



[FEATURE]

GAME, SET AND MATCH

JOSEPHINE STEVENS meets Kerry Feirman, 34, from Westwood Los Angeles, to talk about her passion for tennis and her charity work with CARE Rescue LA



Los Angeles resident Kerry Feirman seemed destined to be a tennis star from a young age. When she was just 10 years old she was playing in the up to 12's division and winning, and when she was 12 she was coming out top again in the up to 15's division. She played the sport competitively her whole life and into her first year at UCSB which is a division 1 school.

"Tennis is, to me, the most incredible sport out there, just look at the range of people who play the sport. Tennis is so versatile, it's played everywhere in the world and it is one of the only sports that can be played forever. From kids, to teenagers, to adults, to senior citizens... people of all ages can play!"

Her love for tennis was put on a back burner for a while during her college years, where the lure of the complete 'college experience' was too tempting to resist. "At that young age I just didn't have my 'head in the game'," she says. "Your social life is

tournaments again, following the sport, and that's what led me in to what I do now. My ship had sailed in regards to going pro, so now I still live the passion via writing and talking about tennis."

Nowadays Kerry works in tennis journalism, hosting and vlogging. She also has her own tennis outlet via YouTube where many avid followers check out her videos on a regular basis. "It's a small community, so over the three years that I have been writing, producing, and hosting the show and creating content I have become well known in the

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with the people on your team, and that's it for the most part. So, instead of continuing with tennis I joined Delta Gamma sorority." Being so committed to the sport can also take up a lot of time. "A college sport is a full time job basically – you wake up in the morning and work out, practice in the afternoon, have mandatory study hours at night, travel to compete, and so on and so on."

It meant that she didn't pick up a racquet for several years, but ultimately, the game lured her back. "I really missed the sport, so after all those years I got back into playing recreationally, going to

KERRY'S TOP TENNIS TIPS

I always recommend starting off by getting a lesson from a pro if you are just starting out in the sport. If you can afford regular lessons for a while, even better. But at least start with one. Tennis is so technical that it is important to learn the proper strokes, the way to hold the racquet, way to move – otherwise you can end up really inhibiting your progress, or even worse injured.

Practice practice practice! Get out on the court as much as possible.

Even hitting against a ball machine. Join local leagues. Jump in to local group classes. These things are also great for meeting new people to play tennis with, or even a great way to just make new friends. The tennis community is generally a really warm and welcoming community.

Have fun! Nothing is worth doing unless you enjoy doing it. So although even at amateur levels things can get really competitive, don't ever forget to have fun. If you're not having fun, then you're not doing something right.



FOCUS ON Louise & Eleanor

“A childhood friend of mine – who I used to have epic tennis battles with and against when I was younger, lives in Miami and has created an absolutely spectacular purse and tennis racquet bag line called Louise & Eleanor. Her line is stunningly beautiful, and the explosion of popularity of the bags has been incredible! While in Miami one of the stories I am honored to be able to cover is about this admirable, driven, successful woman – Megan Tierney – and her company. Being that she has been a friend for going on 20 years now, to have our lives come full circle like this is really touching. She’s always been one of my biggest supporters, and I of her. And now here we are able to share our hard work with each other. It’s crazy and magical how the world works sometimes.”
www.louiseandeleonor.com



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community.” This means that she frequently is hired to either create content for Tennis establishments such as TennisIdentity.com Magazine, YTEX Strings, Tennis Warehouse and Cliff Drysdale’s Association, or she is contracted to cover events and tournaments. Last month she covered “Taste of Tennis” and “Tennis With The Stars.”

“Jonathan Waxman was the featured chef at the “Taste of Tennis” event, which was held at the Hyatt in Indian Wells. It was an absolute pleasure getting to interview such a talent. Some of the players I interviewed include Taylor Fritz, Sam Querrey, Taylor Townsend, Johanna Konta, Sam Groth, and Svetlana Kuznetsova. The event featured the food from so many incredible chefs, and several of the players got involved with helping the chefs make their dishes for the guests to try.”

“The featured players at this year’s “Tennis With The Stars” were Eugenie Bouchard, Madison Keys, Taylor Fritz, and Frances Tiafoe. The event benefits the wonderful Ace’ing Autism Foundation – Connecting kids through Tennis.”

Kerry also recently covered a few events surrounding the Miami Open, and this month she will also head to Chicago, where women’s tennis player Sloane Stephens Coach, Kamau Murray, founded the XS Tennis And Education Foundation. “The XS Tennis and Education Foundation’s Mission is to provide Chicago’s underprivileged youth with a safe-haven and positive academic/athletic pathway to college through a community-

based sports and academic enrichment program. Right now they are building a really amazing new facility that I will head out there to check out, and sit down with Kamau to discuss the facility and the program.”

Her work – which Kerry is extremely passionate about, allows her to both travel around for events and tournaments plus be in the studio in Los Angeles at times, creating content. So how is she so successful? Her regular show, “Talk Tennis” covers various tennis related topics, and stands out because it has a strong un-filtered, and comedic tone.

“Tennis tends to be so buttoned up and conservative, and quite honestly it’s time to shake things up a bit,” she says. “Sure let’s talk about the matches, and player statistics. But let’s get more in to the nitty gritty about the players as people as well, ask some of the questions people are too tentative to ask, touch on some of the gossip that may be floating around, un-button that shirt and loosen that tie a bit! These days, people want to know more than just the score. With Talk Tennis I try to achieve that for the viewer in a fun, upbeat, funny, easy to follow kind of way so that anyone from the avid tennis fan, to the person who doesn’t know much about the sport, can watch and enjoy the show.”

Kerry makes tennis fun for others, and she herself feels it is a great way to keep fit. It is a full body workout that is also an ideal sport for mental health as it relieves stress. Although she no longer plays competitively she doesn’t rule out competing



in a tournament one day. “I try to get on the court as much as I can. I love just hitting against a ball machine, or participating in local “live balls” – one of my favorite weekly events. Match play is so different from just hitting though, so I’m going to need a lot of practice before I jump back in to that!”

As if her passion for tennis wasn’t enough, Kerry has another great love in her life – her love for animals. “I work with a companion animal nonprofit called “CARE Rescue LA.” We are a very small rescue, only seven ladies. We save primarily dogs and cats, and have over the years saved hundreds from death, abuse and terrible living conditions.” As a young child, Kerry volunteered for rescue organizations, and became involved with CARE Rescue La around two years ago – sparked by an incident that she witnessed at a local park whilst playing tennis.

“I saw five cops surrounding a terrified, skinny, dirty, bruised and cut Pitbull, that was chained to an abandoned shopping cart. Knowing the fate of most Pitbulls at shelters, and also knowing that it is the police officer’s protocol to take stray animals to the shelter, I simply could not stand back and watch this poor dog essentially be taken to most likely his end at the shelter. The officers agreed I could take the dog, and off to the vet we went.” The dog had deep cuts on both his front paws and face, and was

malnourished, dirty, and flea infested. Kerry looked after the dog – which she named Rudy – for around six months, and he now lives happily with a family in Stockton.

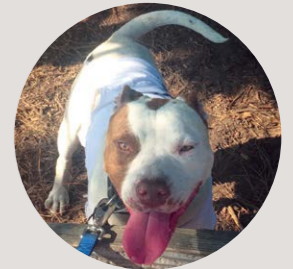
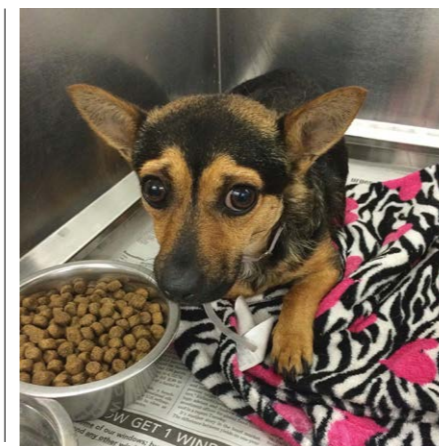
“After Rudy I wanted to get more involved in this world. A friend made a Facebook post about needing a volunteer for CARE Rescue to assist with a particular task. I responded and took on the task. From that point forward I became more involved with the wonderful ladies of CARE Rescue La and eventually became a board member, which I still am today.”

The organization saves animals from high kill shelters, the streets and abusive situations. One of Kerry’s own dogs, Sally, was actually one of the rescues, that Kerry couldn’t let go. “Sally is a small Chihuahua/Corgi mix. She had been kicked so hard that her pelvis had been broken and a few ribs cracked. She sat at a high kill shelter in “medical” for over a month with her injuries, because they do not have the funds at most shelters to treat such things. CARE Rescue La raised the funds via donations to make the rescue and get her the surgery she needed to enable her to walk again.”

CARE Rescue La also recently started shipping dogs in to save them from the meat trade in Korea. Kerry herself has two rescue dogs and two rescue cats. “It’s kind of impossible not to fall in love and bring them home when you work around animals so much and see so much sadness.”

It is evident that Kerry works extremely hard both at her career and her charity work, with immense passion for both. “Ambition, drive, and independence have always been dominating characteristics in my life,” she says. ■
www.facebook.com/TalkTennisWithKerryFeirman
www.youtube.com/kerryfeirman

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SHOW YOUR SUPPORT CARE Rescue La

CARE Rescue La relies on donations, as they receive no funding whatsoever. The organization is 100% volunteer based, so all of the donations go towards helping the animals.

Donations can be made via Paypal to carerescuela@gmail.com or mailed to: PO Box 251936, Los Angeles CA 90025.

CARE Rescue La like to track who and where their donations come from, so if you are inspired to donate after seeing this article, remember to include a note to let them know!

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