

# Les Halles Cup

*The Les Halles Cup is an annual invitational tennis tournament for city youth, open to junior boys and girls (14 years old or younger) in New York, Washington DC and Miami, where Les Halles restaurants are located. Established to inspire a love of tennis and create excitement for the sport though direct participation in a tournament event, Les Halles Cup focuses on fun and rewards to encourage and motivate young players.*

## 2006 Les Halles Cup Finals

“I loved playing on the purple court,” exclaimed Skylar Morton after her finish as the 2006 Les Halles Cup Girls Champion. Everyone enjoyed playing the site of the Sony-Ericsson Open for the Les Halles Cup Finals. Six winners from Les Halles Cup (LHC) tournaments in New York and Washington, DC gathered in Miami, Florida to coincide with tennis matches at the Junior Orange Bowl (JOB) at which each child was registered for as part of their reward.

Opening with a Davis Cup-style mixed doubles match, the US team of Skylar Morton and Clark Ruiz played a Japanese team, Mashimo Yoshinobu and his female teammate Nakui Seira from Chiba, Japan. Showing the impressive international nature of the JOB, with the best junior players competing, the event exposed the American players to overseas counterparts—and the US team prevailed, 6-3 and 6-3!



Clark Ruiz returns service on center court at Crandon Park, home of the Sony-Ericsson Open.

After the players made the most of rain delays, clouds cleared to blue skies on Sunday. Those not participating in The Junior Orange Bowl main draw met up for the Les Halles Cup Finals, which was the first official tournament to be played on the new court. The new format for the Sony-Ericsson Open has the courts freshly painted purple. First up, Clark played a tight match against his opponent, with the tie-breaker going to Mashimo. Next, Skylar played an exciting match versus Seira, which Skylar pulled out.

The tennis players celebrated with family members and coaches at Brasserie Les Halles in Coral Gables with LHC founder Philippe Lajaunie, who extended enthusiastic “congratulations” to winners from both the boys and girls draws: Jerel Pleasant (DC), Clark Ruiz III and Christian Waldron (NYC), and girls: Skylar Morton (DC), Tylah Gantt and Gabrielle Sullivan (NYC).



The Les Halles Cup finalists (LtoR): Skylar Morton, Clark Ruiz, Seira Nakui, Mashimo Yoshinobu.

The Les Halles Cup Finals offered a great experience of playing the Sony-Ericsson stadium for a preview of the professional years ahead. All of the players left Florida with a fantastic experience, new friends and great look forward to 2007 when the Les Halles Cup returns to Florida to host next year’s champions!

### The Les Halles Tennis Foundation

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*The Les Halles Tennis Foundation is a 501 (c)3 non-profit organization.*