



## 2017 WSF WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

### - DAILY REPORTS -

#### DAY 1 – JULY 19<sup>TH</sup>

Day 1 of the World Junior Squash Championships in Tauranga New Zealand. There are 28 countries represented here with both the Men's and Women's Junior events. Much of the squash takes place on the 6 Courts at the Devoy Centre but there is also a glass court at another venue.

First to get on court was Salaheldin Eltorqman. His opponent, Eid Alotaibi from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, was battling right from the beginning as Sala controlled the T and the match easily with solid lengths and punishing drops. Sala looked calm and poised as he settled in to his first World Juniors Squash Championships here in Tauranga New Zealand, winning 11-2, 11-5, 11-4.

With the win in the morning, Sala then had the imposing challenge of playing Youssef Ibrahim, the number one seed, from Egypt. Sala worked very hard and with much composure to sustain the rallies as long as possible with the Egyptian phenom, however, he lost the first game 2-11. During the second game, Sala was able to move Youssef quite well and forced a few errors to tie it at 5-5. However, the first seed took it up a notch and those would be Sala's only points that game. The third game Sala worked hard but was doing a lot of retrieving. Sala lost the third 4-11.

Andrea Toth's first match of the tournament was the American Elle Ruggiero. The first game was a battle of hard hit lengths. Andrea started the match with some good energy. Rallies were hard fought as the girls traded the lead back and forth until they were even at 8. A few too many errors, were costly, however, and Andrea lost the first 8-11. Andrea worked very hard to establish her length and get control of the rallies by mixing up the pace during the second game. Elle and Andrea traded the lead throughout this game but in the end, the American took the second game 17-15. The nervous energy of the first two games seemed to tire Andrea as she was unable to keep her opponent behind her long enough to take the advantage. Andrea lost the third 6-11, losing the match 3-0.

Charlotte Orcutt was up next against Fanny Segers from France. Charlotte seemed a little nervous in the first half of the game as she worked hard to hit her targets. She was down 6-10 but stormed back to tie it at 10-10. She lost the game 12-10. However, she had built some really good momentum and used it in the second game to force her French opponent into making errors. Charlotte won the second 11-9. The third game was no different as Charlotte's mental toughness proved too much for the attacking game of Fanny. Charlotte took the third game by the same score. However, France came to play and the fourth game was the longest and by far the best squash of the match. Targets were hit in the back by both players. Volleys and drops were used by both players to punish anything loose. Both players traded the lead for much of the game and in the end, Charlotte proved to be just a little more patient and make one less error to take the fourth, in 13 minutes, 14-12. Charlotte took the match 3-1

Nicole Kendall drew an American opponent in her first match as well - Laila Sedky. These two have met before so there were few surprises. Nicole came out very strong and very fast to control the T and take



the first game 11-4. The second game saw the American settle in and make fewer errors as Nicole worked hard to build on the first game. Unfortunately, Laila took it 11-8. The third important game, Nicole was patient and focussed as she found her length again and an unforeseen reverse boast and won the third 11-4. The fourth game Nicole displayed good patience as she continued to move her opponent from the back to the front and back again. Needless to say Laila tired and got frustrated and errors became her norm. Nicole took the fourth 11-8, to win the match.

Last match for the junior girls was Emma Jinks versus the Malaysian Aifa Azman, the 13/16 seed. Emma came out battling very hard to control the T as the players traded the lead for much of the game. The Malaysian was able to hold her position a little longer and worked Emma hard at the back of the court with good pace to take the first game 11-8. In the second, Emma couldn't seem to get settled and find her targets. Her opponent took full advantage of this and kept up the pressure. Emma lost the second game 2-11. The third game started like the first - as Emma also worked hard to mix up the pace and take the ball early. Unfortunately, she still struggled to find those elusive targets. She lost the third 5-11.

Emma, Andrea, Nicole, Charlotte and Sala are having a blast meeting players from around the world. Head coach Richard Yendell and team manager Janet MacLeod- and Jasper the Mascot - are also getting acquainted and reacquainted with players, coaches and officials from all over the world. The "Kiwis" of New Zealand, and Tauranga are very friendly and welcoming so our stay here "down under" has been excellent so far.

Thursday matches begin again with Sala up first and then the girls in the afternoon. Nicole's match will be live streamed as she plays on the glass court at 3pm. Andrea plays at 3:40, Charlotte 4:20 and Emma at 7 - local time, of course! (*Note: Local time is EST + 16hrs*)

Thank you, Canada, for all your support and warm wishes. The team has created an Instagram account to share pictures from their 2017 World Juniors experience, which you can follow at [@teamcanadaeh17](https://www.instagram.com/teamcanadaeh17)