

Tennis notes on Wismilak 2005
Benny Mailili

CROSS GENERATION

Bali 12 September 2005... UPSET with the absence of reigning champion Svetlana Kuznetsova at Wismilak International Sony Ericsson WTA Tour at the Grand Hyatt Bali, tennis complex, Nusa Dua, Bali due to injury, that just started to enter the main round today (12/09).

My disappointment relates to my desire to watch a cross generation tournament like we watched on the last series of the US Open Grand Slam. Roger Federer and Andre Agassi also Kim Clijsters and Mery Pierce.

Although actually cross generation at this tournament has occurred since 2001 when the 80's generation players, from Angelique Wijaya made a breakthrough as the champion, afterwards continuing to two red bear players i.e. Svetlana Kuznetsova (2002/2004) and Elena Dementieva (2003).

When I see this drawing list, there is an opportunity in 2005 that the champion title can be won by a 70's generation player, because Lindsay Davenport is seeded first followed by Patty Schnyder seeded second.

Roger Federer and Kim Clijsters positioned as champion of the US Open Grand Slam series expands our views that 70's generation domination is coming to an end. The last four Grand Slam 2005 arenas have been dominated by the 80's generation players.

Then, the question is, could an 80's player continue the achievements of Angie Wijaya, Svetlana Kuznetsova and Elena Dementieva?

Possibly. Although the road towards championship title is difficult because the two top seeds hold high rankings as well as wealth of experience in the field.

There is a possibility that the 80's generation tennis players may become the champion. My hopes lies on the third seeded Alicia Molik ranked 14. This Australian tennis player surprised viewers when she passed to the quarter finals at the Australian grand slam early this year by beating number eight seeded Venus Williams ranked within the top 16, before she was defeated by the first seeded, Lindsay Davenport.

If her second journey goes well, these two players will definitely meet at the semi-finals. And this will become the payback for Alicia Molik.

Unfortunately this Indian rising star, third seeded Sania Mirza born 1986 has a brilliant record – third round Australia, second round Wimbledon and third round America – at the quarter finals already competed against Lindsay Davenport.

From the eight seeded, six are from the 80's generation players. Franceska Schiavone fourth seeded, Anna-Lena Groenefeld fifth seeded and Flavia Pennetta sixth seeded with Na Li seeded seventh.

Honestly I really wanted to watch the tennis players from China live, because lately their achievement in tennis has increased as a follow up of their success in winning the gold medal at the Greek Olympics. Moreover, I could also watch the 2004 Olympics gold medal champion doubles play, Li Ting/Sun Tiantian.

At this time, they have placed two of their best tennis players in the top 50 world rank players, Li Na which is most senior at WTA ranked 41 while her partner, which is



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currently the Rising Star of China, Peng Shuai at WTA ranked 33. Unfortunately, Peng Shuai has withdrawn from this tournament.

China's boast to maintain the gold medal in tennis for Olympics 2008 (as host) has started to prove themselves. Thus unsurprisingly, in the coming three years China might produce world elite players (top 10). **(Benny Mailili, tennis observer).**

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Editor's Notes :

Since its debut in 1994, the Wismilak International, part of the worldwide Sony Ericsson WTA Tour, has been held in Surabaya, Kuala Lumpur, and now Bali. Initially the event was named the "Wismilak Open", before changing it's name to the "Wismilak International" in 1996 as a reflection of the organiser's corporate expansion into the international market. The Wismilak International is still the largest tournament in the WTA's calendar in South East Asia. For more information please visit www.wismilakinternational.com

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