

Hello Group,

I wanted to first of all thank you all for reaching out to us last night and for your words of support and understanding. I felt it was important to pass onto you what happened as it's tough when you're not here and I know we had a ton of support from you and many others back home.

Sport has thrown us all many curve balls and last night was certainly something I have not faced before. I do a lot of talking with the team about past experiences and situations that have occurred and the best way to deal with them leading up to the Worlds. Situations like last night, have to be dealt with on the fly and are offer huge challenges and tests for players and team staff.

James (Flynn) went on court and struggled physically and lacked confidence in his shots and found himself down 2-0. He was able to change the match around and fight back to win the match 3-2. Julien (Gossett) was up 2-1 and 10-6 and playing very well. He made a good get at the front right with his opponent getting the ball and hitting a good cross court. Julien felt he could get that ball and sprinted across the court and lunged to the ball, but his foot slid and he injured his hamstring. Once we got him off court, it was apparent he would not be able to continue and was in shock. Julien and I decided that he will go back on court after his 3 minute injury time and just go for winners, with 3 match balls. This did not work, but was the right decision. With us having just been (1) point away from a trip to the semi-finals, George (Crown) now had to go on and play the tie breaking match. This was very tough on George as I think he was also in shock with what had just happened and the fact that he was not faced with the pressure of the deciding match. This day was not to be for George and unfortunately, his nerves got the better of him and he struggled on the court with playing his game and playing a US player who was playing out of his mind. The match 10-10 all in the 4th with the US player hitting a length nick and then the match finishing on a stroke. My feeling is if George had have won the 4th, he would have taken the 5th.

After the match last night, the team was in disarray. We had our manager and player at the hospital who was taken away by stretcher and ambulance and three players at the club and the coach who were very shell shocked. We needed to get back to the hotel and re-group. Each member of the team was extremely mature and understanding of what happened and the process of dealing with it and how to bounce back.

- After all of the years of coaching at the World's, the hardest thing is to find ways to have 2 of the 3 players perform at their ideal performance state consistently every day for the teams event. There are so many factors that play a role, from the individual event matches, sickness, deciding on which players to play and mental and physical tiredness.*
- Once we all made it back to the hotel, we called a team meeting and dinner and talked about what we had just gone through. We then agreed that is must be put behind us and we*

continue with our squash goals of placing as high as we can. We knew Pakistan would be a tough challenge

- We lose as a team and we win as a team. The blame does not fall on one person, we are a team where we deal with the loss as a team and celebrate as a team*

Half of the team and the coaching staff hardly slept last night. You relive the matches in your mind, the injury, looks of disappointment, celebrations of your opponents and trepidation about what will happen the next day. We all met at breakfast and continued to re build the team, set goals and talk about Canada pride.

James was on court first and played much better than the previous day and the match was of very good quality, but James lost in a close 4. George was next on and he needed to know the team was behind him and how to play this match on very little sleep and being on such an emotional roller coaster. He lost the 1st game, but went back on court and did what he had to do to win in 4 games. Ryan (Picken) was to play the decider and his match continued to add to my grey hairs! Ryan was down 8 – 10 in the 5th and kept fighting to win the deciding match against Pakistan to put us in the 5/6 playoff.

To see the team rebound from last night's challenges makes us so proud. As we all know, sport provides players and coaches with so many lessons that transfer over to life. I made it very clear to the team that dealing with adversity provides us with lessons and tools that will help out down the road, making us stronger and better individuals.

For everybody's peace of mind, we are all good and Julien is in great spirits. We should all be so proud of what they did today and win or lose tomorrow against Malaysia, I know they will not go down without a fight.

Thank you,

Jonathan Hill

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