



CATHAY PACIFIC DAILY NEWS #8, Mon 12th Nov HONG KONG SQUASH OPEN 2007

二〇〇七國泰航空香港壁球公開賽



THE FINALS:

[1] Nicol David (Mas) bt [2] Natalie Grinham (Aus)
9/3, 9/5, 10/8 (58m)

[1] Amr Shabana (Egy) bt [2] Gregory Gaultier (Fra)
11/13, 11/3, 11/6, 13/11 (61m)



Semi-Finals:

Hong Kong Hat-tricks for Shabana & David

World number ones Amr Shabana and Nicol David secured their third successive titles in Hong Kong with victories over the second seeds in the finals of the Cathay Pacific Hong Kong Open Squash Championships.

Shabana, after winning back-to-back titles over the past two weeks at the Saudi International and Qatar Classic, the 28-year-old from Cairo extended his winning streak to 15 matches with a 61-minute victory over Gregory Gaultier, the world No3 from France.



Gaultier took an early lead before finally clinching the first game, but the Egyptian struck back to dominate the second and third games. But the Frenchman was far from finished, and was unlucky not to take the match into a decider as Shabana served straight into the nick on his second match ball.

"I'm very happy to win here in Hong Kong for the third time. It was a tough match, Greg is a great player and he never gives up.

"I'm very happy with the way I'm playing now, I think I'm at my peak, I just hope I carry on playing as good for the worlds later this month."

Amr Shabana



"It's just nice at the moment to be getting the results again. I've felt good all this week and last, and I just went in today to play my best.

"This is my last tournament of the year so I went in hoping for a good finish, especially after winning in Qatar last week.

"Three-nil doesn't show how intense the match was, Natalie's a strong fighter, you just have to keep going and hope to get the win."

Nicol David



Nicol David continued the form which she showed last week by winning the Qatar Classic in Doha - putting behind her the disappointment of a second round exit in the World Open in Madrid. The 24-year-old from Malaysia stormed to a 3/0 over Australian rival Natalie Grinham in a 58-minute final - their eighth final meeting in 12 months.

Like Gaultier, Grinham was unlucky not to extend the match further as she saw leads of 6/2 and 7/5 slip away in the third.

