

Tuesday 17 May 2011

Lizette Cabrera qualifies to compete in Junior World Cup



Only days after coming Runner Up in the Ladies Singles Open event at the NQ Open Tennis Championships held 30 April-2 May, Lizette flew out to Kuching, Malaysia to compete in the ITF Asia/Oceania Final qualifying girls' event which was held from 9th-14th of May. Tennis Townsville is very happy and proud to announce that the Australian Girls Team won the finals of the Qualifying and a spot in the Junior World Cup which will take place in Prostějov, Czech from 1-6 August, 2011.

The World Cup is part of the International Tours Program, which provides junior athletes under the age of 18 with an opportunity to compete internationally against the world's best athletes. These tours are designed to enhance athletes' development in their pursuit of the ATP/WTA tour

The four teams from Asia/Oceania to qualify are Australia, Korea, China and New Zealand. The Australian team consists of Lizette Cabrera (Townsville, QLD), Naitkha Bains (Brisbane, QLD) and Anja Dokic (Tuart Hill, WA). The Australian girls team was the number 1 seed among the 16 countries (Asia/Oceania) followed by Japan, China, Uzbekistan, New Zealand, Korea, India and Thailand (1-8 seeds respectively). The rest of the countries, which were not seeded, consisted of; China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Kazakhstan, Sri Lanka, Philippines, Indonesia and Singapore.

Australia justified their top seeding by going through the week long competition without losing a single match to finish as top qualifier. In the final, which was played in very hot conditions, they had to endure a tough challenge from surprise finalists, sixth seeded Korea.

Lizette Cabrera had to fight back from a set down to beat Do Hee Bae (Korea) in three sets and then Naiktha Bains closed the tie for Australia beating Da Bin Kim (Korea) in a very tight two sets. Third seeds China, beaten by Australia in the semi-finals, won both singles matches against New Zealand to claim third place.

The Australian team consisted of Scott Draper (Tennis Australia National Coach), Wayne Arthurts (Manager- Melbourne NHPA), Lizette Cabrera (Townsville, QLD), Naiktha Bains (Brisbane, QLD) and Anja Dokic (Tuart Hill, WA).

The Australian Boys Team was seeded second, just behind Japan, however lost against China in the quarter finals. Overall the Australian Boys Team came 5th, whilst Japan came in 1st place.

Lizette's parents are over the moon with this news, her mother Dolly said "We can't wait to see her, we're so proud of her!! She showed some fantastic results winning all her matches, both singles & doubles! She's been training so hard!"

Lizette Cabrera is part of Tennis Townsville's Pickerings DMG touring squad, coached by Tennis Townsville Head Coach, Wayne Hannah. "Lizette is doing great! She's very focused and motivated and has a bright future ahead of her." Wayne said.

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Bernie Lanigan Optometrist Tennis Townsville Championships 25 - 26 June
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Media Contact: Tennis Townsville, Business Development & Marketing Manager, Karolien Selen
Ph: (07) 4721 5129 or email: marketing@tennistownsville.org