

## **ITF North Pacific Regional Championships 2013**

In this year's event 73 players from the North Pacific Nations of NMI, Guam, Federated States of Micronesia, and Palau participated. These players played a total of 270 matches, 543 sets, and 4313 games over the 5 days of the competition held in the Northern Mariana Islands (NMI).

The story of the 2013 North Pacific Regional Championships (NPRC) is the winning performance from the host nation. 12 NMI players have qualified to compete at the Pacific Oceania Junior Championships (POJC) this year, that is the maximum 2 Boys and 2 Girls from each of the 12, 15, 18 and under age groups.

Carol Lee the 12 and under Champion for the 2nd consecutive year won this year's event with the loss of just 5 service games in 7 singles matches. Carol Lee is one of the hot favourites for the POJC title in August 2013. Michael Ren also won the 12's Boys Singles title for the second consecutive time. In 2012 Michael won the NPQ and then injured his ankle the week before the POJC with the injury halting any chance of competing in Fiji.

Naghar Rastguiy continued a fine record in the North Pacific winning the 15 and under girls event beating Ayana Rengiil from Palau in the final 6-1 6-3 and not losing a set all week.

The Boys 15 and under event climaxed in a final between NMI's Chris Cajigan, a young, enthusiastic, athlete with fine technique and Terry Lee Rush Apis from the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and a scholarship player at the Regional Training Centre in Fiji. Chris played inspired tennis, winning a tense 1st set tiebreaker 9-7 then finishing the match with a strong 6-1 in the second set.

Girl's 18 and under was again dominated by NMI player Thea Minor. Thea has not lost a match in the NPQ...ever. She began at the age of 10 years old and now at the age of 17 has won the event for the past 7 years in a row and won in every age category, an amazing statistic!

The final event is the Boys 18 and under event. This age group had a very memorable match in the final between two local NMI players Jake Lee and Amami Sakano. Amami was the favorite leading into the match and won the 1st set comfortably before the match then turned. Jake Lee a tough competitor won the next 11 games to be ahead 6-0, 5-0 before finishing the match 6-1 in the 3rd set.

Thank you for the support of the sponsors, ITF, OTF, PIC Club, Fiesta Resort, American Memorial Park, AT & E, Powerade, and all of the coaches, parents, and players.

Gene Ridgway

**2013 North Pacific Team to compete at the POJC:**

**12 and under boys:**

Michael Ren - Northern Mariana Islands  
Robert Schorr - Northern Mariana Islands  
Kian Malakooti (Guam), Joab Williams (FSM).

**12 and under girls:**

Carol Lee- Northern Mariana Islands  
Tania Tan - Northern Mariana Islands  
Anne Skilling (FSM), Tilda Tollenoa (FSM)

**15 and under Boys:**

Christopher Cajigan - Northern Mariana Islands  
Terry Rush Apis (FSM)  
Moris Villanueva - Northern Mariana Islands

**15 and under Girls:**

Negahr Rastguiy - Northern Mariana Islands  
Ayana Rengil (Palau)  
Tammy Ackerman - Northern Mariana Islands

**18 and under Boys:**

Jake Lee - Northern Mariana Islands  
Amami Sakano - Northern Mariana Islands

**18 and under Girls:**

Thea Minor - Northern Mariana Islands  
Mikayla Lopez - Northern Mariana Islands

**North Pacific Team Coaches:**

Jeff Race - Northern Mariana Islands  
Ernestine Rengil - Palau