

College Sport

Anderson serves notice

Rising star off to Junior Fed Cup

JACOB BELESKI
TENNIS

Rising tennis star Tamara Anderson is taking her national success and replicating it on an international stage.

The 15-year-old Onslow College student and under-16 national champion has helped the New Zealand under-16 girls' Junior Federation Cup tennis team qualify for the world finals, to be played in Hungary in September.

Anderson, Nina Paripovich (16), Valentina Ivanov (15), and coach Marcel Vos qualified after finishing fourth at the Asia-Oceania zone qualifying tournament in New Delhi last month.

They will be joined by 15 other teams from around the world.

Anderson said playing in the sub-continent presented different challenges to what she was used to in New Zealand.

"It's really different. The courts are quite dusty, the game is a lot faster and the weather, of course, is a lot hotter."

It also meant she had to get used to playing without her usual hometown support. "It was weird for me being my first time playing overseas and not having my coach, family and friends and loyal supporters being there."

Anderson enjoys playing in a team, although the basic approach remains the same.

"You're representing your country, which is a big deal. You're in a team but it's still an individual sport."

The team advanced to the top eight playoffs after wins against Malaysia and Kazakhstan and a loss to the top seeds Japan.

They secured fourth by accounting for China before losing their semi-final to Thailand and the play-off for third to India.



Onslow College's Junior Fed Cup-bound tennis star Tamara Anderson lines up a backhand in practice. PHOTO: NICK WONG

"You're representing your country, which is a big deal."

Tamara Anderson

It was a remarkable achievement considering the girls had not played together before.

"It was my first time playing with Valentina and Nina. I played against Nina in the semis of the nationals and against Valentina in the quarterfinals in Qatar," Anderson said.

Qatar was the location of the junior ITF singles tournament held before the Fed Cup event, where Anderson enjoyed another successful run.

"I was really happy to get into the semifinals of my first ITF event overseas in Qatar."

An impressive summer season at home had allowed Anderson to achieve long-term goals and confirmed her talent that had been on display regularly in recent years.

"My season has been great. I played the teams' event with Tennis Central where we came second equal with Auckland. After that I won the under 16s national singles title, which was my goal since July last year so I was really happy with that," Anderson said.

She had already identified goals to work towards for later in the year.

"After the Fed Cup finals I'm aiming for 18s nationals and regionals in December."

Anderson's focus now turns to catching up on school work and training before tournaments in Australia in July.

She said her success would not have been possible without constant support from the people close to her.

"I have heaps to get through so I'm catching up on it now. My parents, teachers, coaches and sponsors have been really supportive," Anderson said.



From left, Oliver Whyte (Scots College), Jacob Masseurs (Wellington College) and Rongotai College's Fraser Norrington have been selected for the New Zealand Secondary Schools under-19 team.

Wellington trio in NZSS team

CHELSEA McLAUGHLIN
FOOTBALL

Three Wellington players have been included in the New Zealand Secondary Schools boys' under-19 team.

Jacob Masseurs, 16, of Wellington College, Fraser Norrington, 17, of Rongotai College and Oliver Whyte, 16, of Scots College were named in the squad which will tour Sydney in July.

Regional trials were held at Wellington College, before a wider group of 40 from around the country assembled in Cambridge in December after which the team was announced.

The team had a training camp in Cambridge last week and will assemble again in July for a pre-tour camp in Auckland. In the meantime, players will continue to play school and club games.

After crossing the Tasman they will play the Australian and New South Wales Secondary Schools sides and exhibition matches against the Western Sydney Wanderers and Sydney FC academy teams.

Norrington said this was his first time in a national team and he was looking forward to playing for New Zealand.

"It was one of the best achievements of my life," he said.

"To represent my country is an awesome feeling."

Masseurs was involved in the under-17 wider training squad, but said he was pleased to be named in the under-19 national side after some past disappointments.

"I was pretty stoked. It was good to see the name on the sheet."

Whyte, also a Wellington Phoenix reserves squad member, said he had been involved in other tours around the country but was excited about playing Australian teams.

"I'm looking forward to playing against high quality football teams like the Western Sydney Wanderers youth and the Aussie Secondary Schools team," he said.

The boys all aimed to play well, both individually and as a team, during the tour to get positive results and help their individual careers. All three were looking forward to the opportunities the tour would bring.

Norrington said: "Playing the Australian Secondary Schools side and playing an international game is a big deal for me, and also playing in front of some good coaches over there and hopefully getting spotted."

"I'd like to get spotted and go overseas for another club or maybe university in America, and playing for New Zealand is the big goal."

Whyte said having coaches in Australia see him play would hopefully open up doors.

"I'd like to get a pro contract at the Phoenix or somewhere in Europe and play for New Zealand as well."

Masseurs said, although the future was in the back of his mind, he was happy to take it one game at a time.

"Every time you go out and play you try and do well."

"I think the States are quite hot right now, that's kind of in my mind, but right now I'm just concerned about playing well."

College Sport Wellington premier youth grading games begin on Saturday.

Defending champions Hutt International Boys' School begin their season at home against Paraparaumu. In other games, Rongotai host neighbours St Pat's town, Wellington College play Upper Hutt and Scots take on Onslow.

Meanwhile, Hutt Valley High School's Maya Hahn and Wellington Girls' College's Maggie Jenkins made the girls' NZSS under-15 team which will also travel to Australia in July.

Sport

Top Australians in exodus to casualty ward

MARK GEENTY
CRICKET

Having proven extremely tough to dislodge for New Zealand's bowlers last summer, Australia's top cricketers are now falling like ninepins.

In a bizarre sequence of events, run machine Adam Voges' freak injury when struck on the head by an errant throw from a Middlesex team-mate made it six top Australians currently sidelined.

Four of those were from injuries suffered during the Indian Premier League which saw captain Steve Smith, Mitchell Marsh, Shaun Marsh and John Hastings forced home, joining key strike bowler Mitchell Starc on the sidelines as he recovers from ankle surgery which ruled him out of the World Twenty20 and the IPL. Ironically the Australians are in a designated "rest period" amid a packed international schedule.

Voges was taken to hospital suffering from concussion and will play no part in the remainder of Middlesex's county championship division one match against Hampshire at Southampton.

The Middlesex skipper was standing at first slip and was struck on the back of the head when wicketkeeper John Simpson was unable to gather sub Ollie Rayner's lobbed throw.

Voges hit the ground heavily and there was immediate concern for his wellbeing before he was assisted off and later complained of

feeling unwell in the dressing room.

The 36-year-old Western Australian has a batting average of 95.5 from 15 tests after scoring 239, 60 and 10 not out in Australia's 2-0 series win in New Zealand in February.

Smith added to Rising Pune Supergiants coach Stephen Fleming's woes when he was ruled out of the IPL with a wrist injury after scores of 46 not out, 101 and 45 in his last three innings. Australia's physiotherapist Alex Kountouris didn't expect it would rule Smith out of any international cricket as the world's top-ranked test and one-day international team prepare for a Caribbean tour next month.

Allrounder Mitchell Marsh – snapped up by Pune for 48 million rupees [NZ\$1.07 million] at the IPL auction in February – was forced home with a side strain suffered while batting at training. Brother Shaun was the latest to join the queue to the airport on Monday when the Kings XI Punjab batsman suffered a back injury. Hastings, the ODI seamer, didn't play at all in the IPL after he injured an ankle in a warmup game for Kolkata.

Other high profile internationals to suffer IPL-ending injuries were Kevin Pietersen, Faf du Plessis (both Pune), Lasith Malinga and Lendl Simmons (both Mumbai). The latter's injury allowed Black Caps opener Martin Guptill a callup to the Mumbai Indians.



Steven Adams grabs a rebound ahead of Tim Duncan during the NBA playoff match yesterday. PHOTO: USA TODAY SPORTS

Adams comes up big for OKC

MARC HINTON
BASKETBALL

The finish was what they will be talking about for the next few days, but a monster contribution from Kiwi Steven Adams to the Oklahoma City Thunder's thrilling series-levelling victory over the San Antonio Spurs should also get some air time too.

Adams and the Thunder had a little help from a referee's no-call, and some much-needed luck as well, as they scrambled a bounce-back, and controversy-tinged, 98-97 victory over the Spurs in game two of the Western Conference semifinals in San Antonio yesterday.

The result levels the series at 1-1 in the most unlikely of circumstances, after the Spurs had had their way with the Thunder in the

series opener en route to a 124-92 victory.

Adams had a massive game for the Thunder, too, even though his contribution on the stats sheet was heavily overshadowed by his superstar team-mates Russell Westbrook (29 points, 10 assists, seven rebounds) and Kevin Durant (28 points on 11-of-19 shooting and seven rebounds).

Adams played big minutes (37) and came up big throughout most of them as he finished with 12 points on five-of-six shooting (on an array of slams) and a career playoff high 17 rebounds (14 defensive) for his third career post-season double-double. He was a much-needed physical presence inside for the Thunder.

But it was at the end that Adams showed the poise and presence that belies his mere three years in the league.

He came up with a huge defensive rebound late in the piece when the Spurs were throwing the kitchen sink at the Thunder, and then on the controversial final possession, with 13.5 seconds remaining, Adams was arguably the hero of the game for the Thunder.

The 22-year-old Kiwi did very well to get back off an inbounds turnover to, first, prevent a likely game-winning layup from Patty Mills, then force Manu Ginobili to bail out of his drive, and finally challenge a Mills three-pointer in the corner that ended up an airball. Even after that, when he ended up in the crowd, he appeared to have to shake off a Spurs fan who was holding him.

From there the Thunder were able to prevent LaMarcus Aldridge getting his hands on the ball under the hoop and escape with the much-needed victory.

Paddon focused on 'one step at a time'

CLAY WILSON
MOTORSPORT

Hayden Paddon says "a bit more" of three things is all that separates him from a world rally champion.

Last week, the Kiwi flyer's rate of acceleration towards his dream increased when he scored a maiden WRC victory at Rally Argentina.

A history-making triumph, making him the first New Zealand driver to win an event at the highest level of the sport, it was also secured in dramatic fashion.

But the 29-year-old from Geraldine is adamant it hasn't provoked any thought of upsetting defending world champion Sebastien Ogier's charge for a fourth straight title, those aspirations reserved until at least next year.

"I am just focused on the process to achieve that goal," Paddon said. "We just have to do things one step at a time. We have to work even harder now to consistently do it more often."

If the days following Paddon's breakthrough victory are anything to go by, there is little doubt that the commitment required to take that next step will not be an issue.

Team and media obligations were followed by a long flight back to New Zealand, where he was straight back behind the wheel for the Rally of Whangarei.

The hectic schedule meant Paddon had hardly had the chance to let the magnitude of what he had achieved in Argentina sink in.

The rare trip home was, however, a reminder of just why he was so proud to be a Kiwi doing his thing on the world stage.

Paddon Q and A

- 1. First car:** "The Brick" was a 1982 Mini Leyland he bought for \$500 and first raced at the Ashburton airport.
- 2. First ride in a rally car:** With his father, Chris, aged six or seven. "He used to scare me a lot, so I didn't enjoy it very much. [Dad] is smart enough to know not to get in the car [now]."
- 3. Favourite rally:** Kuri Bush (Otago, NZ), Nambucca (NSW, Aus), Ouninpohja (Finland).
- 4. Favourite overseas rally:** Finland. "It's amazing. It's a rollercoaster, just jumping all the time."
- 5. Being in a WRC team:** "Out of this world. 190 people in a team. It's completely different to what I grew up with."
- 6. Being scared:** Doesn't happen. "It's like my safe haven inside the car, it's where I feel safest."
- 7. Driving on normal roads:** "It's good. It's actually a good chance to relax and unwind, set the cruise control and listen to some music."
- 8. Being a passenger:** "No good, I've got to be driving. I very rarely do it and when I do I'm always a bit nervous."
- 9. Hidden talents:** None. "I'm not very talented. It's lucky I can drive a rally car our I'd be out of luck."
- 10. Living in Germany:** "It's difficult. There is a bit of homesickness. Obviously we'd like to be in New Zealand, it's the best place in the world... but [Germany] is where we have to be."

"It is incredible, particularly when you have as much support behind us as what we here in New Zealand," Paddon said.

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