

Adrian Dudzicki / Some memories

I was terribly saddened when I heard of the accident that claimed Adrian's life while biking to the NSA in Toronto. I have a few memories of Adrian for sharing that stick in my mind like they were yesterday.

1. A few years ago he won his way onto the Squash Canada university team that was headed to New Zealand if I recall. Of course a trip of this nature has expenses. We did a quick survey of members of the ODSA executive and key personnel in the ODSA community and all were very supportive of passing on some funds to make his trip more affordable. I remember letting Adrian know I had a cheque for him and it was ready for his pick up. He said he would drop by my place shortly. I was putzing around outside my house when he drove up on his bike and I passed on the ODSA cheque. We had a great little chat about his upcoming adventure. Even with our age difference he was so easy to talk with. I had no worries about us helping him out and I knew he would represent Ottawa and Canada well during his travels.
2. Officiating a few of his matches. I always found officiating a match involving Adrian a pleasure. He played hard and left little doubt when and where he was making an appeal. One time at a high level tourney at the NSA there was a little bit of controversy early in one of his matches. I cannot actually remember what the controversy was but I believe a let was played in the end. What I do remember was a comment he made to the other player at the time of the incident. He said "he's a fair ref". To receive those words from a high level player was truly a compliment and I continue to cherish those words to this day.
3. The 2013 Ottawa RA Squash Open. Adrian had come to Ottawa to play in this tourney in the open category. We had a little prize money available for that category but nothing to retire on. He made it to the finals against Karim Osman, the top ranked player in the Ottawa area. He was up 2-0 in the final match when Karim surprised him and tied up the match at 2-2. This is when Adrian had to show what he had inside himself. He had to truly dig in and make a superior effort to come out on top. In the end, thanks I guess to his internal fortitude, he pulled out the victory in a close five gamer! The match was the highlight of the tourney and it was nice that it happened in the open final. The home town fans were smiling that Adrian (from Ottawa) got the win.

To me it seemed that he loved our game and he played it fairly with energy and fight. He was an intense competitor and always carried himself well on and off the court. Me and the rest of the Ottawa squash community always smiled when we heard his name and were very proud that he came from our area.

He left us too early. May his memory be with us always!

Mikola Czich
Ottawa and District Squash Association.