

Steffie Carruthers (SAM) Gains World Singles Ranking By June Langton

Samoa's young Tennis hopeful Steffi Carruthers has played her way into the International tennis scene with a Semi Final showing at an ITF Tennis Tournament in Columbia. The Samoan Flag has been on the board in the USA (New York) to South America (Mexico, Brazil, Colombia) since May of this year, but for the first time in South America it has been there the longest in Colombia.

Her 6-4 6-3 loss to a Hungarian player No 2 seed at the Copa Ciudad de Pereira \$10,000 USD Tournament will still earn her valuable points and money in what is a hard road to success in the fiercely competitive world of Women's Professional Tennis. Steffi entered the tournament unseeded and had to qualify by disposing a Colombia Player to play in the main draw. She was able to account for another Colombian player in the first round and outlasted her Swiss No 6 Seed opponent in the second round before taking on and defeating the Number 4 seeded American opponent in the Quarter Finals, gaining a place in the Semi Finals. Today she lost to the Netherland No 2 seed that has gone on to win the Tournament.

This is her best showing to date and the President of Samoa Tennis, June Langton says that this would be a great confidence booster to Steffi who has had her heart set on playing professional tennis since she first started playing in Samoa as a 6 year old.

Steffi has been based in the U.S. with some assistance from the family, local business's, Samoa Tennis Association, ITF and Samoan government. She is under the Coaching watch of Carlos Casely who has confidence that Steffi's well known work ethic for the sport will be rewarded. Steffi has played more than 30 matches in both singles and doubles since entering the U.S. and South American tennis circuit in May of this year and this is a high work rate for players who might usually only play 30 tournaments per year.

With Samoa Tennis slowly recovering from the effects of the Cyclone this result will provide even more encouragement to Samoa's juniors to follow in Steffi's hard working footsteps said the Tennis Association President. "We all wish her well and we know how important it is to be able to make that first step onto the International circuit and she's done it for herself, her family and Samoa so she should be very proud. It is a good breakthrough for Oceania Tennis for a first female Pacific Island Player to reach this level".

Steffi's progress on the International stage can be watched through the itf.com internet portal.