

# Boys squash team brings home title

Strong showing at Calgary Juniors, girls team finishes third

by James McCarthy  
Northern News Services

It was a history-making event for Team NWT in Calgary on July 4.

The boys team, consisting of Chad Hinchey, Devin Hinchey, Steven Nesbitt and Travis Kamitomo, were victorious at the National Junior Team Squash Championships on that day, going a perfect three-for-three in the win column.

Devin Hinchey said it was a good feeling to get the win.

"In our first match, we were tied with Alberta Blue, 2-2, so it went to total points," he said. "Al (Cook, head coach) just told us, 'four points, boys, four points' and we won by four points. We were so excited and we started jumping up and down."

The format of the tournament was a round-robin, with all members of the team playing one match in a particular tie. If one team won three matches or more, the win would go to them.

If the teams were tied at two a piece, as was the case in their first game, the match would be decided by the total number of points

scored by the two teams.

Team NWT won that match on points, 143-139 and had to go to total points against Alberta White in their second match-up, which ended in a 2-2 tie match-wise, but a 145-122 win on points.

The third and final match was against Manitoba, which ended in a 3-1 win for the NWT squad and the title.

Hinchey said Nesbitt was the hero in that last match against Manitoba.

"He hurt his leg and it was noticeable," he said. "It was close, but he won and we all cheered him off the court. I'm glad we didn't have to go to points."

It was the first time the team had gone to this tournament and the first time a team from the NWT had ever won it.

Hinchey said it was an incredible atmosphere as the tournament wore on.

"We just got better as a team with every game," he said. "Everyone was behind us and the atmosphere was incredible. It gave us a push."

The tournament is held one year before the Canada Winter Games every four

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James McCarthy/NNSL photo

Steven Nesbitt, left, Devin Hinchey, Chad Hinchey and Travis Kamitomo are the kings of the squash court after winning the National Junior Team Squash Championships in Calgary on July 4.

years and is used as a warm-up for the games.

Cook said he knew the boys had a chance to be on top.

"We had seen some of the teams before and we had

played some of them before," he said. "I had a feeling the boys would do good. The girls, I felt, would do OK."

The girls team of Pooja Chugh, Dominique Jure, Paulina Brooks and Sarah

Nesbitt ended up in third place overall.

With the games now less than a year away, Cook said he will have all the players on a strict training regimen, with the goal of a top-five

finish in Halifax.

"Winning the games would be a long-shot to be sure, but top-five is a definite possibility."

"The talent is there to be in that position," Cook said.



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