



Niagara Tennis News

Stories, reports and ideas about Tennis in Niagara-on-the-Lake and beyond.

August 11 2012

Congratulations, Charlotte, Canadian Junior Champion!

Congratulations to Charlotte Petrick, winner of the Girls Singles title at the 2012 Under 18 Rogers Junior Nationals. The event was played at the Ontario Racquet Club in Mississauga on August 5-10. Charlotte was seeded #1 and played five rounds without loss of a set, defeating Gloria Liang of Ottawa in the final.



It was late June in 2010 when we first spotted Charlotte in Niagara-on-the-Lake. She was a wispy 13-year-old, arriving on court one with her father Frank. She pulled out a skipping rope and started her warmups. Our jaws dropped and everyone said "Wow!" We knew right away : this was something special.

Charlotte is much taller now and much stronger, with more frequent-flyer miles under her belt than most of us will accumulate in a lifetime. She's worldly far beyond her years, completely at ease in the company of professional tennis players, sponsors and organizers. Her technical understanding of tennis is approaching the top levels of the game.

Charlotte won the Canadian Under 14 Championships in the spring of 2011 and finished 4th in the Under 18 Championships a year ago. This year she has bypassed the Under 16 division altogether and was the dominant force at the Under 18s.

How special is she? The Canadian Under 18 Championships are filled with accomplished tennis players. You'd be delighted to play with any who finished in last position. They are legitimate carriers of the label "top juniors" - many of whom will win scholarships to universities in the USA and others who will go on to excellent amateur tennis careers for many years in Canada. Occasionally - very occasionally - there is one among them to whom the label "pro prospect" is attached. Charlotte is one of those. Coaches, officials, administrators, sponsors - those who have seen a lot - watch her and see a talent sufficient to be in the top-50 of world tennis.



With Alexis and Gloria, the U18 medalists

The talent is physical, but it's also mental and emotional. She's tough; she's smart; she understands. And she loves to compete ... she loves to learn ... she loves to work and to improve.

It's not easy keeping that lanky 15-year-old body free of injury and in peak condition. There are so many things that can go wrong! But that's all part of the experience as well ... learning what can go wrong, learning to protect herself, learning to deal with it. It's all part of the education when you're a professional athlete.

It's been a busy summer : an ITF on grass in Philadelphia, a WTA in Pennsylvania at which Charlotte was the "baby of the draw" and stole the show at the sponsors' dinner, a WTA in Virginia, an ITF in Vancouver winning the doubles and being finalist in singles, then a WTA in Granby playing doubles with fellow-phenom Francoise Abanda and going toe-to-toe with the #3 seeds in a night match with a packed grandstand. She watched her role model Eugenie Bouchard play her way to the finals, being Genie's chosen warmup partner for each match along the way.

So where does she stand after all that?

On the ITF Junior Rankings, she's #294 in the world. The goal by yearend is to be in the top 150, the mark that should earn Charlotte a trip to Melbourne in January for the junior events at the Australian Open. Her friend Eugenie is currently #2 in the world and the Wimbledon Junior champion, so Charlotte knows what it takes and knows it's attainable. Like Charlotte, Eugenie won the Canadian Under 18 just after turning 15. And like Eugenie, Charlotte has a hard-hitting go-get-it playing style.

Charlotte loves playing WTA events ... loves the atmosphere of being around the professional game. The pro tennis tour isn't easy for teenagers any more ... the game is too physical, the players too strong. But Charlotte has made a beginning : her first points have made her #1177 on the WTA rankings in singles, and #833 in doubles. She's on her way.



With Mom, Colleen Petrick



Congratulations, Charlotte! Well done indeed.

Thanks to Kristin Muller Photography for these beautiful shots of Charlotte in action at the 2012 Canadian U18 Championships.



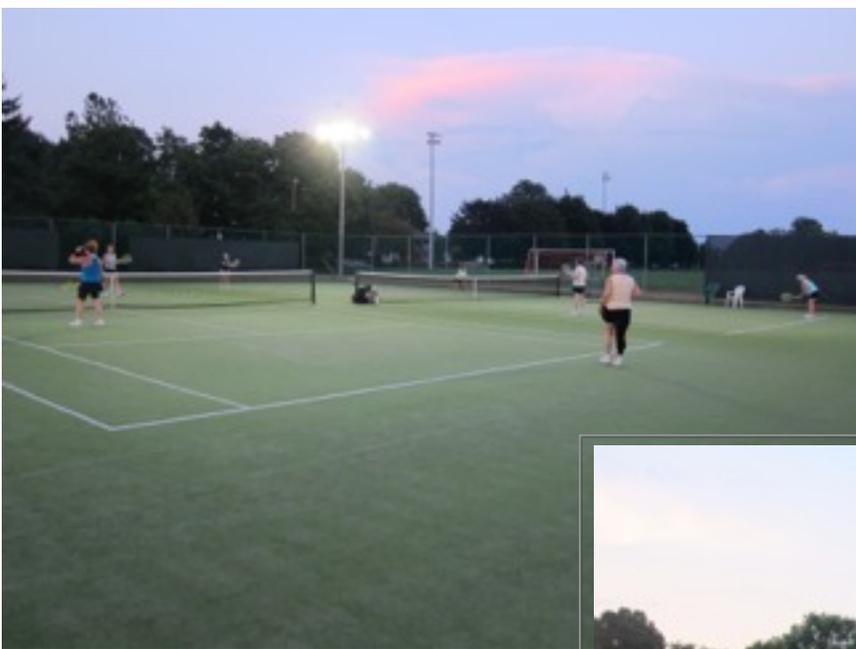
Charlotte in 2010: with Colleen chatting with Shawna; playing tourist in Prague with brother Nicolas; Women's Singles Champion of Niagara-on-the-Lake Tennis Club.

Ladies Night Potluck Party

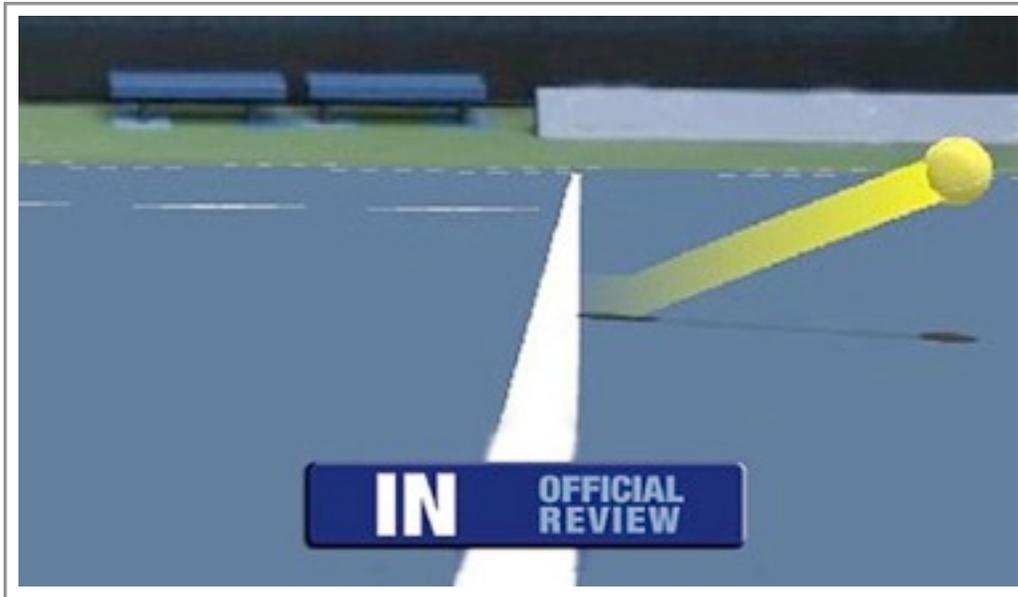
August 8th



Another wonderful Ladies Night celebration: tennis from 5:30-7:00 ... then a sudden shower and a soaking for the courts ... enjoy a bountiful dinner in the pavilion ... take to the courts again from 8:00-9:30. How fortunate are we to have these remarkable Omni courts!
And how fortunate are we to have Kay Ashwood and Liz Vinassac, here being toasted by a few of the players who took it all in (Kay is second from the left). Thank you Kay and Liz! And thank you to all the players who make this such a successful club night each and every Wednesday.



How's your Line Calling?



With tournament season on the horizon, it's a good time to review some of the rules involved in a tennis match. Here's the situation:

Your opponent's ball lands very close to the outside edge of the line ... it appears to be outside the court ... but it's oh-so-close to the line. You think it's probably Out, but you find yourself saying : "I think it might be out". What's the right call?

That's easy. The correct call is "In". Every ball is In unless you are **absolutely positively certain** it's Out. And Out means there's space visible between the line and the ball.

The Hawk-eye replay system on TV has helped us to see how often a ball that appears to be Out is actually good. If any part of a ball touches a line, the ball is good. A ball 99% out is still 100% good.

When matches are played without officials, the players are guided by the principle that any doubt must be resolved in favor of the opponent.

So be scrupulous ... it's the Code for Tennis. If in doubt, continue to play the ball and keep the rally going. It's better to win the point on a subsequent shot than to take the point on a sketchy call.



New tricks for an old dog : it was a great pleasure on Tuesday to be part of the Cardio Tennis Workshop presented by the TPA along with the Rogers Cup. Michele Krause works for the USTA and for the Tennis Industry Association, spreading the gospel to coaches around the world about how we can grow the game of tennis by being more innovative, more welcoming and more responsive to a wider audience. She traveled from Sarasota to deliver workshops in both Toronto and Montreal.

And now it's off to the Ontario Senior Games on August 14-16. Team Niagara will try to do us all proud!

Best regards,
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