

Wilson Featured Player - Nicole Coopersmith

Written by Pamela DeLoatch



Tennis Princess

Nicole Coopersmith is pretty close to tennis royalty. Her mother played in the WTA and for Croatia's Fed Cup, and her father, a seasoned tennis coach, has trained pros like Jelena Jankovic and Jamea Jackson.

As a young girl, Nicole got to travel with them on tour, and meet many famous players. So it's no surprise that Nicole plays tennis as well, and is currently ranked sixth in the Southern Division of Girls 12s.

"I love traveling to new places and meeting new players and people. I love playing in the big tournaments," the Arkansas resident confesses. "I want to play pro tennis, and this is what I train for."

Age : (Rank G12s)

State : AR

Dist. Rank : N/A

Sectl Rank : 6

Natl Rank : 70

"I practice twice a day for five days, and Saturday morning," she says. She has worked with a weight coach to develop a strengthening routine, and she works on footwork and fitness training.

Nicole trains at the Pine Bluff Country Club, where her father is the tennis director. Right now, she is taking time off from tournaments to strengthen her game so she'll be ready to play ITF tournaments. Eventually, she'll go to Europe to train and play European junior tournaments.

Nicole says

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Nicole was born in Germany, and her grandparents live in Croatia. One of Nicole's favorite places to go is the Tennis Club Split in Croatia because many world-class players and top juniors gather there, she says.

With her European sophistication, Nicole can sometimes sound mature beyond her years, but at other times, she's still just a kid who likes to make duct tape wallets and purses. A tough kid, though. Just a few weeks ago, Nicole took a bad fall and had a deep cut in her knee, requiring stitches.

"My dad said they put me to sleep to stitch it all up," she says. "Luckily, I only had to stop for ten days. I took the stitches out myself with tweezers and scissors."

For Nicole, tennis is a family affair, from her dad who coaches her, to her mom who hits balls with her, to her little brother who picks up balls and cheers for her.

Coopersmith's Favorites

Favorite Book: Harry Potter

Favorite players: Rafael Nadal and Kim Clijsters

Favorite pre-match meal: Cereal

Favorite post match snack: Ice Cream if Dad allows but usually Turkey or Chicken