

UPSET IN THE MAKING

Sydney's Gardiner knocks off top seed

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TENNIS

BY BRAD ROWE
CAPE BRETON POST

Brett Gardiner pulled off the biggest upset of the week to highlight Day 3 action at the Aliant Atlantic junior outdoor tennis championship being played at the Cromarty and Sydney River Tennis Clubs.

The 14-year-old Cromarty Club member, the No. 8 seed, upset No. 1 seed Phillip Anderson of Halifax 6-3, 6-2 in under-16 quarter-final action Wednesday.

"I feel pretty good," Gardiner said of his upset victory. "I played really well. I don't know what else to say. It was just a good day.

"I didn't miss very many shots at all. I was smoking every ball and they we're going in. I just played really well. My forehand worked really well."

Gardiner's victory was made more rewarding by the fact it was the first time he defeated Anderson in their six head-to-head matches.

"I wasn't nervous at all," he said of his mindset going into the match. "I played him lots of times so I knew what to expect."

Andrew MacDougall, the other Cape Bretoner who advanced to the quarter-final in the under-16 division, wasn't as fortunate as his Cromarty Club mate. The No. 4 seed lost in straight sets to No. 5 seed John Caufield of New Brunswick 6-3, 7-6.

MacDougall, however, is still in the running for a berth in the Canadian championship. He won his consolation-round match, defeating James Goodridge of Newfoundland 6-1, 3-6, 6-4. He can still finish as high as third place.

Gardiner now advances to play Caufield in one semifinal today. Kendrick Au of Newfoundland and Matthew Hall of Prince Edward Island will play in the other.

"I've played him twice and he won both times but they were both close matches," said Gardiner.

A berth in the final will pretty well guarantee Gardiner a spot on the Atlantic team that will compete at the Canadian championship in August. The four-member Atlantic team will be selected based on the points a player earns in this event plus their highest point total from one of the other six Circuit Aliant events that have already been played.

Justin LaFosse of Sydney, the only other Cape Bretoner still alive in the under-16 category at the start of play Wednesday, was eliminated by virtue of a 6-4, 6-3 loss to Mathieu Girouard of New Brunswick.



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Greg Carnell, 13, of St John's, Nfld., two-hands a return at the Aliant Atlantic junior outdoor tennis championship at the Cromarty Street Tennis Club, Wednesday. Carnell was playing in an under-14 singles match against Jamie Seviour, of Nfld. Carnell won, 6-2, 7-6.

Gardiner's run in the under-18 class came to an end Wednesday. He won his first consolation round match of the day 6-4, 6-1 against James Goodridge of Newfoundland, but was on the losing end of a 7-6 (10-8), 6-1 match against Joel Legere of New Brunswick. The loss eliminated Gardiner.

Kyle MacDonald of Sydney and LaFosse were also both eliminated in the under-18 class. MacDonald defeated Cole Halley of P.E.I. 6-0, 6-0 in his first match but was ousted by a 6-0, 6-1 loss to John McKenna of Nova Scotia. LaFosse lost 6-3, 6-3 to Gaylor Ferrier of P.E.I.

Matthew MacDougall of Sydney River was eliminated from under-14 play after losing his consolation round match to Peter Gibson of Nova Scotia 4-6, 6-2, 6-3.

On the girls' side of the draw, 11-year-old Natalie MacDougall of Sydney River stayed alive in the under-14 category because of her 7-5, 6-1 consolation-round win over Christie Lowe of P.E.I.

Sydney's Nicole LaFosse saw her tournament end Wednesday as a result of a tough 6-1, 4-6, 6-3 loss to Caryn Phillips of Newfoundland in under-18 girls consolation round play.

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