

MCC-ADIDAS NATIONAL TENNIS



FOCUS: Tamil Nadu's Bhavani Thirumurthy in action against her compatriot Janani Suresh during the under-18 second round of the MCC-adidas junior national tennis tournament at the MCC on Tuesday. Bhavani won 7-6, 6-3. A photograph by Jaison G

The Indian press has been following Bhavani's story for awhile.

Bhavani was born in Madras, India and until she came to JIS she was living in the US. For much of the past two years her life has largely been one of tennis coaching, playing tennis tournaments around the world, and schooling by correspondence. When her father was transferred to Jakarta to serve as the Consul at the Indian Embassy, Bhavani and her family decided that this might make a good opportunity for Bhavani to return to normal schooling, while at the same time maintaining her tennis career.

Over the past several years Bhavani has played tennis tournaments in India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Guadeloupe, the USA, Germany and Indonesia. Almost all of these tournaments have been sponsored by the International Tennis Fed-

World Class

It is very rare, and it may even be a unique event, for JIS to have a world class athlete as a member of the student body. This year we are fortunate to have Bhavani Tirumurthi, an 11th grade student and tennis player who joined JIS last school year.

eration (ITF). In August 2003 she played the US Junior International Hardcourt Championships Qualifying Rounds, reaching the round of 16. Her most recent tournament was in November this year, when she played the ITF Thailand Open, and where she managed to reach the round of 32.

Currently, her world ranking is 535 but, when Bhavani was playing more regularly, her ranking was 390 and before moving to Jakarta she was ranked number 9 in India. The rankings are based on a points system, where a player earns points for every tournament round won. In order to improve one's ranking a player has to defend the points earned by playing tournaments and, hopefully, winning matches. The ranking then determines whether you are invited to or able to participate in future tournaments.

Presently, Bhavani is playing two major local tennis tournaments, the ITF Pegadaian Open International Junior Championships in Solo and the ITF Wismilak-Widjoro Soejono Junior Championships in Surabaya. Both tournaments are for players 18 and under and are genuine international tournaments involving players from Russia, Denmark, South Africa, the UK, China, Korea, Japan, India and many other countries. Bhavani lost a tight 3-set match in the first round of the Solo tournament to a player from Malaysia, but managed to reach the semi-finals of the ladies' doubles.

Bhavani is a member of the Girls' Varsity Tennis Team this year and we are hoping that her rich tennis and athletic experiences will prove of benefit to our younger athletes in both the tennis program and other sports.

Roger Brumby, VP Academic Affairs