

Tennis Notes on Wismilak 2005
Benny Mailili

DAVENPORT FACES THE KILLING GIANT

Bali 13 September 2005... The “cross generation” tournament still continues as the fifth day addresses the quarter finals with tight competition at the tier III Wismilak International Sony Ericsson WTA Tour. Matches will continue to be tighter as the 80’s generation players fight for their names in the semi finals (Saturday).

Non seeded Maria Elena Camerin (1982) will try to stop former world number one Lindsay Davenport to move forward.

If only Maria Elena Camerin can block off Davenport’s services and rally through the tournament, I am sure the Centre Court match will become very intense. Remember, Maria Elena Camerin, last year (2004) at the same place did win top seeded Anastasia Myskina (French Open Champion).

Frankly speaking, I am a supporter of Lindsay Davenport. However it is not unlikely that Maria Elena Camerin can become “The Killing Giant” at Wismilak International, because during the tournament, the Italian tennis player will not give up easily, the same case with her stamina. Maria Elena has an instinct as a “Killing Giant” because her career path shows wins over top and second seeded players in every event that she participates in. Just to name a view Gisela Dulko and Karolina Sprem.

Another must watch match is between East Asian tennis player Li Na (CHN) against non seeded Alona Bondarenko from Ukraine.

From the technical quality, I see that Li Na (1982) can overcome Alona Bondarenko. Bondarenko’s win against Alicia Molik (1981) was more of luck, having in mind that Alicia Molik has just returned to the court after four months of ear infection.

And, another interesting match is the return of another East Asian representative from Japan, Akiko Nakamura (1983) who will try to stop second seeded Patty Schnyder.

In a tier III tournament in Cincinnati (July) Akiko Nakamura had faced the classical play of Patty Schnyder. Even though Nakamura had lost in the last two sets, the first set was still hers.

My hope is that the 80’s generation, particularly those from East Asia, will actually take advantage of the humidity of Bali to push players from the 70’s to work harder and sweat it out. I saw the signs that this will indeed happen. **(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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