

2018 Butterfly Canadian Junior Championships
July 5, 2018
Day 3



Only the Beginning for the Cadets

Day 3 of the competition: the Cadet Boys and Girls Singles events concluded in the early afternoon, with Edward Ly (QC) and Kelly Fei Zhao (ON) emerging as the winners of their respective categories.

Both celebrated their victories generously: Zhao was received with congratulations from friends and supporters off court; upon winning the match point, Ly jumped onto the table with fists in the air.

But for both Ly and Zhao, as well as many of their fellow Cadet competitors, the competition has just begun.

Though younger in age, the Cadets are not viewed as underdogs by their Junior adversaries by a long stretch. At the 2017 Nationals held last year in Markham, British Columbia's Patrina Hui (BC) succeeded in sweeping away the U15, U18 and U21 Girl's titles, defeating a notable number of formidable and older opponents.

It has been a long standing tradition that good sporting behavior at the Canadian Championships involves welcoming younger players to senior categories. What results is a symbiotic exchange of mutually challenging each other; older players strive to win using their wealth of knowledge of the game and the sense of steadiness that accompanies experience. They are wary of underestimating the Cadets. Younger players, in the meanwhile, give it everything they have and play with unhindered abandon.

As the Junior Singles events begin in the afternoon, only time will tell if our younger competitors will be able to cause any major upsets and climb to the top.