

# PLAYER OF THE MONTH AWARDS



## MIGUEL ANGEL RODRIGUEZ

**ACHIEVEMENT:** Wins \$50,000 Colombian Open in August and Pan American Championship in September

**RANKING:** 13 (November 2014)

**COUNTRY:** Colombia

**CLUB:** El Nogal (Bogota)

**SPONSOR:** Tecnifibre

**LIVES:** Bogota

**MIGUEL ANGEL RODRIGUEZ** was proud to win the El Nogal Colombian Open on home territory in Bogota in August. "It was my first win in a \$50k event," said the highest-ranked South American ever.

In September he went on to win the Pan American Championship in Mexico. "It was my fourth Pan American Championship in a row," he said. "Then I made the semi-final in San Francisco [the \$70,000 NetSuite Open]."

"My ranking is 13 but should rise to 12. I'm improving every year."

Rodriguez trains at home in summer, when he is coached by his father, Angel, works on his technique and plays condition games. He then goes to Florida at the beginning of the year to David Palmer's academy.

His goal is to be in the top 10 at the end of the year. "I am playing in the British Grand Prix in December. If I do well I can be top 10 for the beginning of next year," he said.



## NOUR EL TAYEB

**ACHIEVEMENT:** Leaps from 25 to 8 in WSA World Rankings after reaching finals of Malaysian and Hong Kong Opens

**RANKING:** 8 (November 2014)

**COUNTRY:** Egypt

**CLUB:** Heliopolis (Cairo)

**SPONSOR:** Head (rackets)

**LIVES:** Cairo

**NOUR EL TAYEB** is reaping the rewards for changing her training emphasis as career-best World Series performances in the Malaysian and Hong Kong Opens saw her reach the final in both August events and eighth in the WSA rankings.

"I have always put effort into my training, but only recently have I actually sat down with my coaches and started to have a goal of improving my weaknesses," said the 21-year-old Egyptian. "Mainly I have been working on my basic game and my movement around the court."

Her coaches are Haitham Effat (squash) and Hossam Shaddad (fitness), but she has also been assisted by her fiancé, Ali Farag. "I don't think I would have reached this place without his help and support," she said.

Away from squash, she is studying economics at the American University in Cairo, while her interests include watching and playing tennis, reading athletes' autobiographies and spending time with family and friends.



## ADRIAN WALLER

**ACHIEVEMENT:** Beats world no. 7 on the way to first World Series quarter-final at the U.S. Open

**RANKING:** 26 (November 2014)

**COUNTRY:** England

**CLUBS:** Hazelwood T & SC, Winchester R & FC (PSL)

**SPONSORS:** Adidas (clothing) and Ashaway (strings)

**LIVES:** Enfield (North-West London)

In October **ADRIAN WALLER** (24) had the biggest win of his career when he beat fifth seed Borja Golan on his way to a quarter-final place in the U.S. Open.

There he faced the eventual winner, Mohamed Elshorbagy. "It was 18-16 in the first, I had four game balls and went close in the next two," said Waller of his match against the third-seeded Egyptian.

Waller trains at the Potters Bar club under ESR coach Paul Carter and practises there with Daryl Selby, Pete Barker, Ben Coleman and Charles Sharpes. He receives support from the English Institute of Sport at their Hatfield base at the University of Hertfordshire.

Waller has set his immediate sights on a top 23 place in the world, which would give him direct entry into the first round of PSA World Series events.

He likes all sports, particularly football, and says: "I like to get to Arsenal as much as I can but squash takes priority."



## NOUR EL SHERBINI

**ACHIEVEMENT:** Reaching the final of the U.S. Open, beating two higher-ranked players along the way

**RANKING:** 4 (November 2014)

**COUNTRY:** Egypt

**CLUB:** Smouha Sporting Club (Alexandria)

**SPONSORS:** Tecnifibre (rackets) and Orouba Misr Construction and Development Company

**LIVES:** Alexandria

By reaching the final of the U.S. Open in October, Egypt's **NOUR EL SHERBINI** was able to match her career-best WSA Ranking of fourth in the November list.

The 19-year-old, who first hit those heights in February 2013, had slipped to 27th in March this year, but her World Championship runner-up placing that month kick-started her climb.

"I have been working hard to improve my fitness and my mental game," said the three-time world junior champion.

Her coaching team consists of squash coach Roushdy Mabrouk, fitness trainer Walid Elmosalamy and manager Omar El Sherbini, while her training partner is men's world no.22 Fares Dessouki.

El Sherbini has an ideal base in Alexandria. "I really love the city," she said. "It's calm, it's peaceful and, most importantly, it's by the beach, so you always have a chance to chill out and breathe good, clean air."

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER