



Boy Wonder inducted in the Greek Australian Sports Hall of Fame

In February 2005 Andrew Thomas was inducted at the Gala Dinner into the Greek Australian Sports Hall of Fame held at the Sofitel Wentworth Sydney. Mr Alan Jones AO was the Master of Ceremonies and the evening was attended by Mr Malcolm Turnbull MP representing Prime Minister Howard as well as many leading figures within the Greek community. The Sports Hall of Fame recognises sporting achievements attained by Australians of Greek heritage who have distinguished themselves at either National or International level. Mr John Giavis, President of the Hellenic Tennis Association (Australia) who nominated Andrew for induction into the Hall of Fame, said it was a wonderful achievement to be inducted alongside some of the biggest names in Australian sports. Andrew is certainly on the way to becoming Australia's next tennis star.

One of the core aims of the Hellenic Tennis Association (HTA) is to identify young talented Hellenic tennis players and give them the recognition they deserve. Our long term vision is to establish a foundation offering scholarships for the next generation of Greek Australian tennis players who have ambitions to become professionals.

Andrew holds the distinction of being the best in the world for his age and is the only Australian tennis player to win the Les Petit in France, the most prestigious event for 14 year olds in the world. Past winners include Roger Federer, Juan Carlos Ferrero and Marat Safin. Andrew has also won the 12/U Orange Bowl in America, the most prestigious tennis event for 12 year olds in the world.

When Ian Barclay, who guided Pat Cash to Grand Slam greatness in the 1980's first saw Andrew hit a tennis ball 3 years ago he said "I don't think I've ever seen anyone more talented than him. Andrew is the best 12 year old I have ever seen".

Andrew is part of Tennis Australia's Targeted Athlete Project and trains three hours a day and studies by correspondence. Andrew's hero is Pete Sampras, the greatest tennis player of all time and his dream is to win all four grand slam tournaments.

Andrew is very much looking forward to competing in the 2005 Hellenic Australian Tennis Championships. The Hellenic Australian Tennis Championships **presented by Thomas Hotels** is a National Open Point Score Series Tier 1 Event and will be held on 23-25 April 2005 at Cintra Park Tennis Centre Concord. There is over \$12,000 in prizes to be won and is open for all competitive and social players to enter. The event is sanctioned by Tennis NSW and is supported by HTA's patron Mark Philippoussis and IMG.

For further information you can go to our website www.hellenictennis.org.au