

JUNIORS ARRIVE FOR SPRING CHAMPIONSHIPS

BYLINE: Palm Beach Post Staff Reports

DATE: April 10, 2005

PUBLICATION: The Palm Beach Post

EDITION: FINAL

SECTION: SPORTS

PAGE: 8B

The USTA Gold Ball, the crowning achievement in U.S. junior tennis, will be on the line at the USTA Boys and Girls 12s National Spring Championships today through Saturday in Boca Raton and Delray Beach.

The event, the highest level national junior tennis tournament in the nation, is the first "major" for players 12 and under. Stephanie Vidov, one of 17 players competing from South Florida, comes into the tournament as a No. 3 seed. The West Palm Beach native was a quarterfinalist last year.

In the boys' field, Jack Sock of Nebraska is the No. 1 seed and Mika De Coster of California is the No. 2 seed.

Wheelchair tennis: Third-seeded Michael Jeremiasz upset defending champion Robin Ammerlaan of the Netherlands, the No. 1-ranked player in the world, to advance to today's men's open final of Florida Open International Wheelchair Tennis Championships at the Patch Reef Park Tennis Center in Boca Raton.

France's Jeremiasz will face No. 2-ranked David Hall of Australia, the Florida Open champion in 1997, 2000, and 2002.

Esther Vergeer of the Netherlands won her 122nd consecutive singles match to position herself for a third straight Florida Open title.

The quad doubles team of Americans Nick Taylor and David Wagner, the 2004 Paralympic gold medallists, won their semifinal to get an opportunity to defend their 2004 Florida Open title.

Jan Proctor of Delray Beach and partner Beth Arnoult-Ritthaler of Hawaii lost in the women's open doubles semifinals.

Nick Mancuso of Boynton Beach teamed with Johnny McGinn of Jackson, Miss., to win the men's B doubles championship.

USTA Nationals

What: The Boys and Girls 12s National Spring Championships.

When: Through Saturday.

Where: Boys at the Swim and Racquet Center and Boca West Country Club. Girls at the Delray Beach Tennis Center and the Delray Swim and Tennis Club.

Cost: Admission is free.