

Seeds serve up sizzling squash

By A Sports Reporter

THERE was safe passage for the top seeds to the quarter-finals of the Al Ghandi Electronics/Dubai Police Ramadan Squash Tournament last night.

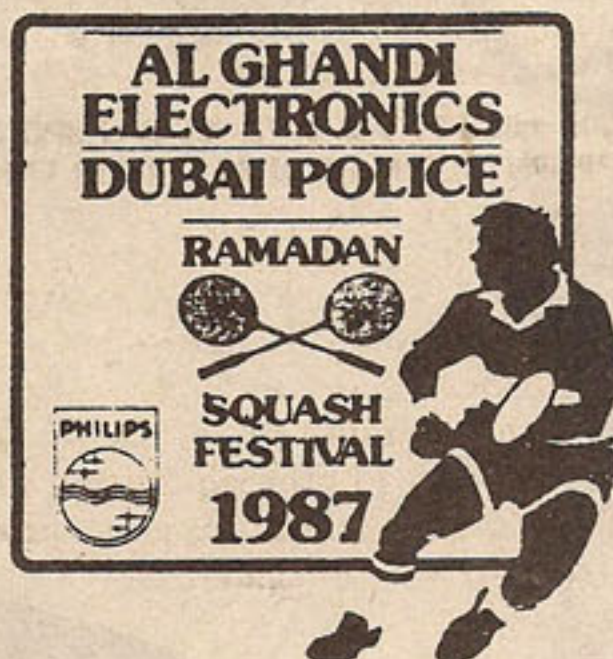
Favourites Abbas Khan and Ginny Rusher booked their berth in the last 16 of the mixed doubles section with a comfortable 90-34 win over Simon Baker and Penny Morgan.

Things were tougher for number three seeds Iqbal Khan and Jan Deeb who just managed to oust plucky pair Mohammed Nagib and Vanessa Chapman 71-62 in the closest game of the night's play at the Chicago Beach Sports Complex.

Seventh seeds Ramesh Prabhakar and Kate Newns found life a little easier when they took to the courts against Ishwar Jodha and Christine Taylor emerging 90-55 winners.

Yet it was the Prabhakar — Jodha clash which set the night alight.

Prabhakar took the match in straight sets but he was forced to fight for every point by a determined Jodha. The scoreline of 15-12, 15-11, 15-10 shows just how hard he battled as the pair played out a series of



testing rallies with Jodha retrieving stylishly.

His partner Christine Taylor fell to Kate Newns 15-7, 15-6, 15-9 however as their chances of progress finally ended.

Abu Dhabi's Iqbal Khan looked to have made almost certain that he and Jan Deeb would safely reach the next round after beating Mohammed Nagib 15-9, 15-4, 15-4.

But there were a few heart-

stopping moments to come as Nagib's partner Vanessa Chapman rallied valiantly to beat Deeb 15-7, 15-5, 15-14. But it wasn't enough to take the match for herself and Nagib.

Top seeds Abbas and Rusher made short work of their second round opposition last night.

Former number 20 in the world Abbas outplayed Simon Baker 15-6, 15-5, 15-3 while Rusher emerged victorious, despite a spirited show by Second Division player Penny Morgan, winning 15-8, 15-10, 15-2.

Today and tomorrow are rest days with the men's over 35's section entering its second round on Saturday. The final half of the mixed doubles second round will be played on Sunday.

Results: Abbas Khan/Ginny Rusher beat Simon Baker/Penny Morgan 90-34; Ramesh Prabhakar/Kate Newns beat Ishwar Jodha/Christine Taylor 90-55; Iqbal Khan/Jan Deeb beat Mohammed Nagib/Vanessa Chapman 71-62.



Abbas Khan (foreground) lines up for a backhand in his game against Simon Baker last night — GN Photo