



CZECH TENNIS STAR

Interview with Petra Kvitová

Petra Kvitová (born 1990) entered the world of professional tennis in 2006, and since then she has won some very prestigious tournaments, including the famous Wimbledon. In 2011, she ranked as the second best female tennis player in the world.

You are almost at the top of the world tennis ranking. What do you need to do to become the queen of tennis?

I'm not sure how you decide who the queen is. I must train hard and prepare for each tournament and match. I think only about matches and tournaments and do not care about rankings. I leave that to the journalists.

How long have you been playing tennis?

Since I was a really young child. I always went with my dad and brothers to the tennis courts, and I started picking up a racket and ball. I was probably about four years old – so I can say I have been playing tennis since about that age.



Petra Kvitová is currently ranked world no. 3.

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When did you realise that you wanted to become a great tennis player – and that you could do it?

I can't really say there was a particular date or an event. My career gradually developed. With my parents and later with my Prostějov trainers I realised that I could go further and further.

Do you have a tennis role model?

It's Martina Navrátilová – she comes from the same country as I do, and she's also left-handed. It was an honour for me that she watched some of my matches and praised me. We met at the Wimbledon Hall of Fame in winter, and it was a fantastic moment and a great experience to talk with her.

How much of your success can you attribute to talent and how much to training?

PETRA KVITOVÁ'S MOST IMPORTANT VICTORIES

Wimbledon (2011) London – the most famous tennis championship in the world (Kvitová).

Fed Cup (2011) Moscow – long-term competition of female teams (Kvitová, Šafářová, Hradecká, Peschkeová)

WTA Tour Championships (2011) Istanbul – female tennis tournament (Kvitová)

Hopman Cup (2012) – mixed team tournament (Kvitová, Berdych)

One cannot do without the other. You cannot achieve great success only with talent or only with training. Both are necessary.

Do you think of tennis as a job or entertainment?

It's a job for me, seven days a week, three hundred days a year. But of course I enjoy it, otherwise I wouldn't be able to do it.

How much do you value education? You earn millions of dollars, so you are secured for

the rest of your life. Yet you decided to finish secondary school (gymnázium Mikuláše Koperníka in Bílovec).

Education is definitely important – not just the language skills but also to know a bit about different subjects. One should have good general knowledge. I don't want to go to Rome and only know where the tennis court is.

You travel around the globe; you meet all kinds of people with different opinions, religions and nationalities. Do you behave like a European or do you adjust to their culture?

I deal with them the way I was brought up, so I guess as a European. The world is being globalised and we rarely visit places which would be untouched by mixes of various cultures.

Are you cosmopolitan, not caring where you play and live, or are you a patriot?

I'm definitely a patriot! It's wonderful when you win the Fed Cup and listen to the Czech national anthem.

Jakub Turek (CR)

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Petra Kvitová is on Facebook. She posts in both Czech and English.
<http://www.facebook.com/petrakvitovaofficial>