

McNicol Earns Triple Crown, Gravina Turns the Double

Kyla McNicol capped a very successful Manitoba Open with a pair of victories on the final Sunday. She defeated Alexa Zayac 6-4, 6-2 to win the Women's Singles Championship and then teamed up with Alana Miller to outduel Zayac and Misa Simonova 6-2, 6-2 in the Women's Doubles final. These wins came on the heels of a Mixed Doubles victory on Saturday with her partner Jon Causon.

This success at Manitoba's showcase tournament of the year cements McNicol's position as the top female player in the province. Although only 18 years of age, this was McNicol's 3rd Manitoba Open Women's Singles title.

Recap of final match scores:

Men's Singles Final

Women's Singles Final

Women's Doubles Final

Men's Doubles Final

Alessandro Gravina defeated Doug DeVriendt 6-1, 3-6, 6-1

Kyla McNicol defeated Alexa Zayac 6-4, 6-2

McNicol / Miller defeated Simonova / Zayac 6-2, 6-2

Gravina / LaCap defeated Mancer / DeVriendt 2-6, 7-5, 6-3



Alessandro Gravina, 2005 Global Manitoba Open, Men's Open Singles winner.



Tennis Fans Were the Big Winners at 2005 Global Manitoba Open

The tennis fans of Winnipeg were the big winners at the Winnipeg Winter Club on Sunday, July 17th. Forced indoors due to the inclement weather, the final matches were played in front of a very appreciative crowd who did not go home disappointed.

Alessandro Gravina, the top seed from Toronto, delighted the spectators with his strong groundstrokes, solid volleys and great foot speed. He cruised to an easy 6-1 win in the opening set of the Men's Singles final versus Doug DeVriendt, the five-time Manitoba Open Singles Champion. DeVriendt fought back to square the match at a set apiece, only to have Gravina overpower him and earn a well-deserved 6-1, 3-6, 6-1 victory.

Gravina also demonstrated outstanding doubles skills, teaming with Sean LaCap to win the Men's Doubles Championship 2-6, 7-5, 6-3 over DeVriendt and Evan Mancer.

Not only did Gravina treat the fans to a very high level of tennis, but he demonstrated a great passion for the game, as witnessed by his infectious smile and never-ending hustle for every ball. The tennis community in Winnipeg was very fortunate to have Alessandro Gravina pay us a visit and we look forward to his return for the 2006 Manitoba Open.

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Did You Know...

- That Daniella Silva won the Sportsmanship Award at the 2005 U14 Indoor Junior Nationals in Edmonton.
- That Winnipeg Lawn Tennis Club defeated the Kildonan Tennis Club to capture the 2005 Men's Interclub title.
- That the Winnipeg Winter Club beat the Kildonan Tennis Club to win the 2005 Women's Interclub Championship.
- That 6 Chair Umpires at the 2005 Canada Summer Games in Regina were from the province of Manitoba (see article in this issue of First Serve).
- That 7 individuals completed the Introduction to Officiating course in 2005: Shaun Anderson, Ed Lepage, Darrell Minuk, Lori Mann and Richard Briand from Winnipeg and Matt Grills and Barry Iwanicki from Brandon.
- That the Tennis Futures clinics, organized by Bill Serbin, continued to thrive in 2005, with over 500 children exposed to the sport at Winnipeg Lawn Tennis Club over 4 days.

LaCap Wins U16 National Championship

Sean LaCap became the first Manitoba tennis player in more than 30 years to capture a National Junior Championship, winning the U16 Doubles title with his partner Philip Anderson from Nova Scotia. The duo entered the U16 Indoor Junior Nationals in Montreal as the # 2 seeds and knocked off the top seeded pair of Julien Gauthier of Quebec and Phil Nemecek of Alberta in the final with a tight 6-7(5), 6-4, 6-4 victory. Sean demonstrated great resiliency in bouncing back from a disappointing showing in singles, where he was defeated in the round of 16, despite being the # 3 seed.

"Kids in Court" Attracts 18 Die-Hards

Lac du Bonnet held its first ever tennis lessons geared for kids ages 7 -12. Kelly Deveau and crew taught these sessions in May & June of 2005. Young kids hit hundreds of balls using a series of activity stations. The group's skill level improved so quickly that "live ball" play was introduced far earlier than expected. Whether using a practice hit or tennis trainer device, the kids enjoyed the broken racquet throwing station the best!

The community and parents were extremely supportive of this initiative. Tantalum Mining Corporation donated substantial funds. This enabled us to purchase brand new racquets for each kid at the awards ceremony. Not to be outdone, the local Co-op station gave free slushies to all players and coaches. Thanks to Claude Deveau and Brent Pemberton for their enthusiasm and patience.

Saturday morning kids league is now running from 10am-noon. The cost is \$30 per session or a \$5 drop-in fee. Contact Kelly Deveau @ 345-6751 for more details. Future plans include free tennis sessions for teens and a half-day week long tennis camp for next summer.

DeVriendt and McNicol Win Again at Deer Lodge Classic

Doug DeVriendt and Kyla McNicol solidified their positions as the players to beat on the Manitoba tennis scene after posting impressive victories at the Deer Lodge Classic. Kyla breezed past Alexa Zayac 6-0, 6-2 to capture the Women's Singles title, while Doug defeated Evan Mancer 6-2, 6-1 to earn yet another Men's Singles championship.

Both players also won doubles titles at Deer Lodge for a little icing on the cake. Doug paired with Evan to defeat Stephen Dubiensi and Mike Lodewyks 6-4, 6-2 in the Men's Doubles final. Kyla teamed up with Geoff Kirbyson to win the Mixed Doubles championship with a close 7-6, 4-6, 6-4 victory over Lodewyks and Zayac.

Final Results

Men's Open Singles: Doug DeVriendt def. Evan Mancer 6-2, 6-1

Men's 4.5 Singles: Matt Luczynski def. Alex Lesiuk 6-4, 6-0

Men's 3.5 Singles: Michael Gunter def. Chris Enquist 6-3, 6-0

Women's Open Singles: Kyla McNicol def. Alexa Zayac 6-0, 6-2

Women's 4.5 Singles: Kate McKenzie def. Maya Kirstein 6-2, 6-0

Men's Open Doubles: DeVriendt / Mancer def. Lodewyks / Dubiensi 6-4, 6-2

Men's 4.5 Doubles: Borland / Lesiuk def. Rab-
bitte / Zubeck 6-2, 6-3

Mixed Doubles: McNicol / Kirbyson def. Zayac /
Lodewyks 7-6, 4-6, 6-4

Steinbach Tennis Camp Attracts Youth to the Sport of a Lifetime

The City of Steinbach recently held several summer camps for youth in the area to expose them to different sports. From July 25-29 a dozen youngsters took part in a tennis camp under the guidance of certified instructor Victor Messejnikov. The camp was enjoyed by all participants and will be held again in 2006.

For further information contact Moni Loewen, Recreation Programmer for the City of Steinbach at (204) 346-6217.

MANITOBANS EARN MEDALS AT MACCABI GAMES IN ST. PAUL

Manitoba was represented by five athletes and a coach in the tennis event at the 2005 Maccabi Games in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Daniel Breslauer, Zev Faintuch, Katie Haber, Saul Shrom and David Thompson headed south to the Twin Cities, August 7-12, and were accompanied by Victor Messejnikov, who handled the duties of coach.

Haber captured the Gold Medal in U16 Mixed Doubles and Faintuch won the Bronze Medal in U14 Boys Doubles.

It was a great experience for everyone involved and the team members are hoping to go to the Games again next year, when Vancouver will act as host.



Mancer Victorious in Brandon

Evan Mancer returned home from the Wheat City Open in Brandon on June 5th with the Men's Open Singles title, after a hard fought 1-6, 7-6, 6-2 victory over Stephen Dubiensi. He definitely did not take the easy road, needing three sets to eliminate Mike Lodewyks in the quarter-finals before defeating Chris Yard in two close sets in the semi-finals.

With Manitoba's top-ranked player, Doug DeVriendt, unable to play due to injury, the draw was wide open. Hart Pollack, the number 1 seed in the Men's Open Singles event, suffered a first round defeat at the hands of Randy Veitch. Veitch, a resident of Kamloops, British Columbia, then lost a very tight match to Dubiensi.

Complete results were as follows:

| | |
|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Men's Open Singles | Evan Mancer (Wpg.) def. Stephen Dubiensi (Wpg.) 1-6, 7-6, 6-2 |
| Men's 4.5 Singles | Brian Giesbrecht (Brandon) def. Larry Kooistra (Swan River) 6-2, 6-2 |
| Women's Singles | Debbie Pargaetzi (Kamloops) def. Kate McKenzie (Wpg.) 6-0, 6-1 |
| Men's Open Doubles | Pollack / Yard def. Dubiensi / Lodewyks 6-3, 6-7(5), 7-5 |
| Men's 4.5 Doubles | Thiele / Cancade def. Kooistra / Gillies 6-2, 4-6, 7-6 |
| Mixed Doubles | Pargaetzi / Cruise def. Weekes / Weekes 6-1, 6-2 |

Manitobans Officiate at Canada Games

Six Manitoba tennis officials had the opportunity to partake in the experience at the Canada Summer Games in Regina. A small number of us have remained dedicated to officiating within the Province since the 1999 Pan American Games. The Canada Games were an opportunity for all of us to experience a national level tournament as chair umpires for the first time. It was great tennis and an unbelievable experience for all of us on and off the court. Everyone was impressed with the work and caliber of the Manitoba officials. We are all glad that we were able to volunteer our time for the athletes. We are proud to say that we are bringing back an even stronger caliber of officiating to Manitoba. On behalf of all the officials, I would like to sincerely thank Steven Peers, our Officials Coordinator, for all his hard work and dedication this season.

Kieron Kennedy



L to R: Tom Molinski, Steve Peers, Kieron Kennedy, Cindy Gil-mour, Grant Wuckert Missing: Dave Scrapneck

Canada Games Team Earns 6th Place Finish

Team Manitoba finished 6th at the 2005 Canada Summer Games in Regina, after losing a close tie with Nova Scotia. Three of the six matches in the tie went to a super-tiebreaker, but unfortunately it was not to be for Team 'Toba.

Manitoba struggled to a 1 and 3 record in round-robin action, losing to Ontario, British Columbia and Nova Scotia, before defeating Prince Edward Island. The team then faced New Brunswick in the cross-over match, with the winner earning the right to move on to the 5th/6th place playoff. After splitting the 6 matches in the tie, Sean LaCap and Alexa Zayac teamed up to win the deciding mixed doubles match in convincing fashion. This led to the rematch with Nova Scotia.

Manitoba was represented by Sean LaCap, Alex Lesiuk, Matt Luczynski, Matt Younger, Alexa Zayac, Anita Paskvalin, Erica Chen and Jaime Peterson. Jared Connell was Head Coach and Erin Bodnarchuk was Team Manager.



Miller and DeVriendt Win Twice at Tuxedo

Alana Miller and Doug DeVriendt were the big winners at the Tuxedo Open, with each player capturing two events. Miller defeated Kathryn McKenzie 6-1, 6-2 to win the Women's Open Singles championship and then partnered with Geoff Kirbyson to take home the Mixed Open Doubles crown with a 5-7, 6-4, 6-2 victory over Alia Kalicinsky and Roland Burrell.

After a rare loss on home soil in the Manitoba Open final in July, DeVriendt made quick work of the competition at Tuxedo, winning the Men's Open Singles championship with a 6-0, 6-0 victory over Nicolas Kwan of Quebec. Kwan made an impressive run through the draw on his way to the final, defeating Geoff Kirbyson in the round of 16 and then upsetting Evan Mancera in the quarter-finals and Hart Pollack in the semi-finals. DeVriendt also won the Men's Open Doubles event, teaming with Evan Mancera to beat Kirbyson and Jon Causon 7-6(5), 6-3.

Complete results were as follows:

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Men's Open Singles | Doug DeVriendt def. Nicolas Kwan 6-0, 6-0 |
| Women's Open Singles | Alana Miller def. Kate McKenzie 6-1, 6-2 |
| Men's Open Doubles | DeVriendt/Mancera def. Kirbyson/Causon 7-6(5), 6-3 |
| Mixed Open Doubles | Miller/Kirbyson def. Kalicinsky/Burrell 5-7, 6-4, 6-2 |
| Men's 4.5 Singles | Trevor Borland def. Ameen Deraj 6-1, 6-3 |
| Women's 4.5 Singles | Cindy Radford def. Selvi Verathapan 6-3, 6-0 |
| Men's 4.5 Doubles | Brooks/Elliott def. Trinidad/Sangalang 4-6, 6-4, 7-6(3) |
| Women's 4.5 Doubles | Ferguson/Radford def. Schumacher/Lybacki 6-0, 4-6, 6-1 |
| Mixed 4.5 Doubles | Hare/Elliott def. Frost/Kibsey 3-6, 6-1, 6-2 |
| Men's 3.5 Singles | Helder Serpa def. Jake Bergen 7-6(3), 6-4 |
| Men's 40+ Singles | Tom Brown def. Dave Wilken 6-2, 6-1 |

Farag Captures Two Events in Brandon

Ahmed Farag won both the U14 and U16 Boys Singles titles at the 2005 Wheat City Junior Tennis championships in Brandon. He defeated Kevin Kylar 6-1, 6-3 to win the U14s and then earned the U16 title after Matthew Cheung was forced to retire with an injury, with Farag leading 7-5, 3-2.

Kylar took home the U12 Boys Singles championship with a 6-0, 6-0 victory over Davis Hirsch. The Silva sisters swept the two girls singles events, with Daniella taking the U14 title, defeating her sister Jessica 6-7(1), 6-2, 6-3, and Jessica winning the U12 title, beating Lily Cholakis 6-2, 6-3.



Ahmed Farag

Indoor Junior National Qualifying Tournament will be held in Saskatoon

February 17-19, 2006

The top 4 boys and top 4 girls in each age group at the tournament will represent the Prairie Region at Indoor Junior Nationals.

Strong Showing for Bailey and Corrigan on Home Court

Sean Bailey and Brendan Corrigan each captured three events at the 2005 World of Water Junior Championships at their home club, the Kildonan Tennis Club. Perhaps it was the familiar surroundings that helped carry Bailey to hard fought victories in the Boys U16 and U18 Singles finals. He defeated Alex Lesiuk in both finals, winning 4-6, 6-3, 13-11 in the U16s and then 3-6, 6-1, 12-10 in the U18s. He also partnered with Corrigan to take home the U18 Boys Doubles crown, with a 9-4 win over Ryan Gorlick and Noah Moscovitch.

Corrigan also won the U14 Boys Singles championship with a victory over Joel Hysop of Brandon and the U14 Boys Doubles title, as he partnered with Saul Shrom to beat Justin Foidart and Nick Raffey.

Anita Paskvalin and Clarissa Chen were double winners on the girl's side. Paskvalin defeated Catherine Moses in both the U16 and U18 Girls Singles finals, while Chen won the U14 Girls Singles and Doubles titles.

Complete results were as follows:

Boys U18 Singles: Sean Bailey def. Alex Lesiuk 3-6, 6-1, 12-10

Boys U16 Singles: Sean Bailey def. Alex Lesiuk 4-6, 6-3, 13-11

Boys U14 Singles: Brendan Corrigan def. Joel Hysop 6-4, 6-4

Boys U12 Singles: Kevin Kylar def. David Hirsch 6-2, 6-2

Girls U18 Singles: Anita Paskvalin def. Catherine Moses 6-0, 6-2

Girls U16 Singles: Anita Paskvalin def. Catherine Moses 6-2, 6-1

Girls U14 Singles: Clarissa Chen def. Evann Waschuk 6-4, 7-5

Girls U12 Singles: Daniella Silva def. Jessica Silva 6-4, 6-1

Boys U18 Doubles: Corrigan / Bailey def. Gorlick / Moscovitch 9-4

Boys U14 Doubles: Corrigan / Shrom def. Foidart / Raffey 9-0

Girls Doubles: MacMahon / Chen def. Silva / Silva 9-4

Sean Bailey and Brendan Corrigan win doubles over Ryan Gorlick and Noah Moscovitch



Back at the Nationals

It was 1998 and the #1 seeded player, Doug DeVriendt of Manitoba, just lost his semi-final match to Ontario's Philip Gubenco. It was the end of Doug's junior career and he was heading off to college in Florida. As I was returning from Saskatoon that year I was reviewing all of the years at Nationals with Doug, wondering when I would return.

Seven years later, the time came to start again. The U12 Nationals, which were revived in 2004, and in some question for 2005, were finally scheduled for July 24-29 in Gray Rocks, Quebec.

The preparation for Nationals went well on the clay at Taylor Tennis Club. All players were urged to practice on clay as much as possible. On the trip to Montreal a few of us (Kevin Kylar and Evann Waschuk) stopped for some additional practice at the Mirabel Club. The nine players on the team officially got together on Saturday for practice. After a couple hours on the clay, I presented our players with our mission: "Those that make mistakes, never win". There was no way we were going to go home with no victories. Mental toughness and constant reminders of why we are at the Nationals was the topic at the players' meetings everyday.

The first two days were designated for friendly doubles, with an opportunity to get used to the clay and evaluate the competition. Being away from the Nationals for so long, I was wondering what the competition would be like. It was tough, but not impossible for our team to feel like they belonged here.

Tuesday, July 26th – Day 1

Chad LaCap, Manitoba's number one player, wins both of his matches easily. Kevin Kylar, the youngest player among the boys, loses both of his matches, despite the fact he is up a set and 5-1 against Ontario's Daniel Tsimerman. Alex Minuk and Will McPherson also get their feet wet, losing both matches.

The girls' team, which served as supporters of the boys in the morning, got some action in the afternoon. Team veteran, Jade Kirstein, lost a close match to a player from Ontario and the other girls, Evann Waschuk, Maya Kirstein, Daniella Silva and Jessica Silva also lost their opening matches.

Wednesday, July 27th – Day 2

The morning began with the girls draw. Evann Waschuk had a Quebec seeded player talking to herself during a very close first set, which she eventually lost 6-4. She ultimately lost the match, but worked very hard. On the next court, Jade gives our team the first girls match victory. Maya, Daniella and Jessica all have tough matches, but show improvement. In the afternoon Jade wins another match, so our girls finish the round robin with a combined record of 2 wins and 13 losses.

The boys played their final round robin match. Chad took top spot in his pool, with a close three set match. Kevin won his first Nationals match in three sets. Will and Alex each lost their third match in round robin competition. The boys finished with a combined record of 4 wins and 8 losses.



Thursday, July 28th – Day 3 and Friday, July 29th – Day 4

Flight 2 Girls – Jade loses two matches, places 15-16

Flight 4 Girls – Evann wins two, then loses flight final, places 26

Flight 4 Girls – Daniella wins, then loses, places 27-28

Flight 4 Girls – Jessica loses two matches, places 31-32

Flight 4 Girls – Maya loses, then wins, places 29-30

Flight 1 Boys – Chad loses, then wins, places 5-6

Flight 3 Boys – Kevin loses, then wins, places 21-22

Flight 4 Boys – Alex loses two matches, places 31-32

Flight 4 Boys – Will loses two matches, places 31-32

I really enjoyed my role as the coach. I was proud of the players and the 12 match wins sets the standard for next year. Thanks to all of the parents for their help and support of the team. See you in 2006.

George Kylar

Tennis Manitoba would like to acknowledge the following sponsors for their support of tennis in the past year.

