

# Vedhalakshmi surprises Madhurika

Reels off the last three points with ease in the deciding game

## SOUTH ZONE TT

**K. KEERTHIVASAN**  
PUDUCHERRY

Tamil Nadu's Vedhalakshmi Devi pulled off a come-from-behind win over former National champion and international Madhurika Patkar (PSPB) in the women's first round of the UTT-National ranking South Zone table tennis tournament held at the Rajiv Gandhi Indoor Stadium here on Tuesday.

Representing TNTTA, the 18-year-old from Chennai troubled Madhurika on both the flanks, winning 9-11, 7-11, 11-9, 12-10, 8-11, 11-9, 11-8.

Qualifier Vedhalakshmi reeled off the last three points in the seventh and deciding game with ease as Madhurika was unable to handle the backhand push of her opponent.

"I played my natural game and I found out that she was finding it difficult to take my backhand push/block and I capitalised on it," Vedhalakshmi told *The Hindu*.

PSPB's Harmeet Desai, one of the contenders for the men's title, defeated Divyansh Srivastava of Uttar Pradesh 11-8, 11-9, 11-6, 11-7 in a second-round contest.

**Important results: Men (se-**



**The final touch:** Vedhalakshmi used her backhand push to telling effect. ■ S.S. KUMAR

**cond round):** Mandar Hardikar (Mah) bt Ali Mohammed (TS) 10-12, 11-6, 11-13, 9-11, 11-8, 11-6, 11-7; Sougata Sarkar (LIC) bt Soham Bhattacharya (Ker) 7-11, 11-6, 11-5, 11-8, 4-11, 11-5; Jubin Kumar (PSPB) bt Pankaj Vishwakarma (RSPB) 11-9, 10-12, 4-11, 9-11, 11-9, 11-4, 11-4; Sushmit Sriram (TTTA) bt Arnab Chandra (Ben) 8-11, 11-9, 11-7, 10-12, 12-10, 7-11, 12-10; Abhimanyu Mitra (IAID) bt Vidit Desai (Guj) 8-11, 11-6, 6-11, 4-11, 12-10, 11-3, 13-11; Sudhanshu Grover (Del) bt Shubham

■ After losing the first two games, Vedhalakshmi pulled level and eventually won in seven

■ The 18-year-old Chennai girl says she played her natural game

Ambre (Mah) 8-11, 9-11, 11-8, 11-7, 11-5, 11-5; Kiranjoy Pushilal (RSPB) bt Sarthak Gandhi (Har) 8-11, 11-8, 10-12, 15-13, 6-11, 11-6, 11-3; Raj Mondal (RBI) bt Utkarsh Gupta (CRSB) 11-6, 11-

13, 11-3, 8-11, 9-11, 11-6, 11-7.

**Women (first round):** Shruthi Ramkumar (TTTA) bt Lakshita Narang (Del) 8-11, 11-4, 14-12, 10-12, 12-10, 11-5; Vidya Narasimhan (CRSB) bt Kaushani Nath (RSPB) 7-11, 5-11, 11-9, 5-11, 11-7, 11-4, 11-9; Vedhalakshmi Devi (TNTTA) bt Madhurika Patkar (PSPB) 9-11, 7-11, 11-9, 12-10, 8-11, 11-9, 11-8; Chipia Frenaz (Guj) bt Harshavardhini (RBI) 11-9, 5-11, 4-11, 7-11, 11-6, 11-4, 11-6; Radhapriya Goel (AAI) bt Seraha Jacob (Ker) 11-7, 11-9, 11-8, 11-9, 11-8, 11-0.

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