

2016 South African National Championships

10th-16th July –Petermeritzburg

Events:

Singles:

Ladies Winner- Danisha Patel for the third year in a row, after beating one of my biggest rivals in the semi-finals 4-2 .

This year has been the most I have ever trained. After finishing my honours last and started with my internship this year I have the opportunity to play in the Gauteng league as well as train and work on my fitness on and off the board. All the hard work paid off and I can definitely feel an improvement in my fitness. I made it past my group stage and into the knockout round. After analyzing the draw I knew exactly who I was going to play so I worked my up to the quarter finals where I played Vivian Jackson from Gauteng North and won 4-2 heading into the semi finals against one of my national team mates – Khanyisile Madlala . It was a best of 7 match and I was down 2-0. Chetan who was coaching me picked up on my mistakes and my opponent's weaknesses so I used that as an advantage and managed to fight back 4-2. This match was like a final for me. I then played Tsegofatso from Kimberly in the finals. It was her first finals. She plays well but I manage to beat her 4-0 to claim my 3rd consecutive title a row. Training won't stop. Chetan and I have to start training even harder as there will be international tournaments where we will have to represent team SA.



Runner up: Tsegofatso from Kimberly

3rd-4th - Khanyisile Madlala and Zodwa Mapanga.

Mens:

Chetan Nathoo made top 4 in the country by making it to the semi finals!



Gold- Kurt Lingeveltdt

Silver- Shane Overmeyer

3rd & 4th- Chetan and Keegan Lingeveltdt

Doubles:

Danisha and Danica Scholme made it to the Semi finals where we lost 3-1. Bronze



Mixed Doubles:

Danisha and Chetan made it to the mixed doubles finals for the second year but lost 3-1 to Terrance Mathole and Khanyisile Madlala - Silver



Team events:



Gauteng Central Mens team won the finals after beating western Province.- Gold



It all started on the 10th of July with team events. The Gauteng central mens team consisted of 4 players, Chijioke Osujji, Ismail Badat, Odele and Myself (Chetan Nathoo)... we had 2 provinces in our groups namely Limpopo and Griqualand West. We overcame both provinces with 3-0 victories. We then played KZN (UTH) in the quarter finals, winning 3-0 as well. We then played Western Province B team in the semis and won 3-1, with Osujji winning the 8 times SA champ (Shane Overmeyer) in an epic battle. We then played Western Province A team in the finals and won 3-1 again Osujji pulling his weight in the finals winning 2 games and Isie winning the 1 ... it's been many years since Gauteng has won the interprovincial mens team event. Great victory for us

I then teamed up with Danisha Patel to play mixed doubles. We played exceptionally well throughout the whole tournament winning all our matches 3-0... this being the 2nd final we have been in and we could not overcome our rivals from Gauteng North (Terence and Khanyisile) by losing 3-1 in the finals... it was a really close match and it could have gone either way. Myself and Danisha will continue to work harder and bring back the gold next year.

I played mixed doubles with my coach Ismail Badat, we won all our games up to the quarter finals and lost to the finalists Shane Overmeyer and Jermaine Mostert 3-1

Finally what it all comes down to, the singles events. My group consisted of 3 players and I came out 1st in my group. Then proceeded into the 128 knockout round where I had a bye into the last 64 draw. I played Gershwin from Boland winning 3-0 and then played a player from KZN in the last 32 winning 3-0 as well... in the last 16 I played Terence from Gauteng North, this been one of my biggest and most memorable victories at the tournament. Terence was seeded number 2, losing in the final last year. This was a very intense and psychological game. It went down right to the wire with the games drawn at 2-2 and 9-9 in the 5th game... luckily I had to serve and could capitalise with my serves. I managed to win that game 11-9 in the 5th, what an atmosphere it was with the crowd cheering... memory never to forget. I then played a junior from Western Province in the quarter finals and won 4-0 comfortably. I was now in the semi finals, 1st time in my career did I ever make it so far... I played Kurt Lingevel from Western Province who beat me 4-0 but each game was very close. He then won the 8 times SA champ 4-2 in the finals.

Overall I came home with 1 gold, 1 silver and 1 bronze Medal... what a great achievement for me. Myself, Isie and Danisha will continue training from next week and put in the hard work, effort and time to keep pushing forward in the future...