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sports

Breast cancer survivor directs tourney for the cause

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Malia Bailey knows how to play racquetball. The Norfolk resident has won six world championships and 26 national titles.

Bailey also knows what it takes to fight cancer. After she discovered a malignant lump in her breast 3½ years ago, she underwent 33 radiation treatments and six months of chemotherapy.

Bailey won one of her national titles after all that, and Wilson Sporting Goods, manufacturer of racquets and racquetballs, picked up her inspirational story and hired her as its nationwide spokesperson for breast cancer awareness.

It was only natural then for Bailey, who coordinates three or four racquetball tournaments per year at the Greenbrier North YMCA, to schedule a Wilson Tour For Hope Series event in Chesapeake.

Bailey, along with Carter Green, was co-director last weekend of the Virginia Mistletoe Hope Tour. In addition to attracting 83 players for the USA Racquetball-sanctioned tournament, the event included a bake sale, silent auction and a raffle. Proceeds will go to the nonprofit Cancer Care Foundation of Tidewater, which provides nonmedical financial assistance to local cancer patients.

Bailey also played in the event, which attracted another breast cancer survivor, Sharlene Donovan of Williamsburg.

The competition was Donovan's first since her cancer was diagnosed in July. Donovan had mastectomy surgery in Septem-



DAN COOLEY PHOTOS

Sharlene Donovan of Williamsburg, left, and Malia Bailey of Norfolk are both breast cancer survivors who played in the Virginia Mistletoe Hope Tour racquetball tournament last weekend at the North Greenbrier YMCA. The event raised funds for the Cancer Care Foundation of Tidewater.

ber and was totally cleared then, not having to go through radiation or chemotherapy. She celebrated with a second-place finish in the women's singles B level last weekend.

Bailey competed in the men's doubles open/A competition and won the championship. She teamed with Mike Young of Chesapeake to defeat Chesapeake resident Jeff Wagner and Greg Giordano of Smithfield in three games, 10-15, 15-9 and 11-4.

Young also won the Men's Open Elite in a dramatic three games over Wagner, 10-15, 15-8 and 11-10. Young got a measure of revenge by defeating

close friend Giordano in the semifinals. Giordano had beaten Young in the finals the last two times they met in tournaments.

"We're good friends, but there was no way I was going to let him beat me three times in a row," Young said.

Wagner, meanwhile, came back to win the men's age 25-45 division. He bested Dennis Simpson of Hampton, 15-9 and 15-11. Other adult Chesapeake winners were Dennis Dulce (Men's Military 35B) and Jean-Claude Tassy (All Men's Age A).

Bailey's 13-year-old daughter, Kelani, also played well in the tournament. She teamed with Kamal Lachmansingh, 13,



Kamal Lachmansingh, left, and Kelani Bailey played together in the doubles competition, placing second in the mixed-doubles B/C division, against all adults. Lachmansingh, an eighth-grader at Greenbrier Middle School, also won the men's C singles division. Bailey, an eighth-grader at Ghent School in Norfolk, also won the women's double B and the women's singles B divisions.

of Chesapeake to post a second-place finish in the mixed doubles B/C division, against all adults.

Kelani, an eighth-grader at Ghent School, also picked up another doubles and a singles win. Bailey teamed with Great Bridge resident Carrie Hoeft to win the women's double B, then won the women's singles B.

Lachmansingh, an eighth-grader at Greenbrier Middle School, won the men's C singles. He bested 24/25 Men's C winner Loren Barton of Virginia Beach in three hard fought games, 15-14, 11-15, 11-6.

Dan Cooley, 222-5200

finals results

Virginia Mistletoe Hope Tour

Men's Doubles B Alvaro Moody (Williamsburg) and Kent Kinert (Williamsburg) d. Doug Gilman (Middleton) d. John Bruggier (Chesapeake), 15-12, 15-6.

Men's Military Singles Open/A Doug Miller (Boronia, Texas) and Oscar Ocampo (Newport News), 15-8, 15-6.

Men's Singles A Oscar Ocampo d. Robert Brennan (Virginia Beach), 15-9, 10-15, 11-7.

Men's Singles B Roddy Hoog (Richmond) d. Dennis Dulce (Chesapeake), 5-15, 15-10, 11-6.

Men's Singles C Kamal Lachmansingh (Chesapeake) d. Loren Barton (Virginia Beach), 15-14, 10-15, 11-6.

Mixed Doubles B/C Jodi Wellder (Richmond) and Hoeg d. Lachmansingh and Kelani Bailey (Norfolk), 15-9, 15-11.

Women's Doubles B Round Robin: 1. Carrie Hoeft (Chesapeake) and K. Bailey; 2. Pam McGrath and Patti Lane.

Women's Singles B K. Bailey d. Sharlene Donovan (Williamsburg), 15-5, 15-5.

Junior Singles David Kripanos (Chesapeake) d. Jesse Taylor (Chesapeake), 15-8, 15-9.

All Age Men's Singles A Jean-Claude Tassy (Chesapeake) d. Paul Reed, 15-5, 15-8.

Men's Singles 24/25 C Round Robin: 1. Barton; 2. Brandon Surtshimer (Norfolk).

Men's Singles 60/65 Round Robin: 1. Phil Wheeler; 2. Lee Mayz (Staunton).

Men's Singles 25-45 Jeff Wagner (Chesapeake) d. Dennis Simpson (Hampton), 15-15, 11-11.

Men's Singles 50/55 Round Robin: 1. Roger Suberstein (Virginia Beach); 2. Jim Bailey (Norfolk).

Men's Doubles Open/A Malia Bailey (Norfolk) and Mike Young (Chesapeake) d. Greg Giordano (Smithfield) and Wagner, 10-15, 15-9, 11-4.

Men's Doubles Open/A Consolation: O. Ron Ocampo and Oscar Ocampo d. Carter Green (Virginia Beach) and Paul Beni (Virginia Beach).

Men's Singles Military 35B Dulce d. James Albrecht (Williamsburg), 10-15, 15-5, 11-10.

Men's Singles Open/Elite Young d. Wagner, 10-15, 15-8, 11-10. Consolation: Austin Basio (Fayetteville, N.C.) d. Rennie Dimeros (Virginia Beach).

Novice Singles Taylor d. Kripanos, 15-10, 9-15, 11-6. Consolation: Warren Bailey (Norfolk) d. Spencer Chan (Roanoke).