



**RIISING STAR:** Emily Webley-Smith is on top form in the Czech Republic

## Teenage ace shocks top seeds

**BRAVE** Emily Webley-Smith has sent shock waves through the world of British women's tennis with two fantastic results in the Czech Republic this week, *writes Julie Riegol.*

The 18-year-old Bristol-based tennis ace, who trains at the University of Bath with Team Bath Academy coach Simon Jones, has only just recovered from major foot surgery.

But, in her return to competitive action, Webley-Smith secured two victories over players well above her in the world rankings in a top \$25,000 WTA tournament.

Travelling to the Czech Republic on her own and with a heavy cold, Webley-Smith defeated the

world No 129 and No 1 seed in the qualifying round, Lucija Krzelj, to earn a place in the main draw.

She then faced the No 2 seed in the competition, Alena Vaskova, who is ranked 127 in the world compared to Webley-Smith's ranking of 478, and notched up a comfortable 6-4, 6-0 victory.

She was due to meet Lucie Sefarova yesterday for a place in the third round.

Bathampton sports marketing consultant Don Macpherson has been helping Webley-Smith with the mental side of her game for five years and has been in contact with her this week.

"Her performances really have been inspirational," said Macpherson.

"She has beaten players 300 places above her in the rankings on their own territory.

"And this is just a few weeks after a foot operation."

Webley-Smith broke her ankle playing tennis and underwent an unsuccessful foot operation before the most recent surgery.

"An injury such as this can play havoc mentally," added Macpherson.

"She played in pain for a long time, so I needed to make her believe in the strength of her ankle again.

"We have done a lot of accelerated healing under hypnosis and I have been talking to her on the phone this week to carry on the mind coaching."