



SIX AUSTRALIAN TEAMS WIN ON DAY 2 OF THE ITF WORLD TEAMS

Only the Gardnar Mulloy and the Kitty Godfree teams suffered defeats on day 2 of the ITF World Super-Seniors Team Championships at Club Ali Bey at Manavgat, Turkey. The other six teams had wins, but two of them, the Althea Gibson and the Jack Crawford teams snuck in by bare margins as both were decided by long three set doubles matches.

In the match against the Netherlands (Crawford Cup) Don Biddle lost a tight match against Peter Buter, 6-7 (8) 4-6 and Bruce Rehn won a three setter against Peter Blass, 2-6 6-2 7-5. Don Biddle combined with fellow NSW team mate Gordon Waygood to clinch the match 6-2 4-6 6-3 in the deciding doubles.

Similarly, the Althea Gibson team battled Great Britain in another tough struggle. Jean Porter (GB) defeated Bobbie Edwards in straight sets 1 and 2 but Nola Collins squared the match with a 6-3 7-6 (3) win against Ruth Weston. In a tense and exciting doubles, Nola Collins and Jill Taylor fought out a three setter defeating Marcia Archers and Jean Porter 5-7 6-4 5-7. (The team next plays Turkey who has yet to record a win in the round robin. A win against Turkey should put this team in a good position for a top three finish). In contrast to the tightness of this result, our Alice Marble team recorded an easy win against Ireland dropping only five games in six sets with Kerry Ballard, 0 and 3, and Wendy Gilchrist 0 and 0, winning their singles and Carol Campling and Helen Worland winning the doubles 1 and 1. Our other women team lost to the USA, seeded 3, in the Kitty Godfree Cup. Marilyn Davis lost to Betty Wachob, 1 and 2, and Judy Hancy lost to Charlene Hildebrand in a long three setter. Judy took the first set 4-6 and had her chances in the second set, however, the former World Singles Champion (in both singles and doubles) finished the stronger taking the next two sets 3 and 1. The USA won the doubles with Olivia Delfausse and Suella Steel defeating Kim Blackburne and Beverley Eddington, 1 and 5.

In the Von Cramm Cup, Neville Rodwell and Ray West recorded wins with identical scores of 0 and 1 in their singles against Estonia. Roger Davey and John Stark combined to win the doubles 2 and 2. The Britannia Cup team opened its campaign with a 3-0 result against Canada. Lee Taylor won in three sets, 6-2 5-7 6-2, and Peter Keller won his singles in straight sets 0 and 3. Bruce Burns and Henry Michael won a tight doubles match in two tie-break sets, 4 and 5.

The Bitsy Grant team, without John O'Brien, recorded a 3-0 win against the host nation Turkey. Ray Woodforde and Alan Hocking won their singles with identical scores of 1 and 0. Malcolm Heard and Ray Woodforde combined to win the doubles 2 and 0. In the Gardnar Mulloy Cup team in its match against Canada, Ken Sinclair (Canada) defeated Ron de Costa 2 and 0, while Adrian Alle had the formidable task of playing the esteemed World Champion, Lorne Main who won 2 and 0. However, Adrian combined with Neville Halligan to take the doubles 3 and 3.

Of our eight teams, five are still in contention for the play offs of the top teams. These teams are the Alice Marble, the Althea Gibson, the Britannia, the Jack Crawford and the Bitsy Grant. The completion of the round robins on Wednesday will decide the placing range in which each team will finish. For more detailed results go to www.itftennis.com/seniors Two lead articles on the home page will take you to all the results, draws, seeding and summaries.

Tom Hancy,
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