

Ball is in Rammo's court again



Katherine Rammo has a new racquet and a good showing in a recent tournament to show for her efforts lately, and is looking forward to a solid summer on the competitive tennis circuit.

By **STEVE LeBLANC**
Special to The Champion

KATHERINE RAMMO WILL BE TURNING 12 this Tuesday, and likely has some special celebrations planned with either family or friends. However, any presents she receives next week will probably pale in comparison to the one she earned two weeks ago — when she established herself among Canada's elite class of young tennis players.

An accomplished competitor for four years now, Katherine's latest efforts came at the Corel Under-14 Indoor Junior Nationals at the White Oaks Inn and Racquet Club in St. Catharines.

With a much improved game and a number of last year's participants going over-age, the grade 6 W.I. Dick student was seeded third by Tennis Canada in the 40-player class and lived up to all expectations by finishing third in the overall singles competition.

"Being picked to finish third and actually finishing third are two different things," said father Armas Rammo. "Last year Katherine wasn't seeded at either the indoor or outdoor nationals, so now there's a lot more pressure because she's ranked third."

After bowing out to top seeded Marie-Eve Pelletier of Quebec 6-3, 6-2 in the semifinals, she went on to face number four seed Joelle Macko of Quebec — the other semifinal loser — for third spot. She won in fairly convincing fashion, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3.

Enroute to the final four, she bested opponents from British Columbia and Ontario before a stellar 6-4, 6-3 triumph over fifth seed Isabela Ciesinska of Ontario in the quarterfinals. She and Ciesinska hooked up as partners in doubles competition, and as the third seeded team went all the way to the finals, where they were edged by number one ranked Pelletier and Genevieve Charron of Quebec 6-3, 7-6(8-6).

Prior to this, they had disposed of the fifth and second seeds in the quarterfinals and semifinals respectively. "It's very early in the season, but already I feel I've made some big improvements. I've stepped up both my serve and ground

• see **KATHERINE** on page 28

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