

## Fernandes and Pliskova clinch junior titles in Melbourne

Tiago Fernandes of Brazil and Karolina Pliskova of Czech Republic were crowned Australian Open Junior Champions after both players enjoyed straight sets wins in Rod Laver Arena on Saturday.

Fernandes's opponent in the final was American wild card Sean Berman, who had reached the last two for the loss of just one set. It was Berman who started better, breaking in the first game, before Fernandes broke back in game four and again in game 11 to take the first set 75. The Brazilian then held his nerve in the second set, winning 63 to claim his maiden Grand Slam title.

Pliskova entered the tournament on the strength of her WTA Tour ranking of No. 222, but was an unknown quantity in the junior game. Her opponent in the final was Britain's Laura Robson, the girls' singles champion at Wimbledon in 2008. Robson defeated Pliskova's twin sister, Kristyna, in the semifinals.

Pliskova started the final stronger, dominating the first set 61 and taking an early break in the second. Robson fought back to level and forced a tiebreak, but the comeback did not continue, and she double faulted twice in an error-strewn end to the match.

Dutch pair Justin Eleveld and Jannick Lupescu were crowned boys' doubles champions, with a 64 64 win over Kevin Krawietz and Dominik Schulz. The girls' doubles title was won by the Slovakian team of Jana Cepelova and Chantal Skamlova, who beat top seeds Timea Babos and Gabriela Dabrowski 76(1) 62.



*Tiago Fernandes (BRA)  
(Photo: Corinne Dubreuil)*