

What to Look for in Today's Matches

by Matt Lombardi



1:30: Raneem El Welily (Egypt, age 30, rank 1) vs. Nouran Gohar (Egypt, age 21, rank 8). Gohar's brilliance can be obscured a bit by the three great Egyptians who currently stand ahead of her in the rankings, but she's a major talent and, at age 21, still a budding star. Her trademark is relentless power, but as she matures she's adding greater variation to her game. World no. 1 El Welily brings to the court a cool disposition and consummate racquet skills—she may be the most precise hitter, man or woman, in squash. These two met most recently in the semifinals of November's Hong Kong Open, with El Welily pulling out a five-game win.

2:15 Joelle King (New Zealand, age 30, rank 4) vs. Camille Serme (France, age 29, rank 5). The top two non-Egyptian women in the world are both first-rate athletes who like to keep the pace high and volley whenever they get the opportunity. The result should be an intense battle highlighted by rapid-fire rallies. King comes into the ToC on a roll, having beaten Nour El Tayeb and Raneem El Welily to win the Hong Kong Open, the last major women's tournament of 2018.

5:00: Nour El Tayeb (Egypt, age 25, rank 3) vs. Alison Waters (England, age 34, rank 9). Along with being a fleet retriever and fearless attacker, El Tayeb is one of the feistiest players in squash. She showed her grit in yesterday's win over home favorite Amanda Sobhy, fighting through some poor patches, and some strong play from Sobhy, to close out the fifth game with authority. Waters is the oldest player left in the draw, but her quickness was still a decisive advantage in her five-game win last night over Tesni Evans. Waters and El Tayeb played twice last year in PSA competition, with the Egyptian winning both times.

5:45: Tarek Momen (Egypt, age 30, rank 4) vs. Omar Mosaad (Egypt, age 30, rank 17). These two have been playing each other since their junior days growing up in Cairo. Mosaad made it to the top of the pro game earlier, reaching no. 3 in the world in 2016, but recently Momen has been on the ascent, climbing to no. 4 and making last year's ToC final. Their games couldn't be more different. The towering Mosaad, nicknamed the Hammer of Thor, likes to blast thunderbolts off his racquet into the back corners, while Momen is a daring speedster who keeps opponents off balance with boasts and flicks to the front of the court.

7:30: Nour El Sherbini (Egypt, age 23, rank 2) vs. Salma Hany (Egypt, age 22, rank 16). Hany put in a composed, practically error-free performance yesterday to beat Laura Massaro for the biggest win of her career. She'll need to maintain the same form tonight challenge defending ToC champion El Sherbini, who at 23 already gets mentioned in discussions of the game's all-time greats. She's a dominating physical presence, a savvy tactician, and a skillful shot-maker. One possible chink in the armor is her coverage at the front of the court. Look for Hany to test her with boasts and low kills.

8:15: Ali Farag (Egypt, age 26, rank 2) vs. Paul Coll (New Zealand, age 26, rank 7). Strategy is likely to be crucial in this match. Both players cover the court exceptionally well and like to settle into a medium-paced rhythm. Farag has been more of a shot-maker, while Coll has favored an attritional game, but this season Coll has been adding more attack in his effort to rise up the rankings. The strategy didn't work against Farag at December's Black Ball Open—the world no. 2 capitalized on Coll's loose shots and errors to take a 3-0 victory. So how daring will Coll be tonight? His only PSA win against Farag came two years ago here at Grand Central.

THE ENGINEER

Tuesday
JANUARY 22, 2019



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Egyptians went undefeated on day six of the J.P. Morgan Tournament of Champions, winning seven out of ten matches Monday. Salma Hany upset seven seed and two-time ToC finalist Laura Massaro, while 2017 ToC champion Karim Abdel Gawad dethroned Simon Rösner—both in three games.

WELCOME
Women's Leadership Luncheon
St. Luke's Rye Country Day City Squash

TODAY'S MATCHES PRESENTED BY
THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

1:30 PM SESSION

- [1] Raneem El Welily (EGY) v. [6] Nouran Gohar (EGY) [3] Nour El Tayeb (EGY) v. [9] Alison Waters (ENG)
[4] Joelle King (FRA) v. [5] Camille Serme (FRA) [4] Tarek Momen (EGY) v. Omar Mosaad (EGY)

5 PM SESSION

7:30 PM SESSION

- [2] Nour El Sherbini (EGY) v. [15] Salma Hany (EGY)
[2] Ali Farag (EGY) v. [7] Paul Coll (NZL)

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Table of men's squash matches including dates, times, and player names such as Mohamed ElShorbagy, Eain Yow Ng, and George Parker.

Table of women's squash matches including dates, times, and player names such as Raneem El Welily, El Welly, and Nour El Sherbini.

