

SQUASH

Barnes makes a racket for women in sport

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sociation with the sport, and the BSRA club in Devonshire, so it is probably no surprise she is as good as she is.

"I kind of grew up at this club," she said. "I've always lived in Bermuda, I was born here, my parents hilariously met here, so my older sister and I have been playing squash since we could walk. We played all throughout Cavendish and earlier years in the junior programme — they have a great girls' programme here.

We went to boarding school in the US and then I played in college [Bowdoin College, in Maine], came back three years ago and have been playing here. Squash in the college in the US is all one division, so you end up playing against some really impressive people, so that was an awesome experience."

Indeed, she grew up as one of the club's "Court Rats" — the youngsters who have the delightful job of cleaning up the players' sweat during the big tournaments, which most of the young players do.

"That was a really cool experience when you're young," Barnes said. "You get to interact with the professional players, meet them, talk to them, clean up their sweat! It's a cool atmosphere.

"We don't have any issues getting girls in the door when they're younger. We have a junior programme which happens throughout the school year one day during the week and then all day on Saturdays. That's busting with boys and girls. We mix them together when they're younger, so that's really great for socialising.

"We also have girls' programme one day a week and that is completely packed. It probably goes until 15-6 years old. A lot of girls and boys end up going away and playing at boarding school and playing in college, so we kind of lose them at that age group. The ones that stay, a lot of them drop off at about 18, just because school gets in the way, your job gets in the way and so much other stuff. And we have lots of other ladies' events for older women.

"We have a ladies night each month and we have women coming down for exhibitions. We've got a big presence from the older end, it's just the younger end we have to work on."



Photograph by Blaire Simmons

Waiting game: Bermudian-born Rachel Barnes is not permitted to represent the island at certain international events

Barnes, who has English parents, cannot represent Bermuda in certain events, though.

"It's really tough, because I was born in Bermuda, my parents were on work permits, then they got PRC," she said. "I got permanent residency when I was a teenager, so I was allowed to live and work here, but I still haven't been able to get status, so that is what stops me from playing."

"They recently got status a couple of years ago, so I'll be able to apply for it in seven years' time, but then I'll be in my mid-thirties and it's not really the time to pursue a squash career, but I'm working on it. It's an ongoing conversation. The Bermuda Olympic Association are open to discussing exceptions to that 'Bermudian only' rule, but it is really tough.

"Typically, [other countries] just say if you're a resident and have lived and worked there for a certain number of years that you can participate, and most tournaments are OK with it, like the Caribbean tournaments are OK with it. Commonwealth Games is not OK with it, I don't think, and neither are the Central American tournaments. A lot of the time, the limitation is coming from Bermuda itself;

they want only Bermudians. Which is fair, I understand they want Bermudians to be pushed, and that's awesome, but in most places I would be considered Bermudian."

It is clear that Barnes has a lifelong love affair with squash.

"You're constantly thinking about your own game and improving yourself," she said of her sport. "You need to have the motivation and this teaches you the discipline to work on improving yourself.

"On top of that, you need to be prepared for whatever your opponent's going to do, so you need to have a back-up plan and a game plan and this helps you come up with ideas about what you're going to do. [Then] you need to execute it.

"So you need to have all these plans, all this training together and then you need to be able to get on court with all the things that are distracting you and everything else going on in your life: all the emotions/nerves, you need to be able to balance it all, so this has been a really great thing for me to just learn how to process that information all together. [I am also] part of a really awesome community, socialise with people and meet awesome people."

TENNIS Davis Cup Americas Zone Group III

Bermuda winless in Costa Rica

Lawrence Trott

Bermuda failed to win a match in the Davis Cup in Costa Rica, finishing bottom of pool B in the Americas Zone Group III at the weekend.

Bermuda finished bottom of the group after defeats to Antigua 2-1, Jamaica 3-0, Honduras 3-0 and Bahamas 3-0, with debutant Trey Mallory earning the island's only victory. Mallory won his first singles match in the tournament, beating Kevin Gardner, the Antigua and Barbuda No 2 player, 7-6, 6-2. There were no other victories for Ber-

muda's team of Gavin Manders, Jenson Bascome, David Thomas and Mallory.

Bahamas and Honduras finished first and second in pool B and were promoted to Group II after winning their play-off matches against Paraguay and Costa Rica, the top two teams from pool A.

Bahamas, with a perfect record in group play, beat host nation Costa Rica 2-1, while Honduras won 2-0 over Paraguay, who were hoping for an immediate return to Group II.

Bermuda made their Davis Cup debut in 1997 but have never played higher than Group III.



Plus point: youngster Trey Mallory won the island's only singles match

CRICKET

Smith 'cried for four days' after ball-tampering scandal

SYDNEY (Reuters) — Steve Smith, the former Australia captain, says he cried for four days as he tried to cope with the fallout from the ball-tampering scandal in South Africa in March.

Smith and former Test vice-captain David Warner were handed 12-month bans by Cricket Australia (CA) after admitting a plan to tamper the ball during the third Test against South Africa in Cape Town.

The pair lost their leadership positions and were sent home after the incident with Smith breaking down in tears while apologising at an emotional press conference at Sydney Airport.

"To be honest, I probably

spent four days in tears," Smith told students at a school according to the Sydney Morning Herald.

"I was really struggling mentally and I was really lucky that I had some close friends and family members that I could speak to at all hours of the day.

"The people that I had supporting me through that whole time made a huge difference to the head space I am in now."

Smith and Warner are scheduled to return to competitive action in the Global T20 Canada, a tournament that starts on June 28. Junior batsman Cameron Bancroft was banned for nine months for his role in the incident.



Ready for return: former Australia captain Steve Smith

FOOTBALL World Cup

Argentina cancel final warm-up against Israel

BUENOS AIRES (Reuters) — Argentina have cancelled their final World Cup warm-up match against Israel, striker Gonzalo Higuain said yesterday as political pressure grew ahead of Saturday's scheduled fixture in Jerusalem.

"They've finally done the right thing," Higuain said, confirming reports the game had been cancelled.

The match at Jerusalem's Teddy Kollek Stadium was to be Argentina's last before they kick off their World Cup campaign in Russia on June 16.

There was no initial reaction

from the Israeli FA or from Israeli politicians.

Reports said that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had called Argentinian President Mauricio Macri to ask him to persuade the team not to cancel their visit.

Israel Radio quoted an unnamed diplomatic official who said the chances of salvaging the fixture were very slim.

The visit of twice world champions Argentina has attracted huge interest among Israeli fans, mainly because of Barcelona great Lionel Messi's planned participation.

Palestinians celebrated the cancellation.

In Gaza, people cheered and in Ramallah in the West Bank, the Palestinian FA issued a statement thanking Messi and his colleagues for cancelling the game.

"The Palestinian FA thanks Argentina's players led by star Messi for refusing to be used to serve a non-sporting goal."

Palestinian FA chairman Jibril Rajoub said: "Values, morals and sport have secured a victory today and a red card was raised at Israel through the cancellation of the game."

SPORT SCOREBOARD

OVERSEAS

All times Bermuda

FOOTBALL

INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLIES

Yesterday's results

Kazakhstan 3 Azerbaijan 0

Russia 1 Turkey 1

Romania 2 Finland 0

Luxembourg 1 Georgia 0

Today's games

Czech Republic v Nigeria, 10am

Belarus v Hungary, 2pm

Norway v Panama, 2pm

Belgium v Egypt, 3.45pm

MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlanta United FC 9 3 2 29 30 18

New York City FC 8 3 3 27 29 19

Columbus 7 3 5 26 21 13

New York 7 4 1 22 27 14

New England 6 4 4 22 24 20

Orlando City 6 6 1 19 22 23

Philadelphia 5 6 3 18 16 19

Chicago 5 7 2 17 20 25

Montreal 4 10 0 12 15 29

Toronto FC 3 7 2 11 17 23

DC United 2 5 3 9 14 28

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Sporting Kansas City 8 2 4 28 28 14

FC Dallas 7 1 5 26 22 14

Real Salt Lake 7 6 1 22 19 26

Los Angeles FC 6 4 3 21 25 21

Portland 6 3 3 21 20 18

Vancouver 5 5 5 20 21 28

Houston 5 5 3 18 27 21

LA Galaxy 5 7 2 17 19 23

Minnesota United 5 8 1 16 17 26

San Jose 2 8 3 9 19 25

Seattle 2 7 2 8 7 14

Colorado 2 8 2 8 14 22

Friday's game

Toronto FC at Philadelphia, 9pm

Saturday's games

Atlanta United FC at New York City FC, 1.30pm

New York at Columbus, 6pm

Orlando City at Vancouver, 8pm

Montreal at FC Dallas, 9pm

New England at Chicago, 9.30pm

Colorado at Houston, 10pm

DC United at Seattle, 11pm

Los Angeles FC at San Jose, 11.30pm

Real Salt Lake at LA Galaxy, 11.30pm

Sporting Kansas City at Portland, 11.30pm

NATIONAL WOMEN'S SOCCER LEAGUE

North Carolina 9 0 3 30 24 11

Seattle 5 2 3 18 13 8

Orlando 4 3 4 16 16 13

Portland 4 4 3 15 15 16

Chicago 3 3 6 15 16 16

Table with 4 columns: Team, W, L, T, Pts. Rows include Utah, Houston, Washington, Sky Blue FC.

Today's games

Washington at Sky Blue, 8pm

Friday's game

Washington at Sky Blue, 8pm

Today's games

Tampa Bay (TBD) at Washington (Roark 2-6), 2.05pm

Baltimore (Bundy 3-7) at NY Mets (Wheeler 2-4), 2.10pm

Milwaukee (Anderson 4-4) at Cleveland (Carrasco 6-4), 2.10pm

Atlanta (Foltynewicz 5-3) at San Diego (TBD), 4.40pm

Arizona (Buchholz 1-1) at San Francisco (Stratton 7-3), 4.45pm

LA Dodgers (TBD) at Pittsburgh (Williams 5-3), 8.05pm

Colorado (Gray 5-6) at Cincinnati (Romano 3-6), 8.10pm

Philadelphia (Nola 7-2) at Chicago Cubs (Quintana 6-4), 9.05pm

Miami (Chen 1-3) at St. Louis (Flaherty 2-1), 9.15pm

BASEBALL

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

W L Pct GB

Boston 41 19 .683 —

New York 38 18 .679 1

Tampa Bay 28 30 .483 12

Toronto 26 33 .441 14 1/2

Baltimore 17 41 .293 23

Central Division

W L Pct GB

Cleveland 30 28 .517 —

Detroit 29 32 .475 2 1/2

Minnesota 25 30 .455 3 1/2

Kansas City 21 39 .350 10

Chicago 18 38 .321 11

West Division

W L Pct GB

Seattle 37 22 .627 —

Houston 37 24 .607 1

Los Angeles 33 28 .541 5

Oakland 31 29 .517 6 1/2

Texas 25 37 .403 13 1/2

Today's games

Tampa Bay (TBD) at Washington (Roark 2-6), 2.05pm

Baltimore (Bundy 3-7) at N.Y. Mets (Wheeler 2-4), 2.10pm

Milwaukee (Anderson 4-4) at Cleveland (Carrasco 6-4), 2.10pm

NY Yankees (Gray 4-4) at Toronto (Gaviglio 2-1), 8.07pm

Detroit (Hardy 2-0) at Boston (Rodriguez 6-1), 8.10pm

Oakland (Mengden 6-4) at Texas (Colon 2-3), 9.05pm

Chicago White Sox (Santiago 1-2) at Minnesota (Odorizzi 3-2), 9.10pm

Seattle (LeBlanc 1-0) at Houston (McCullers 7-3), 9.10pm

Kansas City (Kennedy 1-6) at LA Angels (Ohtani 4-1), 11.07pm

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

W L Pct GB

Atlanta 35 25 .583 —

Washington 33 25 .569 1

Philadelphia 31 26 .544 2 1/2

New York 27 30 .474 6 1/2

Miami 20 39 .339 14 1/2

Central Division

W L Pct GB

Milwaukee 37 23 .617 —

Chicago 33 23 .589 2

St. Louis 32 25 .561 3 1/2

Pittsburgh 30 29 .508 6 1/2

Cincinnati 21 39 .350 16

West Division

W L Pct GB

Arizona 31 28 .525 —

Table with 4 columns: Team, W, L, T, Pts. Rows include Colorado, San Francisco, Los Angeles, San Diego.

Today's games

Washington 3 Vegas 1

Washington 3 Vegas 2

Washington 3 Vegas 1

Washington 6 Vegas 2

Washington at Vegas, 9pm

Vegas at Washington, 9pm

Washington at Vegas, 9pm

TENNIS

FRENCH OPEN

Stade Roland Garros, Paris

Men's Singles

Quarter-final

Marco Cecchinato, Italy, bt Novak Djokovic (20), Serbia, 6-3, 7-6, 1-6, 7-6 (11).

Dominic Thiem (7), Austria, bt Alexander Zverev (2), Germany, 6-4, 6-2, 6-1.

Women's Singles

Quarter-final

Madison Keys (13), United States, bt Yulia Putintseva, Kazakhstan, 7-6, 6-4.

Sloane Stephens (10), United States, bt Daria Kasatkina (14), Russia, 6-3, 6-1.

Men's Doubles

Quarter-final

Alexander Peya, Austria and Nikola Pietrangeli (8), Croatia, bt Edouard Roger-Vasselin, France and Rohan Bopanna (13), India, 7-6, 6-2.

Oliver Marach, Austria and Mate Pavic (2), Croatia, bt Robert Farah, Colombia and Juan Sebastian Cabal (5), Colombia, 3-6, 6-4, 6-3.

Women's Doubles

Quarter-final

Zhaoxuan Yang, China and Hao-Ching Chan (8), Taiwan, bt Mihaela Buzarnescu, Romania and Irina Maria Bara, Romania, 6-3, 1-6, 6-4.

Barbora Krejickova, Czech Republic and Katerina Siniakova (6), Czech Republic, bt Andreja Klepac, Slovenia and Maria Jose Martinez Sanchez (3), Spain, 6-3, 6-3.

Mixed Doubles

Semi-final

Gabriela Dabrowski, France and Mate Pavic (1), Croatia, bt Viktoria Kozlovic, Mexico and Katarina Srebotnik, Slovenia, 6-4, 6-4.

Juniors Men's Singles

Second Round

Brandon Nakashima, United States, bt Rinky Hijikata, Australia, 6-3, 6-2.

Antoine Cornut-Chauvinc, France, bt Jesper De Jong, Netherlands, 6-2, 2-6, 6-2.

Tristan Boyer (1), United States, bt Sergey Fomin, Uzbekistan, 5-7, 6-2, 6-3.

Thiago Seyboth Wild (8), Brazil, bt Uisung Park, Republic of Korea, 6-4, 6-1.

Timofey Skatov (6), Kazakhstan, bt Wojciech Marek, Poland, 2-6, 6-3, 6-1.

Chun Hsin Tseng (4), Taiwan, bt Nicolas Alvarez Varona, Spain, 6-2, 6-4.

Adrian Andreev (7), Bulgaria, bt Gilbert Soares Klier Junior, Brazil, 6-4, 6-1.

Carlos Lopez Montaguad, Spain, bt Alexey Zakharov, Russia, 3-6, 6-3, 7-5.

Juniors Women's Singles

Second Round

En Shuo Liang (1), Taiwan, bt Alice Tubello, France,</