

Students bring class to SunTrust tourney

Cahana, Kadiri: exotic ability

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A pair of college players may have the inside track for the singles titles at the SunTrust State Tennis Championships, which opens tomorrow at Raintree Swim and Racquet Club.

Nataly Cahana, who played No. 1 for Old Dominion University last season, is the top seed in the women's draw. The rising junior, who has been ranked as high as fourth nationally among collegians, is a member of the Israel Federation Cup team.

After Cahana, a two-time All-American, in the field of 26 is former champion Rachel Gale, Lindsey Wyeth, Julie Kaczmarek, 15-year-old Lindsey Howard, Heather Reynolds of Fredericksburg and Kate Harrington.

Other top players include Richmonders Mary Napier and Cathy Nimitz, Jessica Farr of Williamsburg and Melissa Holland of Windsor.

Neither city champion Chrissie Seredni, 14, nor State Clay Court winner Melissa Robinson entered the tourney. Defending champion Bridget Bruner is working out of town until she returns to Virginia Tech later this month.

Seredni will be playing in the U.S. Tennis Association's Super National 14s tournament, while Robinson chose not to play. Robinson was defaulted in the first round last year after she failed to show up for her match following a miscommunication with tournament officials about her starting time.

On the men's side, Saber Kadiri of Virginia Tech is not the top seed but he's expected to be a serious contender for the championship. A native of Algeria, Kadiri played No. 1 for the Hokies last season as a junior.



ALEXA WELCH EDLUND/TIMES-DISPATCH

Former winner Rachel Gale is seeded second in the women's portion of the state tourney.

Defending champion Trevor Spracklin of Reston is the No. 1 seed in the draw of 60, followed by former champ Sean Steinour, Jay Bruner, Kadiri, Scott Steinour, Sears Driscoll, Charles Einwick and Brent Wilkins.

Six others were co-seeded No. 9: Sonny Dearth, Andy Hinkle of Virginia Beach, Rhys James, Kevin Loden, Eric Perkins and Chris Wallace.

Former champion Carl Clark will not play singles because of a broken bone in his left hand but he and Spracklin are top-seeded in doubles. The Steinour brothers are second, followed by Bruner-Kadiri, Ed Butterworth-Jon Ramthun, Driscoll-Einwick, Bruce Bigger-Joe Cappelino and Andy Brusman-Clint Greene.

Cahana and Mily Kannarkat of Virginia Beach are No. 1 in women's doubles, followed by Gale-Kaczmarek, Tami Riehm-Margie Walsh and Harrington-Howard.

In mixed doubles, Gale and Cappelino are top-seeded. They're followed by Howard-Bruner, Kaczmarek-Ramthun, Cahana-Sc. Steinour and Leslie-Ed Butterworth.

Play begins tomorrow at 10:30 a.m. and continues through next Saturday's finals. The winners of each division collect \$1,000, while the runners-up take home \$500.

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