

Tennis Alberta

Team Report

By: Kristina Sanjevic

Western Canada Summer Games – Swift Current, Saskatchewan

1. **Program goal/objectives**

The goal of this program is to select a high-performance tennis team to attend the WCSG to compete for a chance to win gold. Prior to these games, Alberta has never won gold. The other provinces that participated in the games were Saskatchewan, Manitoba and the North West Territories. The purpose of the games is to provide players with a fun and team like environment combined with competitive match play.

2. **Coaches**

Ryan Schroffel (head coach) and Kristina Sanjevic (manager)

3. **Athletes in program**

U14 Girls- Gianna Oboniye, Aurora Pedwell, Alexia Jacobs

U16 Girls- Hana Gamracy, Emily Niers

U14 Boys- Kaetan Mehta, Nolan Sax

U16 Boys- Arthur McCarthy, Arshjot Bhatti, Aiden Rypien-Nazar

4. **Schedule**

Kamloops ITF- June 21-29 (Kristina/players)

Vancouver Jr Open Series- July 14-19 (Kristina/Ryan/players)

Training in Edmonton - July 12

WCSG- August 13-19

5. **Results**

Team Result: Gold Medal

Men's Singles: Gold (Arthur McCarthy) and Bronze (Kaetan Mehta)

Men's Doubles: Gold (Arshjot Bhatti/Aiden Rypien-Nazar)

Women's Singles: Gold (Hana Gamracy) and Silver (Alexia Jacobs)

Women's Doubles: Gold (Gianna Obonie/Aurora Pedwell)

Mixed: Gold (Emily Niers/Nolan Sax)

6. Highlights

- Team Alberta received a gold medal in every individual event and team event. In total we brought home six gold medals, including the team event.
- One of our players sprained their wrist right before the competition. The coaches reacted quickly and were forced to adjust the lineup of the team and still managed to win gold. The players also responded well to the changes.
- Team Alberta had a chance to engage and develop relationships with players from different sports. We attended basketball, volleyball and wrestling games.
- Created all documentation for WCSG such as coach selection criteria, coaching contract, athlete selection criteria and appeal forms, parental consent form, declaration to compete, athlete contract for players, and athlete contract for alternate that Tennis Alberta didn't have prior to this year.
- In previous years, Tennis Alberta faced numerous team related issues which resulted in disciplinary actions. This year Team Alberta was respectable, and everyone bonded well. Towards the ends of the games, Team Alberta acted like a proper team, which is an achievement for an individual sport. For example, players were involved and engaged in each other's matches.

7. Recommendations

- Documents should be sent out earlier to athletes and parents. In order to get the documents out on time, create a timeline for each document and ensure it's distributed on time. There were no existing documents created for the WCSG, so everything had to be created from scratch. The documents created this year can be adjusted for the next Canada Summer Games. This will make the process easier for the 2020/2021.
- Depending on the budget, we should host more in-province training instead of taking team trips. This way we can save on expenses and the players can still have team experiences before the games.
- The Vancouver Jr Open Series was more beneficial than the Kamloops ITF. The players were in the draw longer, there were more opportunities to practice as a team, and we were able to stay at the UBC dorms.
- Team Alberta Team Fee for each player to cover costs of program is required.
- WCSG participants receive complimentary sport psychology training and nutrition sessions. Unfortunately, with the busy schedule, we were only able to utilize the sports psychologist for 2 sessions. For the next games there must be a way to utilize both resources before the games.