

# Gardiner's streak ends in loss to Au

By Gordie Sutherland

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It was a great run while it lasted for hometown favourite Brett Gardiner.

The 14-year-old Sydney native was seeded eighth in under-16 singles, but surprised even himself by marching all the way to the final at the Aliant Outdoor Atlantic Tennis Championships at the Cromarty Club.

His winning streak, which included a straight-set, quarter-final victory over top seed Phillip Anderson, came to an abrupt end Friday.

Baseliner Kendrick Au of St. John's turned in a brilliant performance in downing Gardiner 6-0, 6-0 for the under-16 crown.

"I wasn't playing very well and he had a really good day," conceded Gardiner, who lives across

the street from the Cromarty Club. "I was just missing a lot, but he was playing really well."

Gardiner didn't have to dig very deep to find perspective. He was already pleased with his overall performance.

"I played really well," he said. "Except for the final, it was a really good tournament."

Meanwhile, Nova Scotians Neila Starratt of Bedford, Peter Gibson of Windsor and Anderson of Halifax all won Atlantic titles.

Starratt won a hard-fought, three-set final against Sarah Plowman of Halifax. Set scores were 6-7 6-2 6-3.

In the under-12 boys final, Gibson defeated Stefan Hall of P.E.I. 6-1, 6-4.

Anderson rebounded from his under-16 loss to Gardiner to take the under-14 title.

His opponent in the under-14

final was none other than Au.

It was a battle, with Anderson prevailing 6-2, 4-6, 7-6.

The 13-year-old southpaw actually trailed Au 5-3 and 30-love in the third set.

"I wasn't really happy with the way I played against Brett, but I just had to forget about it and play the other matches like nothing happened," said Anderson, who will compete at next month's Canadian championships in both the under-14 and under-16 divisions.

Also taking division titles on Friday were Annika Scharwey of St. John's in under-12 girls, Veronique Lorquet of St. Jacques, N.B., in under-14 girls and Vickie Flood and Geoff Learmont, both of St. John's, claimed the under-18 titles.

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