

Las Vegas Welcomes Visiting Top German Coach Marcus Schneider!

Top level junior and pro tennis coaches are in a class onto themselves. They are sources of information and strategic insight that work tirelessly at their skills, looking for every possible way to excel at what they are doing. I have been fortunate to come across such a coach who is visiting us from Germany who is undeniably one of the prominent coaches for the past two decades.

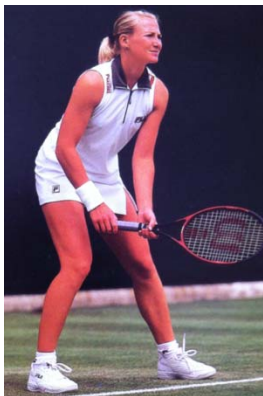
Marcus Schneider is a native and citizen of Germany with over 25 years of WTA and ITF coaching experience and is one of the small percentage of coaches who has risen to the very top of our industry. Numerous highly successful junior and professional tennis players credit their success to Marcus' unique and highly qualified coaching style and he has coached his players in major grand slam events including Wimbledon, US Open, and French Open.

“I have been fortunate to work with the players that I have. It is all about the players who have given me such great opportunities and the one thing that I expect above all is that a player has to be willing show sincere work ethic in order to be the best. It's a requirement that I am uncompromising on.”

– Marcus Schneider



Player Successes



Marcus began his coaching career with young German player Andrea Glass when she was just 12 years old. In 1991, Andrea won the prestigious Orange Bowl tournament. By the year 1999 he further developed Andrea into the world #57 WTA singles player and career high in doubles # 85 (2000). Glass career highlights include reaching the third round of the Australian Open, where she lost to Anna Kournikova former #8 in the world. Glass also won the German Tennis Championship in both singles and doubles, partnering Barbara Rittner, in 1997. She played for Germany in the Fed Cup from 1998 to 2001.

*“I credit Marcus with much of my success as my long time coach and good friend”
said Glass.*

From early years as a junior through his professional career (1998-2003) he was the coach for Maximilian Abel a professional tennis player from Germany who reached a career high ranking of #183 in the world (2003). Abel was runner-up to Andy Roddick at the 1999 Orange Bowl, in the 18 and under category. En route to the final he had wins over top ranked players Feliciano López and Mardy Fish. Abel reached the final of the Campos do Jordão Challenger tournament in 2002, and played in the main draw of the 2003 US Open. In 2003 he advanced to the second round of the Dubai Tennis Championships, where he lost to Roger Federer, and the MercedesCup, where he defeated Antony Dupuis before being eliminated by Rainer Schüttler.



“Marcus is more than just a great coach to me- he is a mentor and someone who believes and encourages me to fight every day I step out onto the court” said Lisjak. Ironically, she has an elaborate tattoo on the back of her right forearm that says "Fighter"!

Since 2010 he has been the primary coach of Croatian female, and local Las Vegas resident, WTA player Ivana Lisjak. Ivana is currently ranked #392 and had a career high ranking of #95 (2006). Lisjak career highlights include reaching the third round of the 2005 U.S. Open and the third round of the 2006 French Open, where she lost to former World No. 1 Martina Hingis of Switzerland.

“Rafael Nadal is my favorite player and my idol. My personal coach Marcus also inspires and pushes me to want to achieve great things” said Mazen.



In 2012 he became the primary coach for 17 year old Mazen Osama from Egypt. Some of you may have recently had the opportunity to observe Mazan while he was hitting at the No Quit and Darling Tennis academy here in Las Vegas. Mazen became #1 junior player in Egypt and under his development improved his ranking on the ATP Men's tour from #1502 to #536 (2013). Mazan plays for Egypt on the Davis Cup team and has competed in the Junior Wimbledon, French Open (Roland Garros), and Australian Open.

He has also worked with Slovakian player Kristina Kucova who was #3 in the world as a junior and who is currently WTA ranked #147 with a career high ranking of #103 (2009).



Career highlights include champion of the 2007 US Open – Girls' Junior Singles- the unseeded Kucova took the title, defeating thirteenth seed Julia Glushko in the third round, top seed and defending champion Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova in the quarterfinals, and number two seed Urszula Radwańska in the final. In addition to this, Kucova reached the 2007 Wimbledon Championships and 2007 French Open girls' doubles quarterfinals.

Marcus coached Wayne Odesnik currently ranked #138 and a career high ranking of #77 (2009) during and for the month prior to the 2012 Indian Wells Tournament. Among his biggest upsets were a 2007 win over Ivan Ljubicic, and a 2009 win against Igor Kunitsyn. Odesnik won his first Futures title in 2003, and has won a combined 14 singles titles in Challenger and Future ITF Men's Circuit events. Odesnik has competed in the main draw of numerous Grand Slam events including Australian Open, French Open, Wimbledon, and US Open. In 2012, he made it to the second round of the main draw where he split sets but was ultimately defeated by Stanislas Wawrinka.



“Marcus is a remarkable coach and I appreciate the things he did to significantly improve my game. We achieved great success together in making it to the 2nd round in the 2012 Indian Wells tournament” said Odesnik

In 2013 he also worked extensively with Swiss WTA player Conny Perrin currently ranked #410 and a career high singles ranking of #257 (2011) and in 2013 peaked at world number #159 in the doubles rankings. Perrin has won five singles and eight doubles titles on the ITF tour in her career.

Further WTA tour players that Marcus has coached include Jenny Hopkins (Dent) #52, Carmen Klaschka #167, Yulia Beygelzimer #83, and Marta Marrero #47.

Tennis Philosophy

Marcus was exposed to the German tennis scene as a young tennis player who had some moderate successes having won local tournaments in his home town of Frankfurt. "I've always known from the beginning I was a much better coach than a player" said Marcus. Much of the knowledge he gained is credited to his tennis coach and mentor Mr. Larry Cooper, an American working in Germany. Mr. Cooper's philosophy and style influenced him in profound ways and helped shape his personal philosophy of playing and coaching the game of tennis. He has taken all of what he's learned over the past three decades of playing, and then coaching at his own tennis school in Germany and abroad, to develop a style of coaching and mentoring that has had proven results.

"Every player can learn to play at a high level if they are taught the right way. If the player gives the commitment then only the coaching is the difference."

Having the right coach is mission critical to any tennis player's success. Marcus believes every player can learn to play at a high level if they are taught the right way. If the player gives the commitment then only the coaching is the difference. In his 25 years of training professional and junior athletes he often sees variations of the same problem. The primary issue is often a combination of footwork and fitness which allows (or prevents) the player to move well to the ball and get in the correct position. He can't say enough how important it is for players to be in correct position to hit the ball in the strike-zone. After developing this basic skill, players then work on technique and learn to execute all the shots properly. The next goal is the ability to repeat each shot consistently within a game style that is appropriate for the player. This is the only way to create confidence. He believes in practicing hard for quality instead of quantity. "More" is actually "less" in the game of tennis. It is better for example to practice drills correctly in a hard way for 1.5 to 2 hours then to work with less attention for 4 hours continuously. The extra time should then be spending in the gym doing proper exercises to improve the player's fitness and movement. It is also important that any conditioning program be designed to fit the player's age and body type. In the modern professional game you will see it is not only the player's skill but now the athlete's physical condition which makes the difference. He also focuses on the importance of mental toughness. Players need to be mentally strong to compete well and there are many ways a player can become mentally strong.