, which becomes the 'Premier Partner' of the governing body. The Tour has also recently finalized a 2-year deal with skin care brand Daylong.

Jamie Murray has become the first British player ever to top the ATP World Tour doubles rankings.

Marat Safin and Justine Henin have been elected to the International Tennis Hall of Fame.

Switzerland will host a WTA Tour event for the first time in almost a decade when Gstaad joins the tour from July 11-18.

Swiss Tennis has extended its partnership with principal sponsor Generali until 2017 and signed a three-year deal with bottled water supplier Evian.

Agassi to replay 1996 Olympic gold match ATLANTA - Even retirement will not stop former World No. 1 tennis player Andre Agassi from a rematch of his 1996 Olympic gold medal play versus competitor Spaniard Sergi Bruguera.

The match will take place Sunday, July 31 at 7:30 p.m. as part of the BB&T Atlanta Open at Atlantic Station.



FILA and ITHF launch new program NEWPORT, R.I. — The International Tennis Hall of Fame and FILA have launched a new partnership focused on junior tennis development. The partnership will feature multiple junior invitational tournaments hosted on the historic Hall of Fame property, a new junior ambassador program, and ongoing involvement with the Hall of Fame Tennis Club's junior

Philippoussis goes 2-For-2 in PowerShares Mark Philippoussis won his second PowerShares Series title in as many nights Saturday, defeating both Andy Roddick and Jim Courier for a second straight night to win the Tulsa Championships at the BOK Center in Tulsa. Philippoussis, who won in Memphis in his 2016 PowerShares Series debut the previous night, beat Courier 6-3 in the one-set championship match to earn his sixth career title on the North American circuit for champion tennis players over the age of 30. To advance to the final, Philippoussis beat Roddick 6-3, one night after beating him 7-5 in the semifinal match in Memphis.

Former WTA Chairman and CEO Stacey Allaster has been named Chief Executive, Professional Tennis for the USTA. Allaster will report to USTA COO and Executive Director Gordon Smith.

In her new position, Allaster will be tasked with setting the strategic vision for the USTA's Pro Tennis division and will work closely with the USTA board of directors and current USTA Pro Tennis staff to ensure the continued viability of professional tennis in the U.S.

Chris Kermode was appointed to a second term as ATP executive chairman, through 2019.

Former World No. 1 Boris Becker is teaming with the Mission Hills Group to develop tennis in China and create the Boris Becker Tennis Academy in China.

Is String your Business?



We are there for you, driving tennis business in support of growing the game throughout the country.

The TIA UK is the trade body for all tennis businesses, including yours - independent stringers and coaches dependent on the well-being of our sport - and, collectively, we are the authoritative voice of tennis commerce.



Tennis Industry Association UK Ltd

c/o Sport Wins
PO Box 238
Tadworth
Surrey KT20 5WT



Gilly English
Membership & Events Manager
Phone 01737 831 707
Mobile 07904 526 779
Email gilly@tiauk.org

Phil Sandilands
Business Development Manager
Phone 020 8398 3232
Mobile 07786 390 855
Email phil@tiauk.org

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Industry News

On April 27th Yonex completed the construction of a new racquet factory at its Niigata Production Head Office, with a special ceremony held to honor the occasion.



The construction of the new factory comes in response to an increase in global demand. Along with a boost in production capacity, the new factory allows for more effective and accurate quality control at certain points in the production process with the introduction of IoT technology. The factory will also be moving towards automatization in a number of areas to decrease production costs. Furthermore, in collaboration with the nearby Nagaoka University of Technology, the factory will see a boost in R&D strength, and act as a hot bed for the creation of new ideas, new materials and new technology.



The manufacturing processes at the new factory have also seen improvement, cutting down the time between the initial order and shipment by 30%, allowing for a speedier response to customer demand.

Through unique technology, innovative R&D, and keen synergy with its other factories, Yonex aims to exceed customer expectations with this new factory and continue to deliver the highest quality products to people around the world.

Tennis Europe & PTR team up to boost TennisCoached.com

Tennis Europe has announced a two-year partnership with Professional Tennis Registry (PTR), the world's largest international organisation of tennis coaches and teachers. PTR's mission is to educate and serve tennis coaches around the world in order to grow the game. This mission is one shared by Tennis Europe and working together the two organisations are a perfect match.

PTR will henceforth be known as an 'Official Continuous Learning Provider' partner of the TennisCoachEd initiative, which will provide PTR with additional opportunities to promote their activities throughout Europe.

PTR will add to the growing number of commercial partners of TennisCoachEd.com, Tennis Europe's project aimed primarily at providing new opportunities, information and services for the European tennis coaching community.



Tennis Europe & HEAD extend partnership

HEAD will also continue in its role as Official Partner of the Tour's most prestigious individual competitions, the European Junior Championships and Tennis Europe Junior Masters.

Furthermore, it will extend its tenure as the presenting sponsor of the sport's largest indoor team competition, the Tennis Europe Winter Cups, which is currently under way, and the summer 12 & Under team event, the Tennis Europe Nations Challenge.

Tennis Europe Chief Executive Officer Olli Mäenpää remarked, "Working so closely with the world's best equipment manufacturer over the years has enabled us to strengthen and promote the Tennis Europe Junior Tour, providing extra services to players and tournament organisers alike, while assisting HEAD in reaching the next generation of elite players. We very much welcome and appreciate HEAD's commitment to this development of the sport, and look forward to another fruitful and productive two years of working together."

Ottmar Barbian, Executive Vice President HEAD Racquetsports, said: "We are excited to extend our partnership with Tennis Europe that allows us to further support the Junior Tour with innovative HEAD products and expertise."

Industry News

Tecnifibre was the official stringing service for Monte Carlo for the 18th year. This was the 110th year of the tournament. The tournament had over 135,000 spectators this year with Rafael Nadal winning his 9th title.



Tecnifibre had 5 stringers there for the week stringing 661 rackets on 5 Tecnifibre ATP stringing machines.

Rafael Nadal was the biggest customer with 28 rackets strung at 25 kilos.

Tecnifibre also had a display and sales booth shown below.

www.tecnifibre.com



Squash String Test

SuperNick® ZX Squash Strings from Ashaway



The new orange SuperNick®ZX Squash String was tested the last 2 months by our members. The string is made of a multifilament nylon core provides optimum feel of the ball and precise touch according to Ashaway.

An outer ZX wear layer increases durability and maintains tension. It has a textured surface increasing ball control and maximizes spin potential.

SuperNick ZX is designed for three types of players: for those looking for precise touch and excellent feel of the ball; for those who require superior durability and tension maintenance but still want the feel of a SuperNick string; and for players looking for increased ability to control and add spin to the ball.

Several leading professionals in the US, such as David Palmer, John White, and others have switched to this new hi-tech squash string. Mathieu Castagnet of France, currently PSA World #6 in men's singles is using the string this year.

SuperNick ZX is a high visibility orange in color for easy identification on the court. It is available in 9-meter (30 foot) sets, as well as 110-meter (360 foot) reels, and is designed to be strung at tensions up to 40 lbs. (18 kgs.).

In the lab

We tested sets of Ashaway Supernick ZX in our office. The coil measured 10 meters. The diameter measured 1.27-1.29 mm prior to stringing, and 1.23 – 1.25 mm after stringing. The racquet was strung on a Prince 6000 stringing machine at 12 kilos. We recorded a stringbed stiffness of 21 Dynamic Tension on a Beers ERT 300 immediately after stringing at 12 kilos in a (14 x 18 pattern) racquet on a Prince 6000 constant-pull machine.

After 24 hours (no playing), stringbed stiffness measured 19 RDC units, representing a 9 percent tension loss. The Supernick ZX added 10.6 grams to the weight of our unstrung frame. The string has a braided surface with an outer Zyex coating. The ERT tests were in the normal range for a squash string.

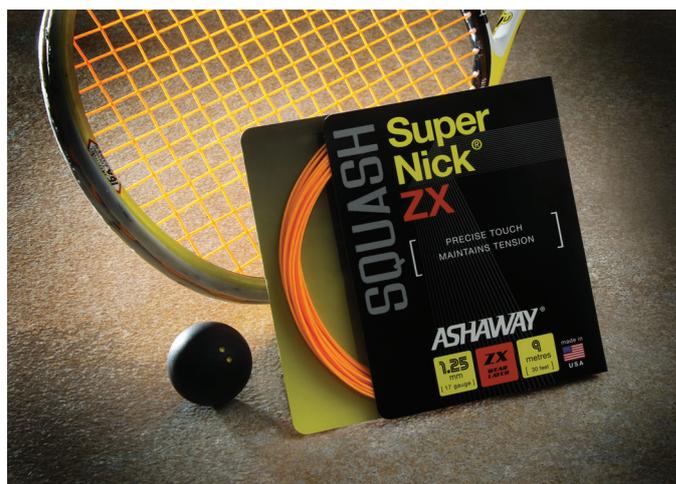
The string was tested for five weeks by 20 ERSA playtesters, with playing levels of intermediate to tournament players. These are blind tests, with playtesters receiving unmarked strings in unmarked packages. Average number of hours playtested was 9.1.

Stringing

No playtester broke his sample during stringing, no problems with coil memory, typical with squash strings. No one had problems with friction burn or tying knots. One tester said to be careful not to damage the outer coating tying knots. Most rated it as the same, easier or much easier to string than other strings in this category, with 2 rating it somewhat more difficult.

Playtest

Almost all of the testers found the string a little worse to much better than their string in



Squash String Test

Playability, Power, Comfort, Feel and Control. String Movement, Tension Loss and Durability were rated from the same to much better. Durability was rated highest with Power rated very high for the string being designed for Durability. No testers broke the string during the test. Testers reported they played with their own string an average of 16.4 hours, but did not test this string until breaking (average 9.1 hours).



Conclusion

Ashaway's new Supernick ZX is all they said it would be and more. After hearing it was a durability sting and 17 gauge we were expecting medium results in several categories, but everyone found the string very good in most categories. After being developed for durability and control, many testers said they noticed advantages of power, touch and playability. All the testers said they would add it to their sortiment. This string can be recommended from club players to top tournament players looking for a durable string that still plays great. Some testers played up to 32 hours with the string and no tester broke the string, so durability may be higher than in our test average times.

Comments

"I already had this string in my shop from the distributor and just changed to it myself."

"A great string as are all the Ashaway squash strings."

"The durability is great. I am changing from my Tecnifibre to this string."

"I can sell this string easily in my shop. The color is great on top of playing great."

"No weak points with the string. I recommend it to everyone."

"I play with 1.15mm string and this is thicker and still plays better."

"Very good string that I would recommend to my students."

"I sell only Tecnifibre and Ashaway squash strings and this will be just behind my number one seller Powernick."

***Note - all the testers use Ashaway and Tecnifibre strings.

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Starting Clamp or Starting Knot?

We have questions all the time in workshops about using a starting clamp or starting knot. A lot of stringers do not even have a starting clamp when they come to our first Basic Workshop. We recommend that every stringer should have at least one. See the stringing instructions for the new Yonex VCORE Duel G rackets. This is a typical problem as there are multiple shared holes and you would have 3 strings in the same groove if you enlarged a hole at the top and used a starting knot. Starting knots are also fine to use in certain situations like tying a knot with polyester on polyester, nylon on polyester. Never on natural gut. In tournaments, I do not see anyone using starting knots. Also, if you use a starting clamp on the outside of the frame, use a starting block if the string goes into a close hole to prevent a flattened string going around a sharp angle.



Label Machine

Many people write the ERSA or ask at workshops about label machines. We have found the **Brother Ptouch** the best with the laminated labels. We have used these in our shop and at tournaments for years. I see some rackets come in with labels up to 7 or 8 years old and still look great. The cost is a little higher for the labels than other possibilities and we are testing a compatible cartridge for half the price at this time. We will report on it if it is the same quality and where to purchase them in the next issue.

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