

behindtheglass

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University of
Nottingham Sport

THE TIMES
THE SUNDAY TIMES

GOOD
UNIVERSITY
GUIDE
2019

SPORTS
UNIVERSITY
OF THE YEAR



PSL
PREMIER SQUASH LEAGUE

University of Nottingham
vs UWE / Elite Squash Bristol
4 December 2018
David Ross Sports Village



Welcome

Welcome to David Ross Sports Village for tonight's Premier Squash League action between University of Nottingham and UWE/Elite Squash Bristol

The University is delighted to be working in partnership with Nottingham Squash Rackets club and Toyota Nottingham to host tonight's Premier Squash League match. The University has a rich and proud heritage in squash with players such as Gawain Briars, Emma Beddoes and Peter Marshall graduating from the University.

The investment in David Ross Sports Village has reinforced our intent with squash following the creation of one

of only a handful of permanent all glass courts in the UK.

The University helps to provide a significant opportunity for young people to secure a world class education, alongside one of the most comprehensive higher education performance squash programmes in the country, and we hope this venture with the PSL will further embed our status as one of the leading Universities for squash in the UK.



Dan Tilley
Director of Sport
University of Nottingham

We are delighted to welcome our friends from UWE/ Elite Squash Bristol this evening and hope that they enjoy playing David Ross Sports Village.

Finally, I would like to thank Toyota Materials Handling for their continued sponsorship of our Premier Squash League team.

I hope you all enjoy the action with us this evening.

Standings

Premier Squash League 2018/19

Northern Division - A	P	W	L	TF	TA	GF	GA	Pts
Warwick/Kenilworth	4	4	0	15	5	32	16	44
University of Birmingham Lions	4	3	1	13	7	29	18	38
Team Pontefract	4	3	1	11	9	25	23	34
University of Nottingham	4	1	3	8	12	21	25	24
Northumberland/Newcastle	4	1	3	7	13	17	30	20
UWE /Elite Squash Bristol	4	0	4	6	14	19	31	19

Southern Division - B	P	W	L	TF	TA	GF	GA	Pts
Tradition @ RAC	4	3	1	16	4	35	18	44
Welsh Wizards	4	3	1	12	8	27	20	36
Luxfords St George's Hill	4	3	1	12	8	25	23	34
Coolhurst	4	2	2	9	11	21	25	27
Bexley	4	1	3	6	14	20	31	23
Chichester	4	0	4	5	15	20	31	20

University of Nottingham found themselves on the receiving end of a 5-0 defeat away to University of Birmingham in last week's Premier Squash League action and will be looking to make amends this evening.

Tonight's visitors were also on the receiving end of a round 4 defeat as they fell to Northumberland /Newcastle and slipped to the foot of the table.


Northern Division leaders Pontefract travelled to University of Warwick / Kenilworth Squash - both with three wins out of three- with a strong looking team but came away with just a solitary point as the "WarKens" put themselves at the top of the table with

a resounding 5-0 win, topped off by Raphael Kandra beating James Willstrop two nil.

In the Southern Division, Tradition @ RAC lead the way on 44 points and will have the opportunity to extend their lead this evening as they head to Chichester who are yet to record a win this season.

Tonight's fixtures

DIVISION A - ROUND 5

 **Northumberland / Newcastle vs Warwick/Kenilworth**
4th December, 7pm

 **Pontefract vs Birmingham**
4th December, 7pm



 **NEXT UP - ROUND 6**
University of Nottingham vs Northumberland / Newcastle
08 January, 7pm @ NRSC

Interview

with Hana Ramadan

It has been a remarkable summer for Hana Ramadan. Not only did the Sport Scholar graduate from the University of Nottingham with full honors but she also stamped her authority on the PSA tour- sending out a signal of intent.

Born in Alexandria, Egypt, 21 year old Physiotherapy student Hana Ramadan is thoroughly enjoying the balance of life in the lecture hall and on the squash court.

Her squash has developed significantly since she joined the University of Nottingham 3 years ago and this is epitomised by recent success this summer in PSA tournaments around the world. In July, as a qualifier in the Women's Des Pyramides Open 2018, Ramadan progressed to the semi-finals where she beat fellow student Coline Aumard in straight sets. Despite taking the first set against Millie Tomlinson in the final she had to settle as a runner up over 4 sets - still a brilliant achievement.

Buoyed by her summer success, Ramadan then went on to reach the final of the Women's Australian Open 2018 at Mulgrave Country Club in Melbourne before returning to University to begin her Masters degree.

We caught up with Hana to find out more about her fantastic summer and look ahead to what her bright future has to offer >>

What kind of challenge will Bristol bring this evening?

It is always a challenge to play against a strong team like Bristol and I am sure my team is looking forward to it. I am really glad that we get to play this one at the university where we get a lot of support! We honestly really appreciate that.

What is it like to be a full-time student and play in the Premier Squash League?

To be honest I am very humble to have these opportunities whilst studying at university. It can be frustrating sometimes when you are not training as you should be as a full-time pro. I just need to be patient and very wise with my time management to overcome this.

Keeping a balance between my squash and my studies is a big responsibility. Even though I am in my fourth year now (Hana is studying a masters degree in Physiotherapy) I am still facing new challenges and still learning and adapting to it with the support from the university.



"I am very humble to have these opportunities whilst studying at university. It can be frustrating sometimes but I just need to be patient and very wise with my time management."

You are without the likes of Nick Matthew, tonight, how will this affect the team?

It is a shame not having Nick this fixture. He is a very strong player on our team and everyone loves to watch him play. It would've definitely made our team even stronger if he was playing with us. However, I am sure we will still have a great night and the crowd will still enjoy the high-level of squash.

You are the current 2018 BUCS Woman's Team Champions. Are you hopeful of retaining this title again this season?

I won this title twice and looking forward to winning it for the third time. I know some of my team mates have picked up injuries this season which is unfortunate. We will keep supporting each other and work together to move forward as a team and hopefully take the title at BUCS Big Wednesday.

With Hana rising up the rankings with a fantastic run in the summer there is no doubt that the future is bright for the Egyptian in 2019. Hana will be second on the all-glass court tonight against Makgosi Peloakgosi looking to secure a crucial point for University of Nottingham.

Tonight's one to watch
Hana Ramadan
v Makgosi Peloakgosi
All-Glass Court, DRSV

"We will be under pressure but I am sure we will still have a great night and the crowd will still enjoy a high-level of squash."

THE VISITORS Bristol



Both of tonight's teams will wish that they were battling at the opposite end of the table this evening and it has been an equally frustrating start to 2018/19 for tonight's visitors, who are stacked with talent.

For many years, UWE / Bristol have built a reputation for delivering high quality squash players and this year is no different.

Adding exciting young talents such as Youseff Soliman (PSA WR 33) to the roster had an immediate impact with the Egyptian winning his opening match of the season.

The frustration of the team may well be evidenced by how hard they have fought in recent weeks to no avail. Mike Harris has had a strong season winning 4 of 6 available sets in his last 3 matches, only to have tasted victory just once against University of Birmingham Lions.

Off the course, UWE/Bristol's Todd Harry (pictured) made squash headlines in April after he became the first male professional squash player to openly identify himself as gay. The squash world was unified in its support for Todd following the announcement and the US number one took to social media to tell the world his story.

"To the Pro Squash world, We are a diverse group of different nationalities, ethnicities, and faiths. I don't know how this will be received by everyone. But I have been dealing with this for a long time. This is what's necessary for me to

be myself, and best enjoy the rest of my time on the circuit, and beyond.

"I am not famous. But if I can be a source of inspiration to any others in a similar situation, I am pleased. This has not been easy for me. It has taken me a long time to accept myself as I am. But now I have, and am ready to put all of this behind me and move on with my life."

UWE / Bristol's Lily Taylor enjoyed a fine weekend at the BUCS individual championships in Nottingham. Taylor beat tonight's opponent Hana Ramadan from University of Nottingham over 4 sets in what was a close fought and entertaining final. Taylor was originally set to face Ramadan tonight (just 2 days after the final) but is a late omission to the squad, with Makgosi Peloakgosi set to come in to replace her.

UWE / Bristol currently lie in 6th place of Division A in the Premier Squash League and will be hoping that a victory tonight against University of Nottingham can lift them off the foot of the table as the regular season reaches the half-way point.

Tonight's one to watch
Richie Fallows
v Tom Ford
All-Glass Court, DRSV





Meet the Players

The University of Nottingham squad features some of the world's top squash players including former world number 1, Nick Matthew and University of Nottingham student's Coline Aumard and Hana Ramadan, both amongst the world's top 75.

The 2017/18 season came to postive end with the Team England selection of both Nick Matthew and Declan James for the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games . Declan James returned home with bronze medal at his maiden games after finishing 3rd in the Men's Doubles with James Willstrop.

Here's a quick overview of some of the players who make up the University of Nottingham Premier Squash League team.

HANA RAMADAN

Joining the PSA World Tour in 2011, Hana claimed her first World title in 2015 at the Brqthru Pharco Alexandria Open, breaking into the top 50 in the following year. Originally from Egypt, Hana now studies physiotherapy at the University of Nottingham and won the British Universities women's singles title in 2016 and 2017.

COLINE AUMARD

Coline is one of the best French players on the world PSA Tour, with a huge year in 2014 where she lifted three tour titles. Coline went on to break into the World top 30 in 2016 and continues to rise up the rankings. Coline is also a current student at the University of Nottingham, studying for an MA in Education.

CHRIS HANSON

Chris has swiftly climbed the world rankings since making his first PSA World Tour appearance back in 2010. Born in New York, Chris became the US National Champion at the end of the 2016-17 season as well as winning two bronze medals from the Pan American Championships so heads into the Premier Squash League season in top form.

RICHIE FALLOWS

Richie is another of England Squash's top young players and is a former National and European Champion. He competed in the PSA World Tour for the first time aged only 17 in 2012 and has been a consistent presence ever since. This year saw him break the World top 60 after victory at the PSA Tour event in Toulouse.

NICK MATTHEW OBE

Otherwise known as 'The Wolf', Nick Matthew OBE first drew the squash world's attention when, in 2006, when he became the first English player to win the British Open men's title since 1939. From then on his career rocketed, seeing him reach World No.1 in June 2010 and winning both the British Open and the World Open three times. The British No. 1 has enjoyed an illustrious career which was crowned by an honour from Her Majesty the Queen of England who awarded Matthew an OBE in her birthday honours list in 2015. Having secured the Premier Squash league title last year as captain, Nick will be looking to repeat the feat in 2018.

DECLAN JAMES

Declan, who is originally from Nottingham, has been rapidly climbing his way up the world rankings reaching the top 20 this season for the first time. After a promising start to the year at the Tournament of Champions, Declan drew attention World No.1 Mohamed Elshorbagy, who named him "certainly one of the best young English players coming through. James is now the highest ranked player in England.

NICOLAS MÜLLER

Nicolas is firmly established as Switzerland's greatest player, being the only Swiss player ever to reach top 20 in the World rankings in 2012. He then reached a career-high of #17 in December 2014. In 2016, he reached the semi-final of the IG Open De Paris, where he narrowly lost out to Declan James over five games. He also reached the semi-final stage of the CCI International JSW ISC but was knocked out of the tournament by Mohamed Abouelghar over three games. Securing the Charlottesville Open Title in late September showed he's in strong form this season.

CHRIS BINNIE

Jamaican national Chris Binnie is the Jamaican and Caribbean top ranked player. With a career-high ranking of #72 from 2016, Chris won his 8th Caribbean championship title in August 2017 without dropping a game. Off the court, Chris is the Assistant Men's coach for the Trinity College Connecticut squash programme in the United States.

NOVEMBER PSA RANKINGS

#N/A	Nick Matthew
#19	Declan James
#20	Nicolas Mueller
#57	Richie Fallows
#142	Adam Murrills
#83	Chris Binnie
#66	Chris Hanson
#221	Adam Auckland
#294	Julian Tomlinson
#486	Lewis Walters
#476	Matt Broadberry
#35	Coline Aumard
#62	Hana Ramadan

HIGHLIGHTS FROM TODAY'S PSL GAMES AT DAVID ROSS SPORTS VILLAGE

You can catch all the action from tonight and our other matches via our Facebook page.

www.facebook.com/uonsport

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Tonight's Teams

University of Nottingham

Richie **Fallows**
Julian **Tomlinson**
Lewis **Walters**
Ollie **Holland**
Hana **Ramadan**

UWE / Elite Squash Bristol

Tom **Ford**
Brian **Byrne**
James **Peach**
Theis **Houlberg**
Makgosi **Peloakgosi**

David Ross Sports Village

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If you are interested in supporting our University of Nottingham Premier Squash League team then please call 0115 748 7000 or email christine.bailey@nottingham.ac.uk

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