

Monday 2 May, 2011

2011 North Queensland Open Tennis Championships!

The 2011 North Queensland Open Tennis Championships were played at the Tennis Townsville Centre, North Ward from Saturday 30 April to Monday 2 May and we couldn't have asked for more perfect weather! A record number of 174 entries were received from players across the State; there were 34 participants in the Mens Open Singles, 14 participants in the Open Ladies Singles and 23 participants in the 18 Boys Singles.

The NQ Open Championships is a Bronze Series ranked Tennis Australia event. The event started Saturday Morning at 8.00am and the last match finished at 8.00pm on Monday Afternoon. The talent was outstanding with many thrilling and exciting matches taking place at the Tennis Townsville Centre, North Ward.



Number 1 seed, Mark Draper (Gold Coast) took out the Open Mens Singles Championship title cruising through the Final match; he has previously won the title 4 times and is thrilled about winning his 5th NQ Open Tennis Championships. Draper defeated number 2 seed, Travis Dragojlo (Toowoomba) 6-0, 6-1. Draper said he felt fresh and ready to take on Travis "I've previously played Travis and have beaten him 6 out of 6 times, so I felt pretty confident about the match. Travis is a very talented player, however he's had some immense matches, so his energy levels may not be as up there".

Travis Dragojlo and Mark Draper

Number 3 seed, Gavin Van Peperzeel (Brisbane) played Mark Draper (Gold Coast) in the semi-finals. Draper defeated Van Peperzeel 6-1, 6-1. Mark Draper cruised through the match, as Gavin Van Peperzeel was not having a good game. Long and difficult matches in the rounds took their toll on Gavin; however it was a very intense match to watch.

Number 2 seed Travis Dragojlo (Toowoomba) defeated unseeded Matt McCray (Cairns) in the semi-finals 6-1, 6-4. Unfortunately Matt, a tennis coach from Cairns, was still overcoming an arm injury and couldn't give the match a 100%. Matt said "Travis was a great competitor and enjoyed playing him in the semi-finals."

Number 1 seed, Harriet Sheahan (Brisbane) took out the Open Ladies Singles Championship title defeating Lizette Cabrera (Townsville) 6-4, 6-2. This was Sheahan's first tournament of the year, as she tore her carve muscle in January and was off the court for 3 months, making this a wonderful comeback! Cabrera put in a great effort, receiving much praise from the number 1 seed. Sheahan



said "This was my first time playing Lizette- I've heard so much about her and she is a great competitor. She's only 13 years old, so you can only imagine the kind of future that lies ahead of her."

Lizette Cabrera (Townsville) played Cassie Gramlick (Brisbane) in the semi-finals defeating her 6-2, 6-4. Cassie said- "I knew that playing Lizette would be a challenging match."

Harriet Sheahan and Lizette Cabrera

In the Open Ladies Doubles finals, powerful duo number 1 seed, Harriet Sheahan (Brisbane) and number 2 seed, Cassie Gramlick (Brisbane) defeated Amy-lee Evans (Cairns) and Jordan Maisel (Mareeba).

The number 1 seed, Mark Draper (Gold Coast) & Ian Mallpass (Brisbane) took on and defeated the number 2 seed, Travis Dragojlo (Toowoomba) & number 3 seed Gavin Van Peperzeel (Brisbane) 6-7, 6-3, 10-6 in the Mens Open Doubles. This was a very entertaining match and the players provided the crowd with some remarkable tennis shots. Travis and Mark played the Mens Open Singles Finals only minutes before the doubles match, however they've both trained very hard to ensure their bodies can handle these conditions.

Ian Mallpass (Brisbane) is a past NQ Open Tennis Championship winner taking out the title in 1997 and 2005.

In the 18U Boys Singles Final, Mitchell Robins (Brisbane) defeated Lachlan Kern (Townsville) 6-4, 6-1. Lachlan is a member of Tennis Townsville's Pickerings DMG Touring squad which is coached by Tennis Townsville Head Coach, Wayne Hannah.

In the 18 U Girls Singles Pia Eustace (Mackay) defeated Majella Nobile (Townsville) 6-3, 6-2 in the finals.

Tennis Townsville President, Peter Duncan said the event displayed some great talent, "We had some exciting tennis throughout the weekend. The tournament ran smoothly and we had perfect weather for the event. The last finals were a close match and kept the crowd engrossed! We're looking forward to improving on today's tournament in 2012."

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North Queensland Open Championships 30 April - 2 May
Bernie Lanigan Optometrist Tennis Townsville Championships 25 - 26 June
Ergon Energy North Queensland Junior Age Championships 25 - 27 September

For further information visit
www.tennistownsville.org

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