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India's Sathiyam Gnanasekaran and Singapore's Isabelle Li emerged as the respective Boys' and Girls' Singles champions in the table tennis events at the Commonwealth Youth Championships in Pune, India on Thursday 15th September 2008.

In an all Indian final, Sathiyam Gnanasekaran beat compatriot, Soumyajit Ghosh, having one round earlier defeated the no.1 seed, Canada's Shen Qiang. An all Indian final in the Boys' Singles event and in the Girls' Singles it was an all Singapore final.

**Defenders**

The unusual fact being that in an era when attacking play rules the world, the contest was between two backspin players; both Isabelle Li and Zena Sim practise the art of defence.

Victory went the way of Isabelle Li in six games, her defensive style proving too secure for India's Neha Aggarwal in the semi-finals and her ability to combine a quick attack with reliable backspin play out manoeuvring Zena Sim.

**Bronze Medal**

The bronze medal in the Boys' Singles event went to Shen Qiang who overcame Australia's Robbie Frank, the latter having lost to Soumyajit Ghosh in the semi-finals whilst in an all Indian affair, Neha Aggarwal won bronze in the Girls' Singles beating Soumi Mondal in the vital play off match.

At the semi-final stage, Soumi Mondal had lost to Zena Sim.

**Men's Singles Semi-Finals**

GNANASEKARAN Sathiyam [IND] bt SHEN Qiang [CAN] 4-2 (11-9, 12-10, 10-12, 11-8, 8-11, 11-7); GHOSH Soumyajit [IND] bt FRANK Robert [AUS] 4-1 (4-11, 11-9, 14-12, 11-6, 11-4)

**Men's Singles Bronze Medal**

SHEN Qiang [CAN] bt FRANK Robert [AUS] 4-3 (5-11, 11-9, 11-7, 10-12, 11-9, 6-11, 11-7)

**Men's Singles Final**

GNANASEKARAN Sathiyam [IND] bt GHOSH Soumyajit [IND] 4-2 (11-6, 11-6, 8-11, 12-10, 7-11, 11-9)

**Women's Singles Semi-Final:**

LI Isabelle Siyun [SIN] bt AGGARWAL Neha [IND] 4-0 (11-5, 11-6, 11-6, 11-9); SIM Kai Xin Zena [SIN] bt MONDAL Soumi [IND] 4-0 (16-14, 12-10, 11-4, 11-4)

**Women's Singles -Bronze Medal Match**

MONDAL Soumi [IND] bt AGGARWAL Neha [IND] 4-3 (11-8, 10-12, 8-11, 7-11, 11-3, 11-9, 11-8)

**Women's Singles Final**

LI Isabelle Siyun [SIN] bt SIM Kai Xin Zena [SIN] 4-2 (11-6, 9-11, 11-3, 11-7, 8-11, 11-1)



Isabelle Li, the Girls' Singles winner in pune Photo By: Karl Jindrak