

PLAYING 'CIRCUS' AT CLUB MED BALI

Bali, 13 September 2005... This afternoon, ten minutes before 11.00 WITA, **Francesca Schiavone, Patty Schnyder, Kim Kilsdonk, and Karolina Sprem** arrived at **Club Med Bali** in Nusa Dua. Groups Coordinator/Public Relations Club Med Bali, **Andrea Ellison**, ushered the four players to 'enjoy' the *Circus Lessons*, located in Nusa Dua. At this arena, you can enjoy various activities including *flying trapeze* and *bungee bounce*. These are just two activities from the total of 25 others that are available at Club Med. Two instructors, **Daniel** and **Claire**, provided guidance on operating the flying trapeze. Each tennis player wore a special belt tied to an elastic safety harness. Claire demonstrated this circus action on a single trapeze. Both hands hung from the trapeze (similar to a swing), and with one swing, her legs were lifted into the air and her knees were 'attached' to the trapeze. She then let go of her grip, thus her head and arms hanging in the air. Everyone applauded spontaneously.

There are no special skills required to becoming a trapeze 'circus player'. Agility, courage and strong hands and legs are all that are needed. One instruction from Claire was sufficient for everyone to comprehend the method. Kim seemed intrigued and enthusiastic to be the first one to sample the single trapeze. One by one the tennis players practiced the single trapeze, except for Karolina. *"I would like to try the other (activities), but not this one (flying trapeze),"* claims Karolina, admitting her worries of being over exhausted or injured.

After deemed skilled enough at the single trapeze, Daniel assisted Patty, Kim, and Francesca to the flying trapeze, which actually was quite high (approximately 7 meters) and looked challenging! Again, Kim became the first person to actually try the trapeze. She climbed the stairs. On the top, there was a wooden plank to stand on. Kim stood there together with Claire, whom immediately helped her put on the safety harness.

As soon as Kim got hold of the trapeze, Claire pushed Kim's body so as to swing similar like a true circus trapeze player. But when Kim tried to lift her legs, she failed, and eventually just swung and dropped herself on the safety net. *"Both my hands were gripping too tightly, so when I raised my legs, I had a hard time attaching them to the trapeze,"* says Kim, still unwilling to give up, then she repeatedly attempted the trapeze, until 5 times!

It was then Francescas' turn to climb the ladder, she seemed to shudder. *"O God, it looks really high! I am so scared!"* she screamed. Although shuddering, Francesca successfully became a 'circus player!' The same scenario happened with Patty. An amusing thing happened when Daniel held the safety harness and shouted, *"When I say hip 'hip!' You drop yourself on the safety net, ok!"* But what actually happened was when Daniel shouted, 'tomato!' or 'potato!' the tennis players automatically dropped themselves on the safety net. Everyone had a hearty laugh.

Afterwards, Francesca, Patty, and Kim tried the bungee bounce. Using a special belt linked to an elastic rope on each side of their bodies. Claire then pushed a button, that made the tennis players airborne and 'float' around one meter from the trampoline ramp. They could jump around. Patty and Francesca did not just jump, they successfully made three summersaults! *"Mamma mia...!"* claims Francesca, while Patty seemed more calm and confident. *"I am used to playing bungee,"* says Patty, with a smile.

After bungee bounce, the three tennis players again tried the flying trapeze. This time they did a double action where one instructor, **Goy**, hung at another trapeze with his



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hands ready to catch the ladies hands doing the trapeze. Wow, what a really exciting and exhilarating circus action! After completing the circus action, Daniel distributed a 'Flying Trapeze' certificate for the three tennis players as a sign of 'graduation'.

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 it's 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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