



Asia Oceania Junior Davis Cup & Junior Fed Cup Final Qualifying 2016



Final Qualifying round of the 2016 Asia Oceania Junior Davis Cup and Junior Fed Cup culminated in New Delhi, with a brilliant show of skillful and gritty tennis, displayed by the teams making it to the World Finals of the JDC & JFC which will be held in Budapest, Hungary from the 27th Sept till the 2nd October 2016.

China PR, Japan and India qualified for the World Finals of the Junior Davis Cup and in the Junior Fed Cup category, Japan, Thailand, India and New Zealand qualified for the penultimate team competition of the globe in the 16&Under category.

Asia Oceania Junior Davis Cup 2016

A total of 16 countries took part in the Asia / Oceania Final Qualifying event (JDC), held from April 4 to 9, at the R.K Khanna Tennis Stadium in New Delhi, with only the top three teams advancing to the World Finals this year. Asia Oceania had one spot less for 2016 as compared to previous years, with one of the Asian teams finishing at the 16th spot during the 2015 World Finals.

In the Semi Final line up, top seeds, Japan, eased past Australia with both Rimpei Kawakami and Naoki Tajima posting straight set wins over their respective opponents, Thomas Bosancic and Alexander Crnokrak, to seal their place in the Finals of the event for the seventh time in a row.

In the other Semi Finals tie, second seeds China P.R. needed until the match tie break in the deciding doubles rubber to secure a win over India. China's Mu Tao drew first blood for the second seeds with a win over Siddhant Banthia, before Adil Kalyanpur levelled the tie for India with a straight set win over Zhao Ling Xi displaying some gritty tennis.



The doubles went right down to the wire with the Chinese duo of Zhao and Mo pipping the Indian duo of Kalyanpur and Patel to the post, with a 10-8 win in the match tie break. In the decisive doubles, Adil Kalyanpur and Megh Patel lost to Mo Ye Cong & Zhao Lingxi 6-3, 5-7, 10-8 after the Indian boys saved two match points.

Battle for the third and final place for the Budapest Finals of 2016 was now to be between India and Australia with Japan and China securing their spaces in the World Group with their making into the finals of the final qualifying event.

The Indian boys qualified in style for the World Group, albeit with a third place, as they outplayed Australia 2-0 in every sense of the game. Both Siddhant Banthia and Adil Kalyanpur played exceptionally well to steer the team home with an identical 6-2, 6-4 wins over Thomas James Bosancic and Alexander Crnokrak respectively.

India had started the tournament as the fifth seed and had the top seed Japan in its group. The Indian boys played top quality tennis, especially in the decisive doubles, in beating third seed Korea in the quarterfinals, before being pipped at the post in the semifinals by China, the eventual champion.

Adil Kalyanpur acknowledged later that it was a huge privilege to make the Finals, before adding that the semifinal loss stung like hell. "Our skipper, who is also my personal coach, did a really good job of getting the team together and he rotated the doubles in such a manner that the three of us got adequate rest and exposure. We all put in a lot of effort and that was evident in the semis against China, where we lost 8-10 in the deciding set of the doubles rubber. It can't get any closer than that," the 16-year-old said.

India was part of the World Finals from 2009 to 2011 before a dip took place in their zonal placements.

Vishal Uppal, while praising his wards, emphasized on the importance of building a close-knit unit. "It's a very tough competition. The squad prepared well and their chemistry was really good. Nobody gave us a chance against Japan and China, but we were very close to beating them" and rightly so

The results (final): China bt Japan 2-0 (Mu Tao bt Rimpei Kawakami 6-3, 6-1; Zhao Lingxi bt Naoki Tajima 6-7(4), 6-3, 7-5)

Third place: India bt Australia 2-0 (Siddhant Banthia bt Thomas James Bosancic 6-2, 6-4; Adil Kalyanpur bt Alexander Crnokrak 6-2, 6-4)

Final placements of the JDC 2016: 1. China, 2. Japan, 3. India, 4. Australia, 5. New Zealand, 6. Korea, 7. Chinese Taipei, 8. Malaysia, 9. Indonesia, 10. Syria, 11. Hong Kong, 12. Uzbekistan, 13. Thailand, 14. Kazakhstan, 15. Philippines, 16. Vietnam

It was the 7th straight qualifying performance by Japan into the World Finals of the JDC event and a feat which would certainly be recorded as one tough to be emulated in the future.

Teams finishing on the 15th and 16th spot at the Zonal Final Qualifying event would be relegated to the Pre-Qualifying events of the 2017 edition of the competition

Asia Oceania Junior Fed Cup 2016



The Junior Fed Cup represents the girl's tennis parallel of the Boy's Davis Cup.

Continuing their winning streak from the Junior Davis Cup week, Japan and India roared back to assert their talent and tenacious play along with Thailand and New Zealand in the Asia Oceania Junior Fed Cup event held at the R. K Khanna Tennis Complex on the last day of the event.

In the placement tie for the 3rd and 4th spot on the final day of the event, Mahak Jain and Sathwika Sama, who registered contrasting wins against the Kiwis, had already helped India book one of the four berths from the zone for the World Group Final to be staged in Hungary, by helping the team reach the semifinals at the expense of second seeds Australia.



After the high of qualification, the physically and emotionally drained Indian players were unable to lift their performance in the semifinals against top seeds Japan, which eventually clinched the title by outplaying Thailand.

However, with pride at stake, both Mahak and Sathwika recovered their reserves of energy as they put up a quality fare against New Zealand. The 14-year-old Mahak stroked with familiar fluency in outplaying Nina Paripovic 6-1, 6-1. She rarely put a foot wrong and stroked with conviction.

In contrast, Sathwika was made to sweat by Valentina Ivanov who had played a very creditable role in hauling her team to the World Group past China.

From 2-3 in the decider, Sathwika battled at her best and had little hesitation in punctuating the tough rallies with forceful shots that clinched her crucial points. She won four games on the trot in the climax for a memorable 6-4, 2-6, 6-3 victory. Deemed an overtly defensive player, Sathwika emphasized that she could play better against high quality players.

Sathwika had played a superb game in beating the world No.46 junior, Lin Baijing of Australia, in the semifinals, and she gave glimpses of her energetic game yet again, despite the hot and windy conditions.

Like he had honored the Indian boys team for qualifying for the World Group in Junior Davis Cup, the president of the All India Tennis Association (AITA) Mr. Anil Khanna, announced five lakh rupees cash award for the girls team as well.

It was a quality education for the Indian girls and they sought to play the doubles, a dead rubber, to hone their skill. In fact, the Indian team had requested for doubles against Japan also, but had gracefully opted out rather than take a walkover from the reluctant opponents.

In the Finals, sixth seed Thailand, which had qualified ahead of Korea for the World Group, was unable to live up to its fighting reputation, as the Japanese, cheered by their staunch fans, served and stroked with ease and poise.

Saddened by the earthquake back home, the Japanese team observed a minute's silence before the start of its match and the players sported black ribbons in their attire, to express their sorrow.

The results (Final): Japan bt Thailand 2-0 (Naho Sato bt Thasaporn Naklo 6-1, 6-1; Ayumi Miyamoto bt Watsachol Sawatdee 6-3, 6-1)



Third place: India bt New Zealand 2-1 (Mahak Jain bt Nina Paripovic 6-1, 6-1; Sathwika Sama bt Valentina Ivanov 6-4, 2-6, 6-3; Shivani Ingle & Sathwika Sama lost to Tamara Anderson & Nina Paripovic 2-6, 3-6)

Final placings: 1. Japan, 2. Thailand, 3. India, 4. New Zealand, 5. Australia, 6. Korea, 7. China, 8. Chinese Taipei, 9. Indonesia, 10. Malaysia,

11. Hong Kong, 12. Uzbekistan, 13. Kazakhstan, 14. Kyrgyzstan, 15. Pacific Oceania, 16. Sri Lanka.

Pacific Oceania and Sri Lanka would play in the Pre-Qualifying event of the JFC for 2017 leg.

