

## LEADER

# Young Southbank tennis champ looks to Rafa for inspiration

NIC PRICE MELBOURNE LEADER AUGUST 03, 2014 12:00AM

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Tim Karpinski has been nominated as a Leader Junior Sports Star. Pictures: Angie Basdekis

### **AT JUST four years of age, Timmy Karpinski picked up a racquet and started hitting with his tennis-mad uncle.**

The Southbank prospect made an immediate impression.

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As well as winning a swag of tournaments, Timmy collected the Victorian School Sports Award last year and is nominated for a Leader Junior Sports Star award.

Timmy said he was an all-court player who was comfortable at the net or hitting powerful shots from the baseline.

He looks up to world No. 2 Rafael Nadal, not only because of his stroke play but because of his never-say-die attitude.

"Every time I go on the court I give it my very best," Timmy said.

Mum Anna Karpinski said Timmy had type 1 diabetes, but he didn't let it affect him.

Later this year he will play tournaments in Spain and Luxembourg.

Timmy Karpinski is this week's *Melbourne Leader* Junior Sports Star nominee.

[Click here to nominate](#) a Sports Star, presented by Sportsmart.