

AMINA

THE PHENOMENON

The latest product off the Egyptian conveyor belt could be their best yet

Just before Finnlay Withington won the British Junior Open boys' Under-19 title, a similarly captivating young Dunlop player drew plenty of admiration in the girls' final.

Egypt's Amina Orfi doubled up at the University of Birmingham by clinching the Under-19 trophy, having become world junior champion last August in Nancy, France.

Either side of her BJO victory, she won three consecutive titles on the PSA Challenge Tour, then, astonishingly, reached the final of the Bronze level Squash On Fire Open in Washington DC via wins over England's Lucy Beecroft, Malaysia's former world junior champion, Sivasangari Subramaniam, fifth seed Nada Abbas and second seed Sabrina Sobhy, before finally going down to Tinne Gilis.

Unsurprisingly, as *Squash Player* discovered, she has big plans for the future. She said: "Being a world champion and a BJO champion definitely gives me the confidence boost I need when I play tournaments in the pro tour. I feel I can break into the top 30 by the end of 2023.

"My career goals are quite ambitious, but hopefully I'll be able to accomplish them. I want to become the youngest world number one as well as the youngest world champion."

Orfi started playing squash aged five at the Gezira Sporting Club, where she still trains with coaches Ahmed Effat and Abdel Fatah Fahim.

She describes herself as "loose and relaxed outside of the court" but "quite serious and



Amina Orfi

focused on the task and what I want to accomplish" in training, matches and academic study. She intends to go to college in Egypt in tandem with playing on the PSA World Tour. "I will try to balance between both, as education comes first for my family," she explains.

Underpinning her success so far has been her sponsor, Dunlop, which has supported Orfi for the last five years. "I am really grateful for the continuous support I receive from the whole Dunlop team," she said. "Whenever I'm playing tournaments, they either come to cheer for me or watch the live stream and follow up with me afterwards."

A year younger than Orfi but certainly no less exciting as a prospect is Indian prodigy Anahat Singh, who made such an impression at last summer's Commonwealth Games.

BRITISH JUNIOR OPEN 2023 RESULTS

Under-11

Boys: [1] Hazem Sarwat (Egy) bt [3/4] Malek Ahmed (Egy) 11-9, 10-12, 11-2, 11-1 (30m)

Girls: [1] Talia Sherif (Egy) bt Lilly Mashaal (Egy) 11-7, 7-11, 6-11, 11-9, 11-2 (30m)

Under-13

Boys: [1] Carlton Capella (USA) bt [5/8] Nauman Khan (Pak) 7-11, 14-12, 11-9, 11-9 (36m)

Girls: [3/4] Habiba Rizk (Egy) bt [1] Malika Taymour (Egy) 11-7, 11-8, 11-8 (24m)

Under-15

Boys: [2] Marwan Asal (Egy) bt [9/16] Seif Refaay (Egy) 11-3, 11-5, 11-4 (19m)

Girls: [1] Anahat Singh (Ind) bt [3/4] Sohaila Hazem (Egy) 11-8, 8-11, 11-7, 11-5 (28m)

Under-17

Boys: [1] Youssef Salem (Egy) bt [3/4] Eyad Hossam (Egy) 9-11, 11-9, 11-6, 11-4 (45m)

Girls: [3/4] Madison Ho (USA) bt [3/4] Nour Khafagy (Egy) 11-8, 11-8, 14-12 (38m)

Under-19

Boys: [2] Finnlay Withington (Eng) bt [9/16] Jonah Bryant (Eng) 11-3, 11-4, 11-8 (36m)

Girls: [1] Amina Orfi (Egy) bt [2] Fayrouz Aboelkheir (Egy) 6-11, 11-6, 4-11, 11-2, 11-6 (49m)

Dunlop-sponsored Singh returned to the same Birmingham venue to take the Under-15 title at the British Junior Open in January, beating Egypt's Sohaila Hazem in four games.

For such a slight figure, Singh is an astonishing powerful and accurate hitter. Incredibly, she finished runner-up in the full Indian National Championships in December, pushing legendary 19-times champion Joshna Chinappa hard in all three games despite an age gap of 22 years!

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