

The Spectator's Guide To Squash

By Hameed Ahmed '11

The squash team hopes to have a successful finish to the home season and regular season as the Yellowjackets play their final match before the announcement of the pairings for the CSA Championships. Today, Rochester (#4) takes on Franklin & Marshall College (#8) which had a five-match winning streak snapped yesterday at Cornell.

To make it easier for spectators to follow the matches, here's a quick guide on the basic rules of the game and what to observe during a match.

In college squash, teams play nine individual matches and whichever team wins more matches, wins the overall tie. To win an individual match, the player has to win three games, each played up to 11. At 10-10, the player has to win by two points.

The ball can hit several walls as long as it hits the front wall before bouncing. Players have to play the ball before the second bounce.

At all times, the ball has to stay within the highest lines on all four walls (out line) and the lowest line on the front wall (tin). The serve has to hit the front wall between the middle line (service line) and the out line.

The most controversial rule in squash is the let/stroke rule. If interference occurs on court, a player can stop the rally and ask the referee for a "let" (a replay of the point). Without going too much into detail, the three possible outcomes are:

Minimal or no interference: No let (point to other player).

Some interference: Yes, let (replay).

A lot of interference: Stroke (point to player who stopped play).

In terms of tactics, players tend to keep the ball as close to the side walls as possible for most of the time. If the ball is stuck to

the side wall, it is hard and frustrating to play it and it is more likely to get a loose ball in the middle of the court.

It is also important to hit the ball deep – ideally so that the second bounce of a straight drive lands close to the corner of the back wall and floor. This puts pressure on the opponent to play the ball before the back wall.

It is helpful to watch, who controls the middle area of the court (T-area). If one player only takes one or two steps off the T while the other one is running from corner to corner, it is safe to say that the player on the T is controlling the game. Recovery is key – players don't want to give up the T and they want to get back to the middle as quickly as possible after their shot.

One good trick to see who is in control is to look for who hits the ball earlier and volleys more. Volleying usually occurs close to the middle of the court so the one volleying more, often dictates the pace of the game and controls the T.

As in any other sport, body language plays a significant role in squash too. If someone is taking more time between rallies to recover, it often shows that the player is tired and likely to be the underdog in the following rallies.

While these tips might help to form a better image of the game, the best way to understand the dynamics of squash is to watch it live.

Hameed Ahmed currently serves as assistant coach of the Rochester squash team. As a player here, Hameed captained the team in the 2010-11 season. He was a three-time All-American.



Rochester "Yellowjackets" vs. F&M "Diplomats"

Saturday, February 4, 2012 - Peter Lyman Squash Courts

ROCHESTER	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Hometown/Last School
Mohamed Abdel Maksoud	5-10	165	Fr.	Cairo, Egypt / Modern Education School
Bjorn Ahbel	5-11	188	Jr.	Deerfield, MA / Deerfield Academy
Joseph Chapman	6-0	172	Sr.	Tortola, British Virgin Islands / Cedar International
Jesse Cramer	6-3	190	Sr.	Red Creek, NY / Red Creek
Matthew Domenick	5-6	150	Sr.	Philadelphia, PA / William Penn Charter
Andres Duany	6-3	188	Jr.	Lima, Peru
Benjamin Fischer	5-11	150	Sr.	Lucerne, Switzerland / Kaufmannische Berufsschule
Juan Pablo Gaviria	5-7	165	Jr.	Bogota, Columbia / Gimnasio Compestre
Juan Herrera	5-7	155	Jr.	San Salvador, El Salvador / Escuela Americana
Karm Kumar	5-8	160	So.	New Delhi, India / TSRC
Oscar Lopez Hidalgo	5-9	139	Jr.	San Luis Potosi, Mexico / Universidad del Valle
Raymond Moore	5-11	140	Fr.	New York, NY / Thurgood Marshall Academy
Adam Perkiomaki	5-8	155	Jr.	Portland, OR / Lincoln High
Charlie Rockwell	6-0	170	Jr.	Buffalo, NY / The Nichols School

Head Coach: Martin Heath

Assistant Coach: Hameed Ahmed '11

ROCHESTER SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Nov.	19	Vassar%	9-0	W	
	19	St. Lawrence%	5-4	W	
	20	Bard%	6-0	W	
	20	Hobart%	9-0	W	
Jan.	8	PRINCETON	3-6	L	
	13	Western Ontario#	8-1	W	
	21	YALE	4-5	L	
	25	CORNELL	7-2	W	
	27	at Trinity (CT)	1-8	L	
Feb.	28	at Harvard	2-7	L	
	29	at Dartmouth	7-2	W	
	1	HOBART	9-0	W	
	4	FRANK. & MARSH., 12 pm			
	17	CSA Nationals \$			
	18	CSA Nationals \$			
	19	CSA Nationals \$			
	Mar.	2	CSA Individual Champs &		
		3	CSA Individual Champs &		
		4	CSA Individual Champs &		

Key:

- in Toronto, Ontario

% - Liberty League Champs (@ St. Lawrence)

\$ - at Princeton University

& - at Amherst College

FRANKLIN & MARSHALL	Yr.	Hometown/High School
Adnan Abdulhusein	So.	Colombo, Sri Lanka/Millfield Academy (UK)
Alex Arjoon	Fr.	New York, N.Y./Berkshire School
Sujat Barua	So.	Guwahati, India/Pomfret School
I.H. "Wick" Clothier	Jr.	Newtown Square, Pa./Radnor
Pat Cunningham	Jr.	Moreland Hills, Ohio/Orange Hill
Gabriel de Melo	Sr.	Sao Paolo, Brazil/Boston English School
Guilherme de Melo	Jr.	Cotia, Brazil/Cheraw Consolidated School
Matt Gagnier	Fr.	Bryn Mawr, Pa./The Shipley School
Brian Henry	Fr.	Penn Valley, Pa./The Shipley School
Freddy Hernandez	So.	Bronx, N.Y./Canterbury
Danish Jawaid	Fr.	Karachi, Pakistan/Karachi Grammar School
Peter Koekkoek	Fr.	Concord, Mass./Brooks School
Dequan Leslie	Fr.	New York, N.Y./Thurgood Marshall Academy
Ryan Mullaney	So.	Boston, Mass./Belmont
Mauricio Sedano	So.	Guatemala/Centrol Escolar El Rovle
Ben Ng	So.	Alamo, Calif./Monte Vista
Andrew Rivera	Sr.	Hamden, Conn./Choate Rosemary Hall
James Rucinski	So.	New York, N.Y./LaGuardia HS of Music & Art & Performing Arts
David Snyder	Fr.	Baltimore, Md./Boys' Latin School of Md.
Cristopher Stanton	Fr.	New York, N.Y./Mercersburg Academy
Aadit Zaveri	So.	Mumbai, India/Millfield School

Head Coach: Gavin Jones

Assistant Coach: Ron Epps

FRANKLIN & MARSHALL SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Nov.	19	PRINCETON	2-7	L
	20	DARTMOUTH	4-5	L
Dec.	3	YALE	3-6	L
	3	BATES	8-1	W
Jan.	13	Williams^^	7-2	W
	14	Colby^^	8-1	W
	15	at Trinity (CT)	1-8	L
	18	ST. LAWRENCE	6-3	W
	19	at Pennsylvania	5-4	W
	21	Tufts#	9-0	W
Feb.	21	Conn College%	9-0	W
	22	Wesleyan%	9-0	W
	3	at Cornell	0-9	L
	4	at Rochester, 12 pm		
	5	at Hobart, 12:30 pm		
	10	GEO. WASHINGTON, 6 pm		
	11	JOHNS HOPKINS, 10:30 am		
	11	NAVY, 3 pm		
	17-19	CSA NATIONALS\$		
	Mar.	2-4	CSA Ind. Champs &	

Key:

^^ - Yale Round Robin

- Amherst Round Robin

% - Pioneer Valley Invitational

\$ - at Princeton University,

& - at Amherst College