

Wednesday 18 May 2011

Tennis Townsville local becomes College Tennis Superstar in USA!

Townsville's very own John-Patrick Smith is wrapping up the final tournament of his college career over the next two weeks. JP is currently playing tennis for the University of Tennessee, USA where he's been attending the college since 2007.



John Patrick Smith Photo by Patrick Murphy-Racey

Born in Townsville, JP started playing tennis at the age of 10 years. He started his coaching with Tennis Townsville's head coach, Wayne Hannah who provided him with guidance over the years. JP was a member of the training squads at Tennis Townsville and did training with Wayne every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday keeping him very busy. JP attended Townsville Grammar School which is located right next door to

Tennis Townsville. At age 18, JP achieved a world junior ranking of 5 which is when he was recruited to join the University of Tennessee on a tennis scholarship.

Since coming to Tennessee, JP has been one of the best players in college tennis in the last four years. He has been ranked No. 1 in singles and has held the top doubles ranking with Boris Conkic of Serbia since March 1, 2011. In 2009 and 2010, he spent time at No. 1 with Davey Sandgren. JP played at the top of Tennessee's singles and doubles line ups nearly his entire four-year career there and had led Tennessee to the No. 1 national team ranking earlier this year.

JP is considered one of the most successful players in the history of US college tennis.

In June, he'll become Tennessee's first four-time All-American, which is the biggest national sports honor in college athletics. Not only that, he'll be the second player in the history of college tennis to earn All-America honours in both singles and doubles. Rick Leach is the only other person to have received this same honour.

Tennessee plays in the South Eastern Conference, the most competitive and difficult conference in the country. Throughout the last two seasons, JP has been voted as the SEC Player of the Year by the conference coaches. The only other player to ever be named player of the year twice is John Isner.

JP has been really enjoying his tennis scholarship because it allows him to focus on his tennis whilst getting a degree. JP speaks very highly of the facilities available to him at the University of Tennessee, not only for his tennis but also academically.

Wayne Hannah, Tennis Townsville Head Coach said “JP has had tremendous success so far in his tennis career reaching a Junior World Ranking of 5 and number 1 College Player in America for Singles and Doubles. Having had to concentrate on the completion of his degree, JP will be able to now fully focus on his tennis career and after 12 months on the professional tennis tour should be able to rise up the ranks.”

John-Patrick Smith is really looking forward to starting his career as a Professional Tennis Player and to kick-start his career; JP will partake in the Asian Tour. The ATP World Tour’s Asian swing begins in Southeast Asia at the Malaysian Open, Kuala Lumpur 2011, welcoming the best men's tennis players.

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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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