



Bianca Andreescu

the Mississauga teen tennis triumph makes history at Indian Wells

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Like many teens who have just won an important game, 18-year-old Bianca Andreescu, along with her coach went out to celebrate with a burger. Only this Mississauga teen had just made history (in March) by becoming the first wild-card entry - and the first Canadian - to win a Women's Tennis Association (WTA) Premier tournament (the BNP Paribas Open in Indian Wells, California) in a dramatic upset over three-time Grand Slam winner Angelique Kerber.

Bianca is also the youngest player to win the final at Indian Wells since Serena Williams did it in 1999. It's Bianca's first WTA title. Yet at one point in the match, was looking like it wasn't going to happen.

Fighting severe fatigue, burning feet and cramping in the gruelling third and deciding set, Bianca called on her coach, Sylvain Bruneau, for advice. In a life-changing moment Bruneau found the magic words to inspire Bianca to push on to victory.

"Bruneau reminded Andreescu of her mental and



physical toughness, imploring her to push through,” states a Tennis Canada article. “Andreescu responded to her coach with five powerful words. ‘I want this so bad!’”

With renewed energy, Bianca stood up, returned to the court, and surged toward victory. In the same Tennis Canada interview she gave full credit to Bruneau, saying their courtside meeting gave her chills; “That moment was everything to me,” says Bianca. “At that point, it was like mind over matter. That’s what helped me win. He said no matter what the score is you can turn it around.”

Singles tennis is tough. The technical difference between a player ranked number 20 and number 200

is often miniscule. It’s the mental game – the ability to focus consistently - in spite of it all – that makes the difference.

The young Canadian tennis player has certainly claimed the attention of fans and the tennis world with this, her fifth win over a top 20 opponent since January, and her climb from 60th place to being ranked 24th in the world after the title victory. It’s a meteoric achievement considering that last December, she was ranked 152nd in the world. In fact, she had so many interview requests the day after her big win that Tennis Canada arranged a multi-media conference call with Bianca and Canadian journalists (including GoodLife).



“To be honest it hasn’t sunk in yet,” said Bianca, who was on the phone from Miami where she was soon to play in her next tournament. Her parents were meeting her in Miami and had watched her epic win on TV in their hotel room. “It was so great to see my parents who have been with me since day one of this journey.” The outpouring of congratulatory phone calls from around the globe was unreal. I have received so many great messages from politicians and tennis champs, but a few that really stand out for me are the messages from Rod Laver, Billie Jean King and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.”

Asked by one journalist how she plans to overcome

fatigue and cramping in matches, Bianca answered; “I’ve never been in the finals at such a high level, premier event and my emotions and tensions were higher than usual. Tennis Canada has a great group of doctors and they will be running some tests and working with me to try to get stronger in body, nutrition and mind.”

Bianca was born in Mississauga; the daughter of Nicu and Maria Andreescu, who immigrated to Canada from Romania. Her family moved back to Romania a few years later and Bianca started playing tennis at age seven in Pitesti. Her family soon returned to Canada and Bianca trained at the Ontario Racquet Club in Mississauga. She was 11-years-old when she joined Tennis Canada’s National Training Camp in Toronto.

“At an event after the 2016 Rogers Cup, Simona Halep and I were riding together in a car to the event and I asked her for some advice,” says Bianca. “She encouraged me to stop playing juniors and to turn professional.” She would a year later, but first she had to deal with injuries.

In 2016, Bianca was forced to take six months off from tennis due to recurring injuries including her right ankle and a stress fracture in her foot. She returned to tennis and played several tournaments, including a junior Grand Slam, where she reached the semi-finals in singles and the quarterfinals in doubles. At the Australian Open junior event in 2017, Bianca advanced to the semi-finals in singles and won the doubles title with Carson Branstine. At the junior French Open, she reached the quarterfinals in singles and earned her second straight Slam doubles titles with partner Carson Branstine. Then she earned her first win on the WTA Tour, upsetting the world’s number 13th ranked player Kristina Mladenovic, becoming the first player born in the 2000s to beat a player ranked in the top 20 in the world.

Fast forward to 2019 at the ASB Classic in Auckland, where Andreescu defeated the first seed, Caroline Wozniacki, the sixth seed, Venus Williams and third seed, Hsieh Su-wei. She was the runner-up to defending champ and second seed Julia Gorges. In Newport Beach in January of this year, she won her first WTA title.

Bianca will play in The Rogers Cup at the Aviva Centre in North York in August.

“One of the biggest things I have learned about myself is that if your body is wearing out, you can push through fatigue with your mind,” states Bianca. “I have learned that I am really capable of keeping up with the big players. I don’t feel so star struck anymore and I am not focusing so much on who is on the other side of the court, and instead am focusing on myself and winning.” 🎾