POST'S GUIDE to the PAN AM GAMES



By Kaitlyn McGrath, NATIONAL POST

Venue

Canadian Tennis Centre at York University

Venue acronym CTC

Landmark status

Medium

The Canadian Tennis Centre, built in 2004, is also host to the Rogers Cup, alternating years between hosting the ATP (men) and WTA (women) events every August.

Other events at this venue

None but track and field is nearby at the CIBC Pan Am/Parapan Am Athletics Stadium.

Transit options

Take Line 1 of the subway north to Finch Station. Board the 60 Steeles West bus and talk tennis for about 25 minutes with your fellow riders.

For exact directions, try:

Triplinx.ca

TTC trip planner

Schedule

July 10-14 Early-round matches in singles, doubles and mixed doubles.

July 14 Men's singles and doubles and mixed semifinals.

July 15 Women's singles and doubles semifinals, medal matches in men's singles, doubles and mixed.

July 16 Women's singles and doubles medal matches.

See the full competition schedule at the Pan Am website

How it works

On the surface, it's two people hitting a ball over a net with stringed rackets. But look closely and you'll see tennis is a chess match of movement and opportunity as well as a gruelling exercise of conquering mind over matter. Two opponents locked in a battle of perseverance, each left to squash the demons of doubt that seep into his or her mind and exploit the weakness of the opponent. Plus it's a fun sport for all ages!

Nations competing

23; Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Mexico and the U.S. have the maximum six players each.



Françoise Abanda

Canada's team

Women

Françoise Abanda, Montreal; Gabriela Dabrowski, Ottawa;

Carol Zhao, Richmond Hill, Ont. *Men*Philip Bester, Burnaby, B.C.;
Peter Polansky, Thornhill, Ont.;

Brayden Schnur, Pickering, Ont.



Peter Polansky

Tournament format

The men's singles tournament is a 48-man single elimination;

the women have 32 spots in their draw. Each nation can enter one team in the three doubles competitions.

Results from 2011 Pan Ams

Men's singles

1. Robert Farah, Colombia; 2. Rogerio Dutra da Silva, Brazil; 3. Victor Estrella, Dominican Republic.

Women's singles

1. Irina Falconi, U.S.; 2. Monica Puig, Puerto Rico; 3. Christina McHale, U.S.

Men's doubles

- 1. Colombia, 2. Ecuador, 3. U.S. *Women's doubles*
- 1. Argentina, 2. U.S., 3. Colombia *Mixed doubles*
- 1. Mexico, 2. Chile, 3. Brazil

Why it's worth watching

This isn't your chance to see Roger Federer or Serena Williams in the flesh, that's for the August pro tournament. But it is a chance to see some of the upand-coming young players of the Americas compete.

Competition outlook

Sorry Canada: Milos Raonic and Eugenie Bouchard will not be there. Unlike the Olympics, the ATP/WTA tours don't work the Pan Am Games into their schedules. (There's a little tournament called Wimbledon finishing up when the first singles matches at the Pan Ams kick off). This event will mainly consist of players on the ITF and Challenger tours.