

## Prasad finally gets gold and revenge

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AFTER three previous failed attempts, Prasad Selvarajoo finally defeated Jonathan Lee to lift his first Kuala Lumpur Schools tennis gold medal at the National Tennis Stadium in Jalan Duta yesterday.

After losing the first set 6-7, 5-7, Prasad pulled himself together to take the next two sets 6-3, 6-4 to win the boys' Under-18 gold and claim his first-ever win over Jonathan Lee from SMK Sri Hartamas.

It was a hard earned victory for the 17-year-old from SMK Datok Lokman as Lee made him work hard for every point in their three-hour battle.

"It has always been close between us but today, I managed to capitalise on his weakness, which is his backhand, to my advantage.

"It feels really good to finally win gold." said Prasad.

His younger sister 11-year-old Theiviya Selvarajoo, of SRK Desa Pandan, retained her Under-12 title after defeating Shareena Kaur Gill of Sri Garden School 6-1, 6-3.

Prasad and Theiviya both train under their father S. Selvarajoo, a full-time tennis instructor with several private clubs around the Klang Valley.

"We train under my father daily and at the moment my short-term target is to break into ITF's (International Tennis Federation) top 200 list."

In the girls' Under-18 final, Ashvina Kaur Gill from Methodist Wesley School beat compatriot Natalie Sia 6-2, 6-1.

Ashvina, who won the Under-15 doubles title with younger sister Sabrina last year, said the transition from doubles to singles was much easier than expected.

"It wasn't that difficult, but I am surprised that I have won here though.

"My biggest obstacle was Natalie but I kept focused and managed to pull one up on her." said a happy Ashvina.

Ashvina, together with Sabrina, who took silver in the girls' Under-15 losing to Charmaine Tan from SMJK Chong Hwa 6-2, 6-0, and Shareena all train under current national player V. Selvam.

In the boys' Under-15 final, Sean Chee from Sri Garden School beat defending champion Mohamed Haiqal Yazip from SMK Sri Bintang Utara 6-3, 7-5.

Chee, who finished third at last year's tournament, said that under coach, Iranian Saeed Adzalirae, he has matured more as player.

Saeed also coaches the newly crowned Selangor Schools Tennis Under-15 champion John Tay.

RESULTS - BOYS' Under-18 Singles: Prasad Selvarajoo (SMK Datok Lokman) bt Jonathan Lee (Sri Hartamas) 6-7, 5-7, 6-3, 6-4; Bronze: Wong Kar Keon (Victoria Institution), Julian Khoo (Taman Tun Dr Ismail); Doubles: Mohamed Ismadi/Mohamed Fame (SMJKC Chong Hwa) bt Asyraf/Ong Ben Lean (Royal Military College) 6-3, 7-6, 7-1; Bronze: Farhan Arif/Peter The (VI), Shamer/Wan Syazmir (Bukit Bandaraya);

(END) Source : New Straits Times