

RESULTS ON TUESDAY, 13 SEPTEMBER 2005

1st round

Zi Yan (China) beat Wynne Prakusya (Indonesia) 6-2, 7-5
Anna-Lena Groenefeld (5-Germany) beat Karolina Sprem (Croatia) 7-5, 5-7, 6-3
Ekaterina Bychkova (Russia) beat Sania Mirza (8-India) 6-3, 6-2
Alicia Molik (3-Australia) beat Mariana Diaz-Oliva (Argentina) 7-6 (8-6), 6-3
Laura Pous Tio (Spain) beat Meghann Shaughnessy (United States) 6-4, 4-6, 6-1
Jie Zheng (China) beat Maria Vento-Kabchi (Venezuela) 6-3, 6-4
Aiko Nakamura (Japan) beat Tomoko Yonemura (Japan) 7-6 (9-7), 7-5
Virginia Ruano Pascual (Spain) beat Tian Tian Sun (China) 6-2, 6-2

Indonesia's only representative in the main draw of the Wismilak International fell at the first hurdle on Tuesday when Wynne Prakusya was defeated 6-2, 7-5 by Zi Yan of China.

It was a very disappointing performance from Wynne in the first set, as she was completely overwhelmed by a more aggressive opponent who often hit the lines. But after falling behind 4-1 in the second set, Wynne began to hit out on the ball with more confidence, and that forced Zi into errors.

Wynne won four straight games and served for the set at 5-4, coming within two points of taking the match into a deciding set. But her Chinese opponent once again took advantage of some hesitant play and closed out the match on her second match point.

"I was very nervous in the first set because I've been off playing smaller tournaments for one and a half years," said Wynne. "I found that playing a bigger tournament it was a bigger game. I was trying to so defensive in the first set, and it didn't work because all the players here are playing so aggressive.

"But I'm thankful that I got my rhythm back, even if it was a bit late at 4-1 in the second. I tried to play more aggressive and I think it worked. But it was too late. I was so far behind, but I had a chance serving at 5-4.

"I just need to go for it more, but when I was up I was scared to make a mistake and was defensive again. At this level you have to do more than wait for the other player to make a mistake."

There was a great deal of interest in Sania Mirza, but now it will have to be confined to the doubles after she was upset 6-3, 6-2 by Ekaterina Bychkova. Who? Well, she's the little-known Russian who recently handed defending champion Svetlana Kuznetsova a stunning first round defeat at the US Open. Perhaps she won't be little-known for much longer.

"I wasn't really in it from the beginning," said Sania. "She played a good match, but I think I was really rusty. I was hitting a couple and then missing like four. I don't know. I was just not in my rhythm. A lot of shots that went in on other matches just didn't go in today."

Sania is enjoying her first visit to Bali, and is hoping to return next year to do a little better.

"Actually, more than to play I'd love to come here for a holiday. It's not one of the best places to play tennis here. You don't feel like doing anything. But it's a lovely



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atmosphere and I'd love to come back next year," she said.

Two other seeds did win, although fifth seed Anna-Lena Groenefeld struggled to close out a match she led by a set and 4-1. She eventually overcame Karolina Sprem 7-5, 5-7, 6-3 in what was a terrific match from beginning to end. And Alicia Molik, seeded three, won her first match since April after suffering a virus, beating Mariana Diaz Oliva 7-6 (8-6), 6-3. **(Barry Wood)**

Editor's Notes :

Since its debut in 1994, the Wismilak International, part of the worldwide Sony Ericsson WTA Tour, has been held in Surabaya, Kuala Lumpur, and now Bali. Initially the event was named the "Wismilak Open", before changing it's name to the "Wismilak International" in 1996 as a reflection of the organiser's corporate expansion into the international market. The Wismilak International is still the largest tournament in the WTA's calendar in South East Asia. For more information please visit www.wismilakinternational.com

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