

President: Anthony McKenzie
Vice-President: Lorna Edwards
Secretary: Angella Taylor
Treasurer: Kim Gun-Munro
PRO: Samantha Goodluck



P.O. Box 135, Kingstown
St. Vincent & the Grenadines
Tel: 784-457-4090
Fax: 784-457-4080
Email: svgtennis@gmail.com

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2009 DIGICEL ITF Junior Tennis Championships Concludes

St. Vincent and the Grenadines Tennis association played host to twenty-one countries in the third annual DIGICEL International Tennis Federation Junior Tournament which concluded on Saturday, 15th August at the National Tennis Center.

The competition served off on Saturday, 8th August and, amid much rain, featured over a hundred and twenty players from the Caribbean, Suriname, Canada, Japan, Germany, USA, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Russia, Spain, and Argentina in Under 18 and Under 14 contests.

With an unprecedented eleven players in the Boys Under 18 Singles draw, Shane Huggins was the lone player to advance as far as the second round in both singles and doubles competition, while Rhiana Bruce-Lyle was the only Under 18 girl to advance past the first round. The Boys Under 18 champion was John Thornton of the USA and the Girls Under 18 Champion was Sophie Morrill of the UK.



Vincentians: Joyette-DaSilva, Young, Charles & Michael

In the Under 14's Boy's Singles, Julio Francis advanced to the quarterfinals and J'rai Joyette-DaSilva advanced to the semifinals where he lost to the eventual champion from the Bahamas. In doubles action, Brandon Benn and Julio Francis made the semifinals and J'rai Joyette-DaSilva and Marley Young reached the finals. The Boys Under 14 Consolation finals was contested by Vincentians I-mani King and winner, Jymann DeRoche.

Daneya Charles advanced to the Girls Under 14 Singles final where she lost to the eventual champion from Mexico. Daneya and teammate Halima Michael won the Girls Under 14 Doubles defeating a formidable team from Barbados. In the Girls Under 14 Consolation draw, Paige Veira and Samesha St. Hillaire were semifinalists and Kentasha Bullock made it to the finals losing to the eventual champion from Antigua.

President of the SVG Tennis Association, Anthony McKenzie, on Wednesday noted that the tournament forms part of the ITF's Junior Tennis circuit in the Caribbean and provides the opportunity for Vincentian players to gain international ranking points. The DIGICEL sponsored event continues to highlight the importance of Sports tourism to St. Vincent and the Grenadines as the tournament has consistently grown in its diversity of international competitors over the past three years.

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All results of the DIGICEL ITF Junior Tennis tournament can be viewed by visiting www.svgtennis.org.