

HEPNER MEN MISS OUT ON TENNIS VIC FINAL

Hepner playing Kooyong No.2 in the semi-final of Grade 1 Tennis Victoria at Grace Park on Saturday fell short, losing 3 rubbers to 2 and by 2 sets and 14 games to miss out on a finals berth. Kooyong No.2 will now play MCC next Saturday in the grand final.

Hepner was in trouble from the start with top player Matt Hicks losing in 3 hard fought sets and Justin Robinson losing easily in straight sets to put Hepner well down in the match.

It continued badly for Hepner when Jordan Drew lost the 3rd rubber in straight sets, however Adam Lasky put Hepner on the board with a fighting 3-set victory, the 3rd set going to a tiebreak. Adam Lasky and Ry Davies added another rubber for Hepner, winning their doubles in straight sets, but as a result had been reached the final rubber was not played with Kooyong running out winners at 3 rubbers 7 sets 62 games to Hepner 2 rubbers 5 sets 48 games.

Hepner's Matt Hicks felt the conditions were against them as Grace Park has entoucas courts and they rarely play on that surface, but he conceded they had their chances. However, Kooyong was too good on the day and he wished them well for the final. He said his team performed well throughout the season and hoped they would go one better next year.

HEPNER LADIES WIN TIGHT ONE

In Women's Grade 3 of Tennis Victoria competition, Hepner had an exciting win over Dendy Park to make the grand final next Saturday. Natalie Mann got the team away with a one-sided straight set win in the opening rubber, however Taylor Sobczyk lost in straight but gained valuable games, losing the 2nd set in a tiebreak.

When Hepner's Georgia Kelly lost 4/6 in the 3rd the match was starting to slip away, however Alessia Roso set matters straight with a comfortable straight set win in the 4th rubber. With the match in the balance Mann and Sobczyk lost 6/7 in the 3rd, but Kelly and Roso brought the team home with a runaway straight sets victory and the match, 3 rubbers 8 sets 69 games to Dendy Park 3 rubbers 6 sets 57 games.

ST MARY'S WIN THROUGH

St Mary's won the right to play Newcomb in next week's Section 1 Tennis Geelong grand final with a solid 5 sets to 1 victory over Grovedale Black in the preliminary final on Saturday.

The St Mary's team of Carly McClelland, Natasha Edwards, Peppe Scorpo and Paul Field were never in trouble, winning the first five sets in fine style before losing the last set and only set for the day to Black's Lisa Sherwell and Matthew Squire. Overall the Saints were more experienced and won 5 sets 32 games to 1 set 20 games.

The Saints' Scorpo said his team has played off in many grand finals against Newcomb in the past ten years without too much success, but feels they could win this one.

The grand final will be played at Grovedale this Saturday.

WANDANA SHOCKS HIGHTON

In the upset of the season, Wandana Heights is through to the grand final in Section 2 with a strong win against the more fancied Highton side by 5 sets to one. It was thought that Highton would play Hamlyn Park for the flag, however Wandana had other ideas and although five of the six sets were hotly contested Wandana managed to win all five in a boilover.

The Wandana team of Matthew Jolliffe, Ben Jones, Shaun Moloney and Danny McGlade played outstanding tennis and lost only one set, the second last set of the day to Highton's Ryan Parkinson and Michael Hogan. With confidence sky-high Wandana Heights will now meet Hamlyn Park in the grand final this week.

Final result – Wandana Heights 5 sets 33 games to Highton 1 set 28 games.

The grand final will be played at Highton this Saturday.