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Gardiner falls in final as tennis championships come to a close

TENNIS

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SYDNEY - The Cinderella run for Brett Gardiner at the Aliant Atlantic junior outdoor tennis championships is over.

The upset maker at the event couldn't continue his underdog story Friday against No. 2 seed Kendrick Au of St. John's, Nfld. in the under-16 Atlantic championship match.

Au took the match 6-0, 6-0 to capture the title.

Gardiner had pulled off two major upsets this week to get to the championship.

As the No. 8 seed, he knocked off No. 1 seed Phillip Anderson of Halifax in straight sets and No. 5 seed John Caufield of Dieppe, N.B. in the under-16 semifinal

match.

Following Friday's loss a disappointed Gardiner said he felt somewhat nervous going into the match.

"I can't take any credit away from him (Au), he played really well."

In spite of his disappointment, Gardiner admitted to enjoying his week long run of upsets.

"I was never expected to make it to the finals. It was definitely a good experience and I really had fun."

Winning the Atlantic title would have helped his aspirations of qualifying for the Atlantic team that will compete at the Canadian championship, Aug. 7-12 at the Hollyburn Country Club in West Vancouver, B.C.

Gardiner remains opti-

mistic he will be selected for the team based on his performance during the past week.

In other action Friday, Au was also in contention for the under-14 title, but he dropped a 6-2, 4-6, 7-6 decision to Phillip Anderson of Halifax.

Other winners included Annika Scharwey of St. John's in the under-12 girls, Peter Gibson of Windsor in the under-12 boys, Veronique Lorquet of St. Jacques in the girls under-14, Neila Starratt of Bedford in the girls under-16, and Vickie Flood and Geoff Learmont, both of St. John's, claimed the under-18 titles.

The 2003 Aliant Outdoor Atlantic Championships were the final event of Circuit Aliant 2003, an Atlantic super circuit for the regions top players.

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