

Saudi International Squash Tournament 2007
23-28 October, Al-Khobar

DAILY NEWS Issue #5

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YESTERDAY'S RESULTS (quarter-finals):

- [1] Amr Shabana (Egy) bt [5] Thierry Lincou (Fra)
11/7, 12/10, 11/5 (50m)
- [3] David Palmer (Aus) bt [7] Nick Matthew (Eng)
11/5, 10/12, 11/3, 11/3 (71m)
- [4] Gregory Gaultier (Fra) bt [6] James Willstrop (Eng)
11/2, 2/11, 11/7, 11/9 (65m)
- [2] Ramy Ashour (Egy) bt [15] Olli Tuominen (Fin)
11/6, 11/6, 11/7 (31m)

TODAY'S SEMI-FINALS

- 18.00: Amr Shabana v David Palmer
Saudi Challenge, 10-15 min
- 19.00: Ramy Ashour v Gregory Gaultier

Quarter-finals: *World's top four in Sunset Beach Semis ...*



It was down to the last eight last night, and after four contrasting matches the top four seeds - the world's top four - are still here ...

Top seed **Amr Shabana** was in no mood for another five-game thriller, and once he had saved a couple of game balls in the second he eased through to victory against **Thierry Lincou**, who needed brief treatment after an accidental clash in the third and never got another point. The defending champion will meet **David Palmer** for a place in the final after the Australian world champion turned in "one of my best performances of the year" to see off the challenge of **Nick Matthew**, who by his own admission had only one - brief - good spell during the match which enable him to take the second, but it was all Palmer after that.



Another Egyptian who improved massively on his previous performance was **Ramy Ashour**, who, in the words of his opponent **Olli Tuominen**, "really ruled the game," with a very impressive performance. Ramy was in cruise control, was rarely hurried and managed to show an appreciative crowd his full arsenal of shots. He will meet France's **Gregory Gaultier**, who got the better of a topsy-turvy encounter with **James Willstrop** to set up a repeat of their Super Series Finals meeting in August. After two 11/2 games it settled down into a real match, but it was the Frenchman who got the better of the closing stages of the third and fourth games, despite Willstrop's mighty efforts to come back in the fourth.



"The schedule suited me this week, I was fresh and well-prepared and that was probably one of the best matches I've

played this year.

"It could have been 3/0, but I would have taken any result tonight to make the semis, so I have to be pleased with that."

David Palmer



"It was one of those matches that was more on the physical side, it's not the best technical squash I've

ever played.

"I knew at 3-5 in the third that was the time, because he's the king of the comeback and if he had got back to 2/1 I was not likely to win."

Amr Shabana



"Olli is such a fast player, my target when I play him is to make him as tired as I can.

"I thought I played well tonight, I was putting the balls deep into the back when I needed to, my shots were working fine and my touch was good.

Ramy Ashour



"It was a brutal game, especially with the court being so bouncy, it's hard to read the shots.

"He was very sharp today and came back very strongly towards the end. I'm glad that my shots came through in the end and very happy to get through in four ..."

Gregory Gaultier

