

Interview of Brandi

When did you start to play racquetball and where?

First got on the court at the age of 3, played first National event at the age of 7 and also international

Do you remember your first National Win, where and at what age?

Junior Nationals in Winnipeg – took second place, next year in PEI took first place

What was your first International Win, do you recall where and at what age? 10U – it was a great year as there were a lot of medals for the Canadians mostly Saskatchewan athletes that year, Kris, Karina Odegard, Jamie Landeryou and I think that was the year that Amanda MacDonald won three medals.

At the US Open you played doubles with Jen Saunders, how did that come about and how was the partnership?

I was supposed to play with Frederique, we flew to Memphis together and she got ill and had to drop out after her first singles match, so Jen offered to play with me, we played an American team first round, and in the Semi's a team from Japan, and the finals were a team from Ecuador. Jen had seen some of the teams internationally which helped us. We had played together once before and won the Canadian Open so it felt good to win another event with her.

Your long time doubles partner Alison did not enter the singles selection event is she taking a sabbatical?

Alison told me at the banquet after the Nationals in Edmonton that she was not going to play anymore. I hope that this is a temporary departure from the game and that we see her back. She has been a great doubles partner and an even better friend. I have many great memories with her at tournaments.

How does it feel to have won a selection event and beat the number one player?

After being successful as a Junior Player, it feels great to win an event as an Open player. I played very well against Jen. She is a smart player so you always have to keep her guessing. Being newly ranked number 2 in Canada has not sunk in yet totally. It was good to win, but I also know that there is always more to do.

What training were you doing prior to this event, how many times a week on the court and how many times in the gym?

I am a Personal Fitness Trainer so I am in the gym daily, both by myself and with clients. I am generally on the court 3 - 4 times a week hitting by myself and on weekends I will play games with the other athletes in Montreal. I believe that my prior training when I was younger has helped me today. When I was successful early on as a Junior I was training in the morning before school and again after school. I was up at the courts at 6:30 AM, I asked my dad to go and he made it fun for me, he created games out of the drills and this kept me wanting more. I also had the best coach ever!

What other tournaments are you planning on attending between now and the Selection event in Montreal?

I am going to the WPRO satellite stop in New Jersey December 3rd, and then the Men's Pro Stop at the beginning of January in New York, playing the women's Open. I am going to focus on training in December so I won't be attending the WPRO stop in Virginia this year.

Anything else that you would like to add to this interview, or share with the Juniors that will read, any advise that you would give the juniors?

Work hard in the gym, this pays off on the court. Younger Juniors do not need to do weights, but need to be able to do proper lunges and squats; they should be doing body weight exercises, to learn the proper technique which will help with their racquetball game tremendously. Most of all MAKE IT FUN.

I asked Brandi with the awarding of the 2015 Pan Am Games to Toronto recently, what her long term goals are:

Long term goal is to be in Toronto on the podium in the 2015 games. Being a Pan Am Champion is what I am working towards; it is going to be a great event held here in Canada!