

# Hinchey hits a new high

*Yk squash player wins bronze  
at Canadian junior nationals*

by James McCarthy  
Northern News Services

Yellowknife's Devin Hinchey is officially the third best junior squash player in the country in his age category.

Hinchey captured the bronze medal in the boys U-15 division at the Canadian Junior Squash Championships in Calgary on April 27. It's the best result ever at a national event for a junior player, male or female, from the NWT. He said the outcome was better than he anticipated.

"It's a lot better than last year, that's for sure," he said.

Hinchey went into the event seeded seventh in his division. He made his way through the bracket with no difficulty, eventually getting to the semifinals, uncharted waters for many NWT players in the past.

He ended up losing the semifinal, but came back to win the bronze medal match to make history.

Hinchey defeated Vancouver's Lucas Ravkov, 3 sets to none to win the match.

He said while it was a difficult tournament, he did expect to have a tougher time.

"Don't get me wrong, it's not one of the easiest things I've ever done, but I anticipated a lot harder matches," he said. "I prepared more than I would have for a regular tournament, but I wasn't sure I had done enough. As I progressed, I felt I got better as the tournament went on and I felt more comfortable on the court."

Hinchey had seen all of his competition before, meaning he knew what he was up against. He said it allowed him to prepare for each match properly.

"Each player knew what you were going to do, so we had an idea," he said.

"I knew the semifinal was going to be tough and a couple of people were surprised I was actually in it being the seventh seed. I beat the fourth seed in the quarter-finals. I didn't think I would win the bronze medal match, either."

Hinchey's coach, Al Cook, said he had an idea Hinchey would fare well.

"He was playing well going into this event," he said.

"There were a couple of people ranked ahead of him we knew he could beat and

sometimes it's just the luck of the draw, but we knew he could finish as high as he did."

Cook said the quarter-final match was the one Hinchey was gearing up for.

"Once he won that one, we knew he would finish in the top four," he said.

With the big finish in his back pocket, Cook said Hinchey now has to work a little harder because he will be moving up into the U-17 division next year.

"It's given him some expectations and it's given us some things to train for," he said.

Hinchey's success also attracted the attention of Squash Canada and other clubs down south. Cook said the finish could possibly open the doors for some future plans.

"You have this kid from the NWT who's finished in the top four, which is unheard of," he said.

"He's been around for a few years, so they know who he is, but you finish third, which is a very good result when you consider most of these kids come from Ontario, B.C. and Alberta. Some schools want Devin to leave and go down there to train and have them play on their squads."

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