

SEPTI MENDE STUMBLES IN THE QUALIFYING FIRST ROUND

Bali, 12 September 2005... Septi Mende was beaten yet again, by Chinese player Zi Yan with a score of 1-6, 2-6. While playing, Zi Yan was able to control her play rhythm. On 13.15 WITA, balls started to flit. Septi reached a score of 1-0. Then Zi Yan caught up with a score of 1-1. Unfortunately, Septi was unable to exhibit accurate play. She practiced returning long and expanding strokes. Several times, Septi was unable to reach the ball. She could not move and was locked until the first game ended 1-6, with Zi Yan's victory. The second round was similar, the battle only occurred during the first rounds. At the score 2-2, Septi seemed overwhelmed with Zi Yan's succinct style in directing balls in her opponents court. Septi's effort in the second match was obvious, however Zi Yan was more superior and finally Septi gave in at score 2-6. This concluded Indonesia's hope to see one of their player advance in the tournament. Three host players each Ayu Fani Damayanti, Denise Harijanto and Septi Mende become a tourist in the Island of Gods.

The first match continuing the new qualifying initiated at 15.00 WITA. Martina Muller (GER) played against Sophie Ferguson (AUS) with a score of 4-6, 6-1, 6-3. two Japanese players, Ryoko Fuda lost from Tomoko Yonemura with the score 3-6, 6-7, 1-7. Chinese player Tiantian Sun beat Maria Jose Argeri (ARG) with a score of 7-5, 2-6 and 6-2. Zi Yan (CHN) won from Chinese player Ting Li with the score 4-6, 6-4 and 6-1. While Rika Fujiwara (JPN) beat Natalie Grandin (RSA) with 6-4, 2-6 and 7-6.

Main Draw

Na Li (CHN) won a straight set against Nuria Llagostera Vives with 6-3, 6-1. Francesca Schiavone (ITA) beat Jamea Jackson (USA) with the score 6-4, 3-6, 6-4. Maria Elena Camerin (ITA) won against Marta Domachowska (POL) with the score of 6-2, 3-6, 6-4. While Alona Bondarenko (UKR) beat Yoon Jeong Cho (KOR) in a straight set with the score 6-4, 6-4.

What are Wynne Prakusya's Chances?

The absence of Angelique Widjaja made Wismilak International Sony Ericsson WTA Tour 2005 arena seemingly loose its spirit. The appearance of Wynne Prakusya to replace Angelique Widjaja has not quite attracted crowds yet. The only young tennis player Ayu Fani Damayanti that could have been a main attraction was defeated yesterday at 4-6, 1-6 from Chinese tennis player Ting Li. The attention was then placed on other young tennis players such as Septi Mende who reached the Qualifying rounds. Unfortunately, like a broken dream, their hopes were disappointed.

Wynne Prakusya, the only hope for tennis lovers in the host country, during drawing yesterday was rescued because in the first main draw tomorrow, she will play against one of the qualifying round winner, Zi Yan. Those who passed the qualifying round had were qualified players, equal to those who directly entered the main draw. Several among them even exhibited quality of a future champion. Wynne herself had not played for 9 months in WTA calendar tournament, due to injury. Is Wynne Prakusya prepared to display an unforgettable match in history ?

Indonesian players level is not equal compared to other Asian players, moreover European, Australian, and American players. Asian players are young, especially those from China and Japan, they always display “a strong competitive spirit”. When in the match, their movements are quick and dynamic and with their minds set strategies. They can be physically worn out, but their minds keep active. The hot sun can influence a tennis player's stamina. A professional tennis player must have experience, master the technique and an unrelenting spirit. They must always be on their feet and able to anticipate the opponents move. They must be able to make quick decisions i.e. To return the ball. What is the direction and the amount of strength for each stroke. Even at a difficult angle, they should be able to return the ball accurately. The ball must not be too wide or too far.

Based on observation on the court, our tennis players tend to be lack physical stamina. When exhausted, they fail to think. They tend to trust on their instincts. The ball should be directed to the right, immediately the legs chase, hit and return the ball. Unfortunately, often the ball is misdirected. Wide and too far behind. When returning a high ball, they tend to smash but mostly it gets caught in the net. Those are some minor but fatal differences. Hopefully, Wynne Prakusya will give a good effort in the center court and achieve success in Wismilak International – Bali 2005.

– Media Room –
(~Mulyadi Putra~)

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Editor's Notes :

Since its debut in 1994, the Wismilak International, part of the worldwide Sony Ericsson WTA Tour, has been held in Surabaya, Kuala Lumpur, and now Bali. Initially the event was named the “Wismilak Open”, before changing its name to the “Wismilak International” in 1996 as a reflection of the organiser's corporate expansion into the international market. The Wismilak International is still the largest tournament in the WTA's calendar in South East Asia. For more information please visit www.wismilakinternational.com

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