7 NATIONAL CIRCUIT EVENTS HELD IN SEPTEMBER

NAYAR & KOHLI CROWNED ASIAN MASTERS CHAMPIONS 2019

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Maharashtra’s Abhishek Agarwal defeated Vikas Mehra from Tamil Nadu in a thrilling five game encounter to lift the men’s title. The event, a two-star SRFI National Circuit event was held under the aegis of the Karnataka Squash Rackets Association. The tournament attracted 288 squash players from various states with competitions held in different categories for boys and girls aside from Men (including over 40 and over 50). Tamil Nadu players had a rich share of winners. Mention has to be made of Pooja Aarthi who participated in a higher age category (U-17) and went on to win at the expense of the top seed and state-mate Diksha Aurobindo. “We are happy with the encouraging response in the very first year. This reflects the kind of talent that this region abounds in. We hope to build on this in the years to come,” said KSRA President Mr. K.P. Balasubramaniam.

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Gaurav Nandrajog had an easy outing as he sailed smoothly to the title. Though the men’s section had an impressive collection of entries among the lot, the veteran of sorts ensured none disturbed him. Over all there was a good mix of established players and relatively new talents, something that was the paramount idea in organising such a closed event, in keeping with the SRFI directive. “Players from Delhi have been performing well on the national circuit. We hope to encourage more participation and will strive for better results in the year to come” said Ms. Bhuvneshwari Kumari, Secretary, Squash Association of Delhi.

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Fresh from his title win in the Delhi closed championship, Karata Dasmahapatra made it another Karata managing to douse Sajid's aspirations. There were only events successful outing in this holy town with a hard fought victory. The Delhi youngster, given the top seeding justified it with his run of wins though the semi-final and the final proved different and required him to show his fighting abilities. Shivamraaj Gulati from Chandigarh, the boy who knocked out the second seed Sajid Khan of UP was his final opponent and that title-match proved a close one. Overall every category produced good contests with the final proving the best of the lot. “We are happy to be given the opportunity to conduct this event. It is our wish to make it a bigger event next time,” said Uttanchal Squash Secretary: Mr. Sanchit Dagar.

NETPLAY TELANGANA STATE CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIP, HYDERABAD (21-23 SEP) | 2 STAR
Gamepoint Hyderabad

Two contrasting finals brought up the victors Tushar Kothari in the men's section and Aishwarya Payyan in the women's. Tushar who did not drop a game right through as the second seed, accounted for the top seed Ravi Pandey in the final again in straight games. However, Aishwarya Payyan, also the second seed had it easy, with her opponent Sujatha Payyan retired from the contest without playing even a point. Aishwarya also bagged the U-17 title for a double. Rajveer Grover also had the honour of a double in the boys' section. “Providing an opportunity to our players has been our commitment and we are very happy that our players supported this event” said Mr. S. Srinivas Goud, Secretary TSRA.
RAJASTHAN SQUASH CLASSIC, JAIPUR (21-24 SEP) | 3 STAR
Sawai Mansingham Stadium

Tamil Nadu boy S. Navaneeth Prabhu was seeded 5/8 in the U-19 section but he showed when it came to performance it was the day’s form that mattered. The Chennai lad showed his mettle by beating the top seed Prithvi Singh of Chandigarh in the semi-final and then downed the second seed Diwakar Singh of UP in two matches that brought to fore his fighting qualities. Against Prithvi, Navaneeth was two games down before he fought his way back to victory. In the final, he was 1-2 down in game score before he steadied himself and found the winning path. The 3 star national circuit event, entirely for juniors was a hectic affair with close to 300 entries from various parts of the country. “The state has a tradition in the sport and this tournament is an example for this. Good participation is what inspires us to keep doing our best for the young talents,” said Mr. Mohan Singh President RSRA.

ALL BIHAR STATE CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIP; PATNA (21-25 SEP) | 2 STAR
Bankipore Club

Unseeded Abdur Rahman rose to surprise all in winning the men’s title while Mannat Gupta justified her top billing by annexing the women's crown. She also won the U-19 title. Participation numbers were less on the distaff side but that did not take away the spirit of competition. The event brought to light the very many young talents waiting to make it big in the sport. Overall it was an encouraging sign and this is what Dr. Koushal Kishore Singh, Secretary BSSRA stressed when he said “For many young talents this was a good opportunity to exhibit their worth. This will inspire others in the time to come.”
Abhishek Pradhan and Urvashi Joshi, both Maharashtra players and top seeds in their sections won the men’s and women's titles. Good and keen competition formed the highlight of this 4 star national circuit event that has established itself into one of the premier events in this region. With a good sprinkling of leading junior players from various parts of the country the interest was high though the seedings held good in most categories. “We are happy this event has stood the test of time. In its eighth edition the tournament is proving a big draw for juniors and seniors,” said MSSRA Secretary, Mr. A. Dayanand Kumar.

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AMITPAL KOHLI AND VIKAS NAYAR WON GOLD MEDALS IN
ASIAN MASTERS SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIP

ASIAN MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIP, MACAU
PSA RESULTS

MEN’S MADEIRA INTERNATIONAL OPEN 2019 (04-08 SEP)
Madeira, Portugal

Semi-finals:
11-9, 11-5, 11-3

Quarter-finals:
[[3] Aditya Jagtap (IND) bt Aqeel Rehman (AUT)
6-11, 17-15, 11-8, 11-5 (48m)

2nd round:
11-9, 11-8, 11-5 (35m)

1st round:
bye

J.P. MORGAN CHINA SQUASH OPEN 2019 (04-08 SEP)
Shanghai, China

Semi-finals:
11-4, 11-9, 11-4 (34m)

Quarter-finals:
12-10, 11-9, 12-14, 11-7 (67m)

2nd round:
11-7, 11-4, 11-7 (43m)

1st round:
[3] Saurav Ghosal (IND)
bye

THE CENTERSTATE BANK MARIETTA OPEN 2019 (12-15 SEP)
Madeira, Portugal

Quarter-finals:
11-6, 11-3, 5-11, 8-11, 11-3 (64m)

1st round:
[[1] Vikram Malhotra (IND) bt Edgar Ramirez (COL)
11-7, 11-9, 11-4
NASH CUP 2019 (17-21 SEP)
London, Canada

Finals:
6-11, 11-5, 11-4, 5-11, 11-5 (68m)

Semi-finals:
7-11, 11-7, 11-4, 11-6 (56m)

Quarter-finals:
11-6, 6-11, 11-8, 9-11, 11-3 (50m)

2nd round:
[[1] Vikram Malhotra (IND) bt [9/16] Alex Noakes (ENG)
11-5, 11-5, 11-3 (30m)

1st round:
[1] Vikram Malhotra (IND)
bye
The book entitled “Tamil Nadu’s Quest For Gold” documenting the rich history of sports in Tamil Nadu, authored by renowned historian and chronicler (late) S. Muthiah was launched at a function in Chennai on October 4, 2019.

It was, in fact a historic moment, as this was the first time that a book of this nature has been brought out. President Tamil Nadu Olympic Association (also Patron SRFI) Mr. N. Ramachandran was the man instrumental in the conception and publishing of this book.

Mr. Vinod Kumar Tiwari, Director – International & NOC, Relations Olympic Council of Asia was the Chief Guest and gave the first copy of the book to Mr. Rajeev Mehta, Secretary General, Indian Olympic Association (IOA).

Mr. David Mui, Vice President, World Squash Federation & President, Asian Squash Federation, Mr. Anandeshwar Pandey Treasurer, Indian Olympic Association and Ms. Parvathi Muthiah, Editor, Ranpar Publications also participated in the event.
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