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Media Release - Results

For Immediate Release
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PACE Canadian Squash Classic SEMI FINALS - SECOND MATCH

*John Bassett Theatre at Metro Toronto Convention Centre
February 13-16, 2008*

WORLD #1 AND WORLD #2 MEET FOR FINAL OF PACE CANADIAN SQUASH CLASSIC

Toronto - It will be the sort of final that every promoter dreams of - the world numbers one and two facing each other for the finale of the PACE Canadian Squash Classic. World Champion and world #1 Amr Shabana made that come true after defeating world number eight Wael el Hindi 3/1 in a 60 minute semi-final match that for the most part was pure entertainment.

Shabana joins the world #2 Ramy Ashour, who earlier defeated Karim Darwish. With an all Egyptian semi-final, it was little wonder that the Egyptian Ambassador, His Excellency Mahmoud El Saeed, turned up to watch.

Shabana was sharp and relaxed, although his forehand drop was letting him down. Instead of being the killer shot, it was hitting the tin, giving El Hindi a number of lifelines. This allowed him to keep in touch with Shabana to 9-9, but a lucky nick at the back put Shabana at game ball and he was gifted the final point with an error from El Hindi.

Shabana cut his errors in the second game and cruised to a 10-5 lead, but dropped his guard badly to allow El Hindi to get to 9-10 before he worked him out of position to earn a stroke and the second game.

As he did yesterday, Shabana went walkabout in the third game, allowing El Hindi to take it fairly comfortably 11-5. Shabana went up a notch in the fourth game, which featured some fantastic rallies with both players diving and jumping to play some incredible shots. But Shabana was always going to win and he did 11-7.

El Hindi said later that he should have won that first game.

“It would have been different if I had not been so loose. I relaxed too much and you can’t relax against guys like Shabana. Against Shabana and Ashour you have to play every point like it’s match point. I haven’t yet learned to get that level of concentration. With me it comes in waves,” he said, adding that he felt he had a good tournament.

RESULTS

Amr Shabana (EGY) bt Wael El Hindi (EGY), 11-9, 11-9, 5-11, 11-7 60 minutes

Ramy Ashour (EGY) bt Hisham Darwish (EGY), 11-4, 11-7, 8-11, 11-5 52 minutes

For tournament information, visit: www.prosquash.ca

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