

Tennis Notes on Wismilak 2005
Benny Mailili

WATCHING DIRECTLY VS WATCHING ON TV

Bali, 13 September 2005... This afternoon, Bali tennis lovers and community will watch the inaugural performance of the current world number two player Lindsay Davenport – in the first round she received a bye – at Wismilak International Sony Ericsson tier III tournament in the tennis complex at Grand Hyatt complex, Nusa Dua, Bali.

It will be a world class performance although her opponent in the second round is Rika Fujiwara (JPN) currently ranked 85 is not a significant opponent, considering that this Japanese tennis player has a more brilliant record in the doubles game.

The interesting part of this is that we are able to watch the match live, previously we could only view the world class player strikes, mobility, and on court mentality from the television screen.

I am sure there will be a difference in perception and feeling when watching the speed of Lindsay Davenport's strikes on television compared to live on court. Through the television screen, the speed and power of the ball still seems slow.

For example, we can still clearly observe the service speed of 230 km/hour in front of the television screen. However, when we are directly on the field, we are unable to observe the speed clearly. Therefore, several tennis lovers prefer to watch the match on television – especially since a slow motion rerun is available.

Therefore, what kind of strokes and services are the strength of ex-world number one players. The first is the service, which can reach a speed of 215 km/hour. Another is the long crosswise *flat drive forehand* stroke, released in the *inout* position or from the *baseline* towards the opponents corner.

What will amaze us is the ball placement, well placed and nearly perfect. With a height of 1.89 m, many people tend to think that Lindsay Davenport is slow in action. That is a fact. However, she overcomes this weakness through anticipation movements. For Lindsay Davenport reading the ball direction is one of her expertise supported by her extensive experience on the tennis court.

Watching the match live always has a **“learning”** element. Therefore, let us watch the performance of Lindsay Davenport and learn from her style of play.

(BENNY MAILILI, tennis observer)



www.WismilakInternational.com

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

For media assistance please contact :

Media Center Wismilak International 2005

Tel : +62.361.778 796, Fax : +62.361.773 969

Email : wismilakmediacentre@yahoo.com