

sport **rebecca tsui**



Did you know? US tennis star Pete Sampras won a record 14 Grand Slam men's singles titles

HK Tigers roar at ice hockey fest

Tournament showcases sport's rapid development in Asia

Hong Kong Tigers were crowned International A division champions at a prestigious ice hockey competition in Hong Kong earlier this month.

The 2008 Mega Ice 5's, organised by Mega Ice in Kowloon Bay, were held from April 29-May 10. A total of 65 adult and youth teams competed in the tournament.

The five-day youth event kicked off the showpiece, with Sports Beijing winning the Bantam division with a 3-2 double-overtime victory over Hong Kong Typhoon A.

This was followed by the

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adult competition which was held from May 6-10. A total of 28 teams from around the world delighted the audience with their skills and never-say-die attitude.

The adult tournament was divided into five divisions – International A, International B, Asian A, Asian B and Women.

The prime focus was on International A and Asian A due to the reputation of the participating teams who had top-class players in their lineups.

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The final between Hong Kong Tigers and Abu Dhabi, the champions of the Thailand ice hockey tournament last year, attracted a large number of spectators.

But it turned out to be a one-sided affair as Hong Kong Tigers hammered their rivals 4-0 to clinch the International A championship.

The fact that all the players who took part in the Asian divisions were from the region highlighted the rapid development of ice hockey in Asia.

Tokyo Egoists came out on top in the Asian A category, defeating Sam Wai 5-3. Thomas Wu, chairman of the Hong Kong Amateur Hockey Club (HKAHC), led his team to victory in the Asian B division. HKAHC thrashed WIFO Flames 4-1 in the final.

For more details, visit www.megaice.com.hk



HONG KONG TIGERS WON THE INTERNATIONAL A DIVISION CHAMPIONSHIP. PHOTO: MEGA ICE



Hooping it up
Forward Tim Duncan (centre) of the San Antonio Spurs drives to the hoop against the New Orleans Hornets in Game Four of the Western Conference semi-finals in Texas. The Spurs beat the Hornets 100-80 to tie their 2008 NBA playoff series at 2-2. Photo: AFP

Djokovic gives top two something to think about

Having dominated men's tennis for nearly three years, Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal's monopoly is under threat with Novak Djokovic admitting he is playing the best tennis of his life.

After his early exit from Rome last week and with Djokovic snapping at his heels in the ATP rankings, world number two Nadal admits he is feeling the pressure this week at the Hamburg Masters Series.

Nadal has been second to

Federer in the ATP rankings since July 25, 2005, and the Swiss master has been world number one since February 2, 2004 – 223 consecutive weeks – which is a record.

But Djokovic, this year's Australian Open winner, has added the Indian Wells and Rome Masters Series titles to the Grand Slam crown he won in Melbourne and Nadal says in terms of form the Serb is the world's best player.

Djokovic has moved to



SERBIA'S NOVAK DJOKOVIC IS ON A ROLL.

within 310 points of Nadal in the ATP rankings after the Serbian world number three captured his fourth ATP Masters Series title, defeating Swiss Stanislas Wawrinka 4-6, 6-3, 6-3 in Sunday's final in Rome.

Federer has a points tally of 6,825 in the ATP rankings, while Nadal is second on 5,435 with Djokovic closing in with 5,125.

With 100 points available to the winner in Hamburg and 200 for a Grand Slam win, Nadal says it is just a matter of time

before the Serb breaks into the top two, but the Spaniard will put up a fight.

"Yeah, yeah, he's gonna be number two, this week or next week, maybe after Roland Garros, maybe after Wimbledon," said Nadal, who will attempt to claim his fourth straight Roland Garros title in Paris on May 26. "He has chances to be number two, but I have chances to continue as number two, too."

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