

TENNIS

VOLLEYS

County hit by call-up

A FIXTURE clash may have lost Warwickshire girls the 14-and-under National County Cup Division One Championship.

Warwickshire's top player Hannah James was required by the LTA Academy at Bath, where she has a scholarship, to play in a national qualifying match in London instead of leading her county against Middlesex at Nottingham.

Although defending champions Warwickshire drew 3-3, they lost the match by two sets and finished runners-up in Division One to Middlesex.

Warwickshire captain Claire Williamson said: "I believe we would have beaten Middlesex if Hannah had been playing. It was a disappointing situation.

"Hannah had helped us beat Essex and Kent both by 4-2 in the other two matches and we looked set to win the championship for the second year running as we were due to play Middlesex.

Pity

"But Hannah was required by the LTA Academy to dash to London to play in a qualifying match, which she lost. It was a pity both events had been arranged at the same time."

Hannah was voted Futures Player of the Year for Warwickshire. Celia Fraser, Manisa and Anjoli Foster, Georgia Archer Clowes and Hannah Moran were among the other Warwickshire team players.

Warwickshire boys finished third in Division One at Nottingham in the same county cup event and were relegated to Division Two for next season.

David O'Leary beat Marshall Osei-Tutu 6-1, 6-1 and Elliot Barnwell defeated Chris Gardiner 6-2, 6-3 to help Warwickshire beat Essex but the team lost to Middlesex and Cheshire.

● A FREE Lawn Tennis Association event to encourage more people to play tennis has been arranged for May 20 at Solihull Tennis Club in Marsh Lane.

A club spokesman said: "The idea is to encourage people who used to play tennis to return to the game or even start playing for the first time.

"Rackets and balls are provided and the visitors can play on artificial grass courts free of charge. The junior sessions are from 5pm to 7pm and the adults from 6.30pm to 9pm."

More details are available on 744 3696.

PETE SWINGLER