

ORC CLUB RACKET

Interview w/ Gloria Liang

feature article on page 3



Gloria Liang is one of those special girls you don't remember meeting for the first time. She seems like she's been your friend forever, with her vibrant smile and honest soul. And now she's leaving us. By the time this interview reaches the press, Gloria will have made the train ride down to Montreal, where she

intends to train (at the NTC) and do school full-time. Gloria is a long-standing member of the Canadian National Team, a former National Champion, international contender, and has been coached by ORC's Andrea Rabzak for the past... some odd years. We'll miss you, Glo.

EDITOR'S NOTE

"I saw the best minds of my generation destroyed by madness, starving, hysterical, naked, dragging themselves through the [dark] streets at dawn looking for an angry fix."* Beat poet Allen Ginsberg wrote this in a poem he called *Howl*, describing the lifestyles of some his closest friends. Although the

quote is somewhat dated, and rather extreme, I believe it still bears *some* truth. After all, some of my dearest friends, to this day, consciously squander and take for granted their talents, as well as a genuine goodness born unto them by their kin. Don't get me wrong, I am not (cont'd page 2)

In This Issue

In this month's issue of ORC Club Racket we say our farewells to a long-standing Academy member in Ms. Gloria Liang. We also get to pick the hormone-riddled brain of Elite player Ivan Mitric, as well as gauge the identity of everyone's favorite Academy coach by his \$wag alone! January is also 'Goals' month, according to me, so we'll be paying extra attention to goal-setting, planning, and our aspirations for the new year. So until next month, I remain,

Your
Editor-in-
Chief,

Peter
Marrack @petermarrack,
petermarrack@gmail.com,
www.themarrack.com.



EDITOR'S NOTE (CONT'D FROM PAGE 1)

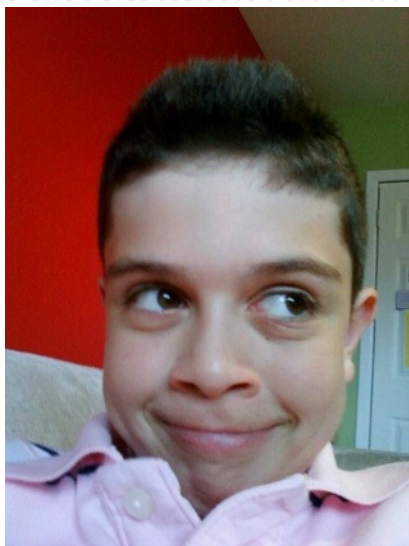
endorsing a lifestyle void of risk and/or experimentation, as that would make me a hypocrite. However, I do believe it's in our best interest to scout a straight line through what Ginsberg calls the "[dark] streets", and have something to fight for once we succumb to that inevitable madness. In other words, we need clear goals for when that "angry fix" comes a knocking, or we'll end up... dragging ourselves naked through the streets, broke and tired.

Now, I know you've heard it a million times, from parents, teachers, and coaches alike, but you really do *need* to establish goals, be able to monitor them, adjust them, and above all else, ensure that they make sense. And how can we know if our goals make sense? Well, for one, we can evaluate whether our expectations match our preparations, as well as our talents. For example, if it is my goal to graduate from the Challengers

Academy at ORC, then it would make sense for me to splurge on private lessons and register for the occasional tournament. However, if I am a Challengers player and intend on giving up the game at the end of the season, then private lessons probably aren't the most sensible route for me. Goals depend on the individual, how they approach the game, and their priorities. So, with all that in mind, what I suggest is that you brainstorm two to three goals, map them out on a sheet of paper, then review them with a parent, coach, or heck, even myself. I'd be happy to collaborate with you on your goals, and if we can't come up with something worthwhile, at least I can share with you that cold feeling of asphalt against the skin. By God is it ever a drag.

* Allen Ginsburg would roll over in his grave if he knew I was censoring him for this newsletter, but WTV, TBH.

PLAYER BLOG IVAN MITRIC'S TOP FIVE DATING TIPS



Ivan is a member of the Elite Academy, meeting five days a week from 1-4, on courts 13-17.

1. Make sure that when you are talking to your girl, that

you're not just chattering the whole time while she sits there listening. You have to be a good listener because that's what girls like. Trust me, I have experience.

2. Make sure that you have fresh new clothes on, and take a shower before your date. Also, take some gel and spike your hair up a bit. Girls dig that.

3. ALWAYS buy something for your date. For example, buy tulips and roses.

4. As soon as you see her try and compliment her like, "you look cute tonight", then wink at her.

5. If you be a good gentleman, trust me, you will be fine. Also, at the end of the date, take her home, and when you are outside her house, give her a kiss. It will take things to a whole new level.

I know, I know, it sounds like a handful, but that's the way girls are. If you follow my tips, it will be worth it.

INTERVIEW W/ GLORIA LIANG CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

You're leaving us. What are you going to miss, besides me?

Andrea and my friends, and the coaches at ORC of course, and you. [laughs] Andrea has been there for me through many rough times. She taught me so many things that I wouldn't have learned from other coaches. She understood me and went the extra mile to make sure I succeeded.

Do you remember your first session with Andrea?

Yes, I remember going in with my orange Pizza Pizza lunch box. [laughs]

Were you nervous?

Excited since I was moving on from my dad.

From your dad to Andrea. Makes sense. What did your dad think of that?

At the beginning he did not approve, but I told him that I knew Andrea was the right decision for my career.

You knew all this at what age?

Around 12. I also played at ORC when I was a little kid.

And now what awaits you in Montreal?

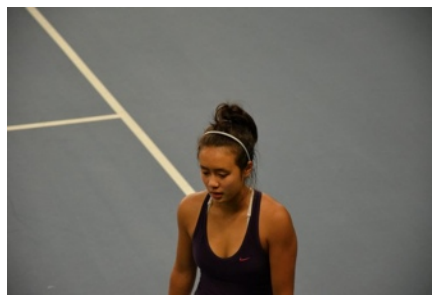
I'm going to a place where I train, study, and live. I'll be supported financially for trips and tournaments, and I'll gain a lot of experience. It's a big step. I'm both happy and sad.

You feel pressure with that?

Yes, of course, but it's a good opportunity given to those who are chosen.

Different when you begin to represent more than yourself. What are your goals for the year?

I want to be top 100 ITF and get a WTA ranking.



What about off-court, anything you strive to be better at?

My confidence. I don't think I'm confident and it affects my tennis and my life. When I'm playing a seeded player I tend to lose confidence because I play the player and not the ball. Also I get nervous when I'm doing presentations at school. My knees start to shake and I forget

everything I'm supposed to present.

Your hands shake and the paper does too and people notice and %\$#@!

[laughs] Right. But it's much better this year. I told myself to forget the script and wing the presentations, and it worked.

Stop thinking!

I think way too much.

What's on the agenda for the weekend?

This weekend?

Yes.

Getting ready for my trip to Montreal, of course! Packing and farewells. I have many of those to do.

Caffe Demetre?

[laughs] Maybe. Maybe.

More elusiveness. That's okay. Where can fans keep in touch with you?

Facebook? Email? Phone?

You want fans calling you?

"Glo, you're the best, can you come play with my daughter, I swear she's really very good..." That kind of thing?

I don't have fans!

Yet.

Okay, fine.

\$WAG \$WAG \$WAG TRIVIAL TRIVIA



Name the boys in this photo
and send your answers to
petermarrack@gmail.com.
You could be eligible for a big
prize!

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MEET THE PRO

ATTILA NAGY



What's your history at ORC, and what brings you back to us?

I worked at ORC for a short while almost a decade ago. For the past few years I went south with my family for the winters, but now that my son is in university I have to get back to reality and work year round. And what better place to do it at than ORC? I think it's the best club in the area and most of my students from the summer at Credit Valley are playing here in the winter. It's a perfect fit!

Tell us about your tennis family.

My son is on a tennis scholarship at Northwestern University, and my better half and I hit the ball around once in a while. She loves playing as well.

How would you respond to the criticism that your game resembles that of a world champion ping pong player?

I'm compared to a world champion, good enough for me.

What characteristics best describe your players?

I'm very happy with my students. They are all committed, hard working tennis players.

Which individuals do you look up to, in life and in coaching?

Not one person in particular. Anyone who is considerate and kind-hearted towards others is high on my list.

Do you still set goals for yourself?

Absolutely. Not as a player, but in other aspects of my life and in coaching, yes. You must have goals to have direction in life.

What about goals for your students? How important are they, and how do they go about setting them?

Same. You must have goals as a player. I prefer to set process goals with them. Perfecting the process will take care of the results.

Are there any overt similarities between your highway driving and your tennis game?

Yes. Fast, but safe!

Last words of advice for your followers...?

Have fun! Be happy!

Tournament Calendar

January 13-15, 2011

GBU14 National Selection #1(OTA)
GBU18 National Selection #1 (OTA)

January 20-22, 2011

GBU16 National Selection #1 (OTA)
GBU12 National Selection #1 (OTA)
GBU9&10 Mayfair Future Stars (OTA)

January 27-29, 2011

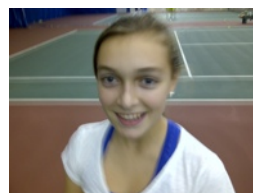
GBU14&18 ***Niagara Academy of Tennis
GBU14 National Selection #2 (OTA)
GBU18 National Selection #2 (OTA)

February 3-5, 2011

GBU16 National Selection #2 (OTA)
GBU12 National Selection #2 (OTA)

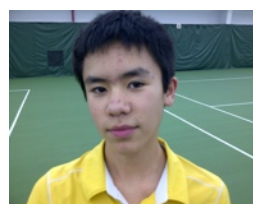
Academy Awards

PUNCTUALITY AWARD



Izzy Akdeniz from the Challengers group is never late, and always quickest out of the gates.

BEST KANGAROO JUMPS



Jake Yang-Nikodym is leaps and bounds ahead of the competition in this category.

BEST DROP SHOT



David Habashi's deft touch dates back to his ancestry in Ancient Egypt,

despite what the history books might lead you to believe.