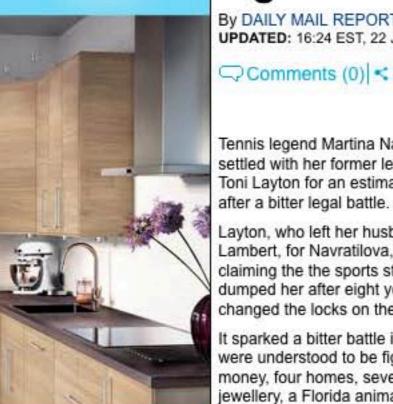
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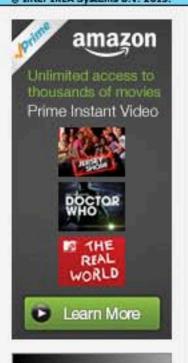




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Martina Navratilova 'pays former lesbian lover \$3m' to settle bitter legal battle

By DAILY MAIL REPORTER UPDATED: 16:24 EST, 22 June 2010

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Tennis legend Martina Navratilova has settled with her former lesbian partner Toni Layton for an estimated \$3 million

Layton, who left her husband, Jeffrey Lambert, for Navratilova, sued her claiming the the sports star abruptly dumped her after eight years and changed the locks on their Florida home.

It sparked a bitter battle in which the pair were understood to be fighting over money, four homes, several cars, a boat, jewellery, a Florida animal sanctuary, art, pets and even a set of guns.

And it is understood Layton had even threatened to reveal Navratilova's secrets if the decision did not go her way.

Now, despite the bitterness between them, they have quietly settled out of court for an estimated \$3 million, according to the New York Post.

Layton's lawyer, Raymond Rafool,

confirmed: 'All of the disputes between the parties have been resolved." But asked about the \$3 million estimate,

he said: 'The terms of the settlement are confidential." Layton had threatened to air their dirty

linen in public after claiming Navratilova, now 53, dumped her in January 2008 and tried to make her sign an agreement that meant she would walk away with only \$200,000.

'There are a lot of skeletons in Martina's closet. It is more like a storage facility full of them, and I know them all,' Layton said in an earlier interview.

The pair had shared homes in Colorado and Florida, an animal sanctuary and a collection of 'frog art.'

Settlement: Martina Navratilova, pictured arriving at Wimbledon today, has 'resolved' the legal battle with her former lover

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Layton also claimed part ownership of more than a dozen vehicles, including two Land Rovers, a classic Mercedes Benz and a speedboat.



Pay day: The tennis champion has handed Toni Layton an estimated \$3 million

In 1991, Navratilova split with Judy Nelson after eight years and paid a rumoured \$3.5 million. Nelson then wrote two books about the tennis star, who is now dating former Miss Universe Julia Lemigova, 36.

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But Navratilova, who is recovering from breast cancer, insisted on a confidentiality agreement this time.

Her spokesperson, Gabriel Serrato, also confirmed: 'All the disputes between the parties have been resolved and the terms of the settlement are confidential."

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