

## Partner From Hell

Written By Yvonne Profit – April 13, 2010



Mary and Elizabeth were seeded for the 14s girls' doubles and this would be their first match in the quarterfinals. One of the girls was really nice. Her partner on the other hand was a lot less to be desired. The girls were warming up and Elizabeth was coaching Mary on what to do. Elizabeth had already won two matches and this was her third match of the day. Mary and Elizabeth have been playing doubles together for awhile. Mary is too young to play in the 18s. I don't want her to sustain injury to her wrist. Therefore, the girls played 14s doubles together and were seeded #1. I suspect they were seeded so high because Elizabeth has met with some success in the 18s, because she hasn't played the 14s in quite some time.

The girls were warming up at the net and it seemed to go pretty well. Shortly, the match was ready to begin. This girl wore a t-shirt from Bolleterri so I assumed she had probably attended his academy which is actually owned by IMG. As I observed this girl, she seemed somewhat intense. You know, like I'm going to kick your butt intense. She had no intentions of losing this match.

The girls were ready to start, and I moved to seating on the other side of the court. As I observed, Mary hit the ball and the girl returned it straight for Elizabeth's head. Elizabeth literally had to take the racquet to deflect it from hitting her. Elizabeth looked at Mary and then me with such a look that I knew she was saying. "What the heck, this girl is a lunatic!" The next ball was played and it was a reincarnation of the last point. Elizabeth displayed this same piercing look that this girl was a lunatic and at this moment it had definitely been confirmed. Mary and Elizabeth won the first game then the second game and the third game to the sheer outrage of this player. She became so incensed, I heard her shout, at her father who immediately left courtside. It sounded from my vantage point that the girl shouted, "Leave and get me a water!" Mary and Elizabeth confirmed later, the girl actually said, "Get

the f\_\_ out of here!" I was like, "You mean to tell me that's what she told her father?" Wow, if you all should ever have the notion to treat me with such ill respect, I will definitely knock both of you out! The man scurried away and stayed away throughout the entire match! It ain't that kind of day! This girl needs hang with us for a couple of days. She would be tamed. Unbelievable.

As the match continued, Mary won a point against her to her utter disdain. However, she fixed her eyes on me with utter contempt. I knew she wasn't looking at me. She ain't that crazy. I looked behind me to see what was infuriating her so. Her partner tried to calm this girl to no avail. The girl shouted, "Get away from there!" She was referring to the ladies that were observing the match behind me. She did not want them standing there, and let them know under no uncertain terms to move, and move now. Those two ladies literally ran away. Her partner apologized on the court for her partner's behavior. I have to agree with Elizabeth this girl is a lunatic! The girls continued to play and she became so incense, she slammed her racquet on the court several times. I saw a father at this point walk away. This must have been the good girl's father, because the other father had left under orders of his daughter, unbelievable. It was quite obvious this other father was appalled by his daughter's partner's behavior. She was like the player from hell!

The good girl was trying her best to calm her down. She would go to her and offer her the high five, this didn't work either, the girl stormed away in a hissy fit. As the girl continued to act as though she was possessed, Elizabeth continued to give me these looks like this girl is a nut case. Finally, this match was over with a score of 6-3, 6-1. Thank God Elizabeth was able to leave the court with her head still intact. The only positive that I could see that came out of this is that I had the opportunity to meet Tanya, Kelly's (the good girl) mom who is a wonderful person. She felt compelled to walk over to where I was sitting and instantaneously apologized for her daughter's partner's horrific behavior. I told her there was no need for her to do so. She is not responsible for what someone else's child does on the court, only her own. It was regretful to see this girl act in such a manner, but it did not reflect the least bit on her child. I could see what kind of person Kelly was by her actions on the court, and I commended her for a job well done on raising such a wonderful child. While Tanya and I were talking we observed her daughter's partner picking up pieces of her shattered tennis racquet from the court. Her father had now returned and humbly inquired, "Is the racquet okay?" I'm sure if that racquet could talk, it would say a mouth full. It would start off with, "Hell no!"