

2017 Silex Canada Junior Indoor Provincials Come to a Close

The 2017 Silex Canada Junior Indoor Provincial Championships wrapped up this past weekend with the U-18 and U-14 Championships taking place in Burnaby and UBC.

The top two seeds in the U-18 Boys division didn't have too much trouble leading up to the final. Second-seed Jared McLean didn't drop a set as he squared off against the top ranked Aaron Diemer.

Diemer's big serve helped him in the first set and got the all important break at 5-4 to take the first set 6-4.

"Just being able to trust I'll hold my service games really gives me a lot of confidence and lets me focus on my return games," said Diemer.

From there on, the 18-year old would cruise in the second set, not losing a game (6-0) to claim the 2017 provincial title.

"It was a good tournament," said Diemer. "I loving playing provincials, the tournament directors do a good job of putting it together. The players are all really good. I've been really fortunate having a lot of help from some good coaches and to have improved so much."

Diemer will head to California for two ITF tournaments and then travel east in April to compete in the U-18 National Championships in Toronto.

On the U-18 Girls side, with the top two seeds knocked out early, it left the door wide open for an unexpected champion.

Jayden Nielsen competed in the tournament last year, getting knocked out in the first round. This year, the number three seed was on a mission and looked sharp all weekend leading up to the final. Her opponent would be Nicole Horacek, who frustrated opponents along the way and had momentum after playing a great semi-final.

"I thought it was a good match," said Nielsen. "I don't think we were both playing our best. It's how well you can play when you're not playing your best. It's fun because we're friends, it was a good match."

In the opening set, Nielsen broke Horacek in the first game and her two-hand backhand was on point, winning 6-1 in a decisive first set. The second set proved to be much more competitive as Horacek turned the tables, breaking Nielsen in the opening game and was up 3-1. It looked like it was going to a third and final set, however, the 17-year old Nielsen would compose herself, break right back and go on to win the second set 6-4 capturing the U-18 Girls provincial title.

“I think it’s really good practice playing against Nicole because she gets so many ball back in play,” said Nielsen. “One of my game plans against her is to get in and hit some swinging volleys and I was doing that pretty well today.”

Nielsen will also head to California during Spring Break to compete in some tournaments alongside her sisters.

The UBC Tennis Centre featured the U-14 Championships. A week after winning the U-16 Girls Championships, top seed and favourite Leena Bennetto didn't drop a set the entire tournament capturing her second provincial title in as many weeks, defeating second seed Danielle Tuhten.

The U-14 Boys title was a little more competitive with one versus two squaring off as Keita Duclos battled Lachlan Robertson. A tight first set, which went to a tiebreaker, eventually won by Duclos giving the 14-year old the momentum needed in the second set as the top seeded Duclos would be crowned the 2017 U-14 provincial champion.

Most of the U-14 players they competed at the provincials will be at the U-14 National Championships in early April at the UBC Tennis Centre.