

Press Release
(For immediate release)
November 29, 2010

Young tennis stars selected for nationals

Five Southland tennis players have been selected in the Southern regional team named today (Monday) to compete at the age-group nationals in January.

Kim Allan, Lara Spain and Zoe Smith have been named in the Southern girls' 12 team, while Sarah Allan and Laura Overton have been selected for the girls' 14. Madeline Hunt and Brett Allan have been named as non-traveling reserves in their respective age groups.

Tennis Southland coach Peter White said it was an excellent achievement.

"It reflects consistent improvement in tennis development across the region and is testament that Southland tennis is in strong heart," he said.

The Invercargill Licensing Trust and the ILT Foundation has approved funding of \$20,000 and \$75,000 respectively for Tennis Southland, which will ultimately assist the continued development of junior players.

ILT Foundation and Invercargill Licensing Trust chairman Alan Dennis said organisations like Tennis Southland provided valuable pathways.

"It's well documented the opportunity to pursue sporting endeavours has far-reaching effects in other areas of life and it's important we give our youngsters every opportunity to do so," he said.

Tennis Southland regional manager Tina Haslett said the latest selection announcement continues an exciting period for the sport since the season started in October.

"Our age-group players are producing some exceptional results and that certainly bodes well for Southland's tennis future," she said.

Southland teams performed admirably at the Southern Regional Quad tournament in Dunedin earlier this month, earning second place overall, while the talented 12 girls' team of the selected Southern trio and Emma Hopcroft emerged unbeaten.

"These are the results we're looking for. They enable us to take the leaps forward that we know we've worked for," Haslett said.

Impressive displays at the Southland Primary School Championships earned Allan, Hopcroft, Sarah Allan and Joshua Cochrane the chance to represent the Southern region at the South Island Primary School Championships, to be staged in Christchurch on December 1 and 2.

Our Southlanders also performed strongly at the Queenstown Junior Open on November 20-21, with Emilia Price winning the girls' 10 title before combining with Caitlin Gibson to secure the doubles crown.

"Emilia really is spearheading high quality development in our junior ranks," White said. "The recent results of our junior players really puts into perspective that this province is achieving exceptionally well."

Tennis Southland's quest to discover emerging talent was also reaping rewards.

“We’re out in every corner of the province at the moment – from Riverton and Te Anau to Tokanui, Waikaka Gore and Invercargill,” White said.

Ends

For further information, contact:

Tina Haslett
Regional Manager
Tennis Southland
03 217 9107

Ann Eustace
General Manager
ILT Foundation
03 211 3640