

Friday 12 August, 2011

Lizette Cabrera- superstar in Europe!

Lizette Cabrera has spent the last few weeks in Europe playing in The Young Stars Tournaments, they are 5 top level events for both girls and boys, all part of the Tennis Europe Junior Tour "14 & Under" 2011. She did very well in most of the tournaments and got a chance to show off her tennis skills to the Europeans and juniors from other sides of the world.



Firstly Lizette played the BNP Paribas Cup in Stade Francois, France where she lost in the 2nd round to the girl responsible for beating the number 1 seed of the tournament. The Category 1 BNP Paribas proved to be one of the toughest 14 & Under events on the calendar.

The next stop was The Netherlands where she played in the Windmill Cup- Velp, Netherland. Again Lizette received a tough draw reaching the 3rd round. She played the number 8 seed and won the 1st set, but things got a bit shaky after that and she went down in a close 3rd setter, which she was very disappointed about. On a more positive note, she did really well with her doubles reaching the semi-finals with her partner from New Zealand, Paige Hourigan. The unseeded young pair took out the number 6 seed in round 16, then defeated the number 4 seed in the Quarter Finals. The girls reached the semi-finals but lost to the number 1 seed from Colombia in an impressive 3 sets.

Lizette returned to France from the Netherland to play in the 13/14 Hauts de Seine Tournament, which was held in Rueil-Malmaison, Paris, France. Lizette was seeded number 14 in the tournament. She cruised through the 1st round winning comfortably against a young player from Slovenia. Lizette again got a tough draw having to play the number 2 seed from Colombia in the third round. But the tables turned for Lizette as she beat her in 2 sets, 6-4, 7-5. It was then Lizette said to the mother, "I really think I can win this tournament!" Her mother advised her to focus on one match at a time as all the other seeded players were still in the tournament.

Lizette then beat the number 5 seed, Teo Gravouil from France in the Quarter Finals, winning the match in 3 sets 6-3, 4-6, 7-5. This win booked her a spot in the Semi Final, which Lizette was extremely happy with called her mother straight away to give her the good news. In the Semi-Finals, Lizette played the number 6 seed from Morocco. She played a great match and defeated her in 2 straight sets, 6-2, 6-1. To reach the Finals was a big milestone for Lizette and her whole support team was extremely proud of her. In the Final,

Lizette played the number 1 seed from China who is a very experienced tennis junior traveling to the US and Europe on a regular basis. Lizette played an impressive match, but did not defeat the number 1 seed. "It was a tough loss by Lizette, but a fantastic tournament and we're very proud of Lizette." Said her mother, Dolly Cabrera.

Lizette is the first Australian girl in 6 years to reach the final, so she deserves a big pat on the back for making it so far!

Lizette has plenty more reasons to celebrate as she qualified for a 2 year Scholarship at the NA (National Academy - Tennis Australia). To receive the scholarship, Lizette had to qualify for a few requirements. She must be ranked in the top 4 in Australia for her birth year (1997) and she is currently ranked number 4. She also had to compete in two 14/16 Nationals and Lizette played in the 14/16 December Showdown, 14 Grass Championships and 14/16 Clay Championships.

This is very exciting news for Lizette and the full Scholarship will bring some new opportunities.

Some of the benefits of the scholarship include, free training at the NA, services such as physiotherapy, sport psychology and financial funds.

Lizette's family is extremely proud of her and to receive a full scholarship is a great achievement for Lizette.

Wayne Hannah, Tennis Townsville's Head Coach has been coaching Lizette for approximately 7 years.

"Lizette is a very talented tennis player, Lizette's determination, concentration and powerful tennis have got her the recognition she deserves. She's a great ambassador for Tennis."

Lizette returned from Europe Thursday evening after several weeks of non-stop tennis, she's happy to be back home and looking forward to a mini break. But not too much of a break, as Dolly Cabrera said Lizette is already keen to get back on the tennis courts.

To contact Lizette, please call her father, Ronnie on 0422 487 280.

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Bernie Lanigan Optometrist Tennis Townsville Championships- 17 & 18 September
Ergon Energy North Queensland Junior Age Championships 25 - 27 September

For further information visit

www.tennistownsville.org

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