

MONTE-CARLO SQUASH CLASSIC LE MAG'

ISSUE 3 - NOVEMBER 12, 2025



INTERVIEW
MILLIE TOMLINSON



TOP STORY
MÉLISSA ALVES vs LAUREN BALTAYAN

ALL-FRENCH SHOWDOWN IN MONACO

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SQUASH CLASSIC
2025



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Classic 2025

ALVES **VS** BALTAYAN

FOCUS ON THE ALL-FRENCH SHOWDOWN

Must watch! In the quarterfinals, the rising 18-year old Lauren Baltayan will challenge 32-year old Mélissa Alves, who's been French number 1 for 3 years.

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“Some people think I'm going to decline – which is typical in France for athletes over 30 years old – and I'm eager to prove them wrong. I am a top 20 player and I have to live up to my status. I am aware that Lauren has nothing to lose and I am exactly the opposite, especially because I am the top seed in the draw, but that's part the game.

MÉLISSA ALVES' VIEW



While being focused on myself, I also want the best for French women's squash, and it's a good sign that two of us are facing in the quarters of a Copper event. When I watch Lauren and Kara Lincou play, I see them going for it and not being afraid of seizing the opportunities. Even if they are improving, the other young French players need to do even more and take inspiration from them.”

FIRST MEETING

"I've never played Lauren before indeed. We don't play the same tournaments very often, and I didn't compete in the French Nationals when she did. I know her game, which doesn't mean I am not going to prepare the match very seriously. The tour is so strong these days, you cannot afford not to analyse your opponents and I'll definitely be watching her match against Kara."



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A GOOD START THIS SEASON

"Beyond the results, what I am the happiest about is to be injury and pain free. Physically, I have never felt so good while – I can admit it now – I'd been struggling for two years, I couldn't train consistently. It's a game changer because even after a tough loss I can go back to training and work hard, which is what I did after losing to Anahat Singh in Canada."

LAUREN BALTAYAN AFTER HER WIN OVER KARA LINCOU

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"Kara is in great shape, she beat a lot of French players last weekend in Paris and it was important for me to win this match. My staff studied her game well and gave me the keys to success. I volleyed more than she did, which allowed me to take the T. My lobbing was also efficient, overall I am much more patient than I used to be. I've got several goals this season, including breaking into the world top 50 and winning the British Junior Open in U19. As for the quarter-final against Mélissa, the pressure is on her, I have nothing to lose!"

COACH'S VIEW: YANN MENEGAUX

"Despite the age gap, Melissa and Lauren have one thing in common, they've both recently made great strides, whether physically or tactically. Melissa has a psychological edge because Lauren has huge respect for her, but on the other hand she's also very keen to mark her territory. I won't be able to advise Mélissa, whom I coach on a daily basis, which is a little frustrating but it makes perfect sense because I am also the French team's manager. Besides, it will allow me to take a step back and see a few things better. There's a good momentum in French women's squash at the moment, not only in the top five but also behind them with young players becoming more consistent. I think Camille Serme's return, even if it was short, had a positive effect on everybody, including Mélissa who had to fight to keep her number one spot."



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[1] Mélissa ALVES vs [9/16] Lauren BALTAYAN

Wednesday, 5:30PM



➡ Mélissa Alves and Lauren Baltayan have never faced each other, but they were part of the French team who clinched the bronze medal at this year's European Team Championships (picture above).

➡ Lauren Baltayan will be featuring in a quarterfinal on the PSA Squash Tour for the first time, which is obviously not the case for her opponent who was nicknamed the 'Copper Queen' last season after winning three events in this category.

➡ Ranked number one in France since July 2022, Mélissa Alves has not lost to a compatriot since March 2021 – Camille Serme in the French Nationals final. The last time she faced a French player in PSA was also in Monaco (Elise Romba in 2022).

FRENCH CORNER

THE CLASSIC ENDS FOR ÉNORA VILLARD

We already talked about Mélissa Alves and Lauren Baltayan going through, Énora Villard would have loved to join them and play a third quarter in Monaco but despite a valiant effort in



game 3, she had to surrender to left-hander Alicia Mead. "It's frustrating because she had the weapons, but Enora failed to capitalise on her opponent's weaknesses," analysed national coach Yann Menegaux.



As for Kara Lincou, she came up against a stronger Lauren Baltayan but gave a great account of herself in Monte Carlo. The Réunion island born is about to start her last season with Trinity College, and we look forward to seeing her on the tour in 2026/27.

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... and probably of the season so far for Zeina Mickawy (in white)! Madison Lyon – world ranked 87, hence 60 spots below her opponent – was flawless and on the verge of the biggest victory of her career by far, but the young Australian was not able to close the match out at 2-1 and 10-3 up in the fourth game. ‘In my head, I was already packing my bags and booking my flight home,’ Mickawy confessed. ‘But I managed to completely remove the pressure and focus only on the ball rather than the score, and somehow I kept going...’ On Wednesday, she’ll face Germany’s Saskia Beinhard, who will be playing her second quarterfinal on the PSA Squash Tour.

WATTS POWERS THROUGH

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After losing the first game, Kaitlyn Watts looked like she'd got the upper hand but the 24-year old had to dig deep to overcome the resistance of Emilia Soini. "She made me run a lot, luckily, I love that part of the game!" told Watts to Framboise Gommendy after the match. She is the first Kiwi in the quarters since Amanda Landers-Murphy in 2017.

On Wednesday, she will face Torrie Malik. Although the No. 3 seed was not happy with her performance, she still managed to contain Germany's Katerina Tycova in three close games.

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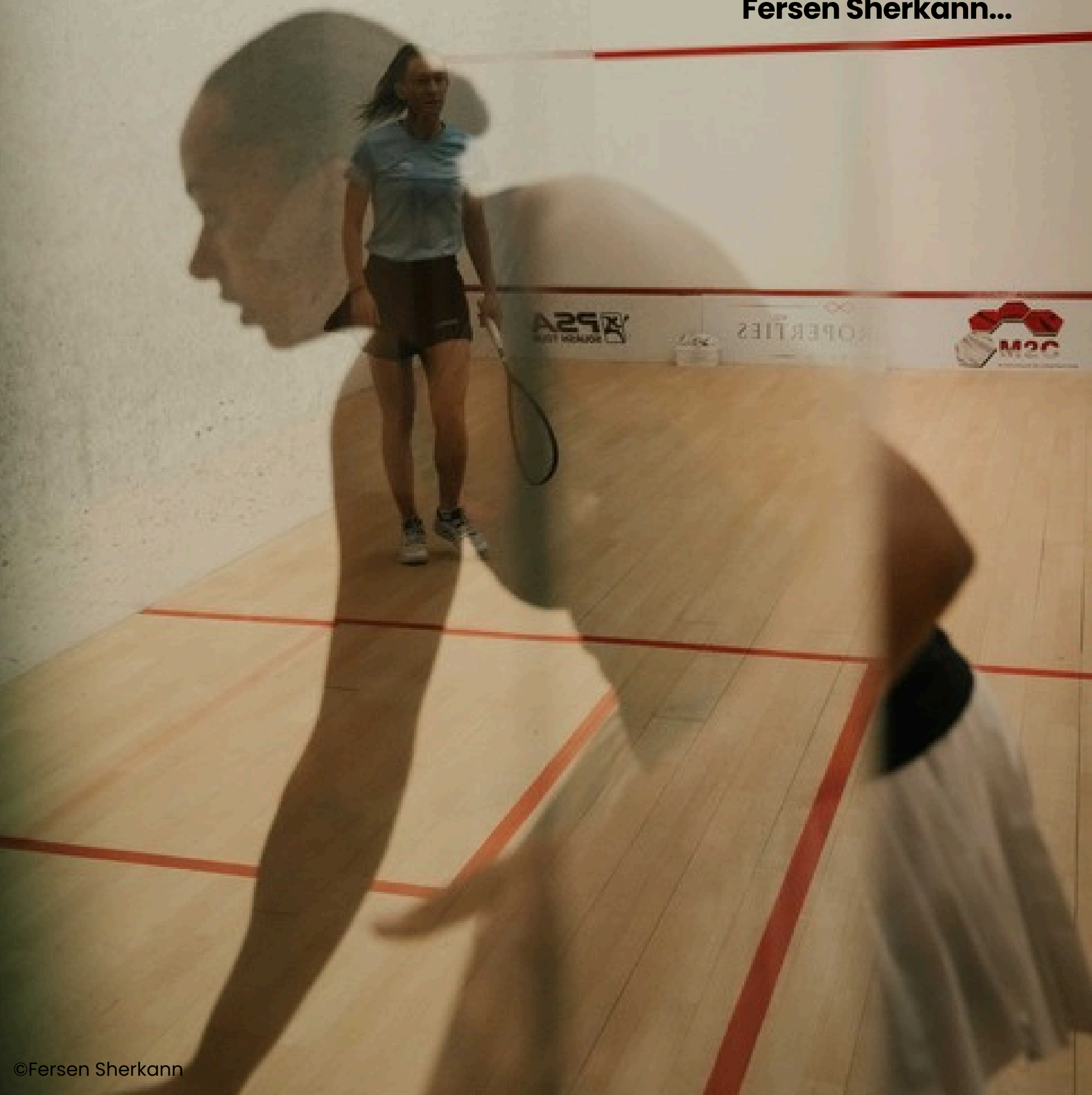


The last time a German player had reached the quarters in Monaco, it was in the second edition of the event. In 1997, Sabine Schoene (former world No. 6 and greatest female player in her country's history) unfortunately had to withdraw before her match against Liz Irving.



After a very convincing performance in the round of 16 against Jessica van der Walt, Saskia Beinhart will face Zeina Mickawy on Wednesday.

**The Harris vs.
Tomlinson match
through the lens of
Fersen Sherkann...**

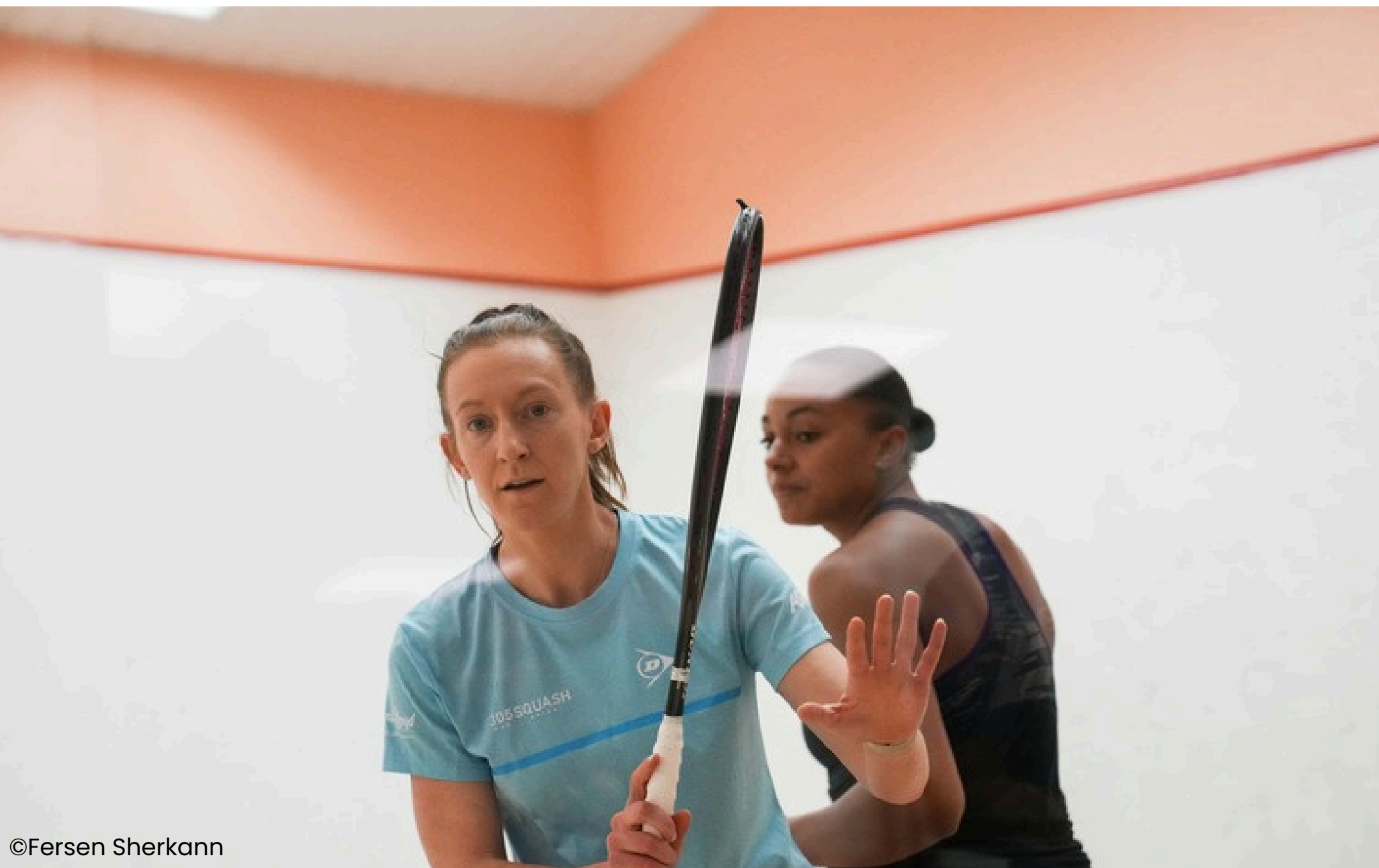


MILLIE TOMLINSON

Runner-up at the Classic in 2016, the 33-year old Englishwoman made it to the quarters on Tuesday.

Tomlinson beat her young compatriot Asia Harris in 4 games.

I am rather happy with my performance, I was consistent today and the gameplan was to keep the ball away from her huge reach (she laughs). Asia has been in good form, she beat Grace Gear recently. Yes I am following the progress of the English youngsters, although there are probably some players who watch more squash than I do. We have a strong generation and I think the Olympics have been a boost.



In 2021, Millie founded the Graded Squash Tour, whose intent is bring the squash community together around events open to everyone.

You've done your research! I was sidelined for a year due to a foot injury, and my psychologist advised me to have something else besides my playing career. The tour has grown a lot, at the moment I am organizing events almost every weekend – we had a big one recently in Amsterdam. I'm working on the project all by myself, which means I don't have much free time! My next goal is to have a women's only event. Usually 90 percent of the entrants are men, and some women are a little scared to compete against them.



©Fersen Sherkann



Millie's is making her eighth appearance at the Monte-Carlo Classic.

I always tell everyone it's my favourite tournament, and it's true! Why? Simply because everything is walkable here, the surroundings are beautiful and the weather is lovely in November. Why not have a Graded Squash Tour event here one day? It would be great.

Formerly ranked 20 in the world, Millie is now 75 and still enjoying her squash.

After every loss, I tell myself it's time to stop but it never lasts long! I'm not as physically fit as I was when I was ranked 20, but over the years I've improved a lot tactically and I haven't set myself a date to end my career. As far as this week goes, it would be amazing to get back to the semifinals, and my quarter against Alicia Mead should be a close one.

MONTE CARLO CLASSIC 2025 (COPPER, \$32,500)

Round of 32 November, 10	Round of 16 November, 11	Quarterfinals November, 12	Semifinals November, 13	Final November, 14
Breanne FLYNN  11-9, 11-9, 12-10 [9/16] Nadia PFISTER  [9/16] Au Yeong WAI YHANN  11-9, 11-9, 13-11 [WC] Kara LINCOU 	[1] Mélissa ALVES  11-5, 11-4, 11-3 Breanne FLYNN 	[1] Mélissa ALVES  5:30pm [8] Lauren BALTAYAN 	6pm	
Asia HARRIS  11-9, 11-9, 9-11, 14-16, 12-10 [9/16] Y. JADISHKUMAR  [9/16] Enora VILLARD  11-9, 11-9, 11-6 Sofia MATEOS 	[7] Millie TOMLINSON  11-5, 9-11, 11-7, 11-6 Asia HARRIS 	[7] Millie TOMLINSON  5:30pm [4] Alicia MEAD 	7pm	
Katerina TYCOVA  11-3, 11-8, 12-10 [9/16] Alison THOMSON  [9/16] Kaitlyn WATTS  11-5, 11-4, 11-5 Sarah CARDWELL 	[3] Torrie MALIK  11-9, 11-8, 11-9 Katerina TYCOVA 	[3] Torrie MALIK  6:15pm [9/16] Kaitlyn WATTS 	7pm	
[WC] Elise ROMBA  8-11, 11-8, 11-5, 11-8 [9/16] Saskia BEINHARD  [9/16] Madison LYON  7-11, 13-11, 11-3, 8-11, 11-3 Tessa TER SLUIS 	[6] Jessica VAN DER WALT  14-12, 11-1, 11-6 [9/16] Saskia BEINHARD 	[9/16] Saskia BEINHARD  6:15pm [2] Zeina MICKAWY 		



L'ÉLITE MONDIALE DU SQUASH FÉMININ

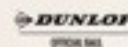
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