



# Interview with Austria's Sandra Klemenschits

September 1, 2013 By Krista White In Pro Athlete

Sandra Klemenschits is a survivor. But she is much more than that. She's a hero. No, she's a super hero. And if there was a stage large enough for all the world to hear, WSO would be standing on it singing her praises. Cancer changed her. She sees now more than ever not what she doesn't have but what she has. If we could all have her perspective, how much better our worlds might be.

**Krista White:** What is the greatest challenge that you have ever faced?

**The hardest thing that I have ever done is survive my cancer.**

**Sandra Klemenschits:** The hardest thing that I have ever done is survive my cancer. So, I think I see life different than others in general. You have to be thankful for every minute in life. Not complaining. You have to say thank you for all that you have. Because we in the world, we are fine. When you are sick, you see it differently. There are not so many things that you can do. And maybe that's why I enjoy this much more now.

My twin sister also had cancer. We were both diagnosed in 2007. She died in 2008. It was her wish that I play tennis again. At first, I didn't want to. But because I like playing tennis, I started again. It was her wish that I play again. My sister and I always played together.

**KW:** How did that change you on and off court?

**SK:** Having cancer changed my perspective on everything. I say if I give everything and I lose, it's not the end of the world. I think the key is that you find the golden middle in life.

The life is some much more than playing tennis. There are so many nice things to enjoy. And, we can even be thankful and happy that we can just talk to each other. I think if you are happy in life this is the most important thing. Not money. Happiness you can't buy with money.

**If you get cancer or have some other life-threatening experience, it changes your thinking. It makes you see the world differently. I think it makes you see the world not with your head but with your heart.**

If you get cancer or have some other life-threatening experience, it changes your thinking. It makes you see the world differently. I think it makes you see the world not with your head but with your heart. That's maybe the difference.

**KW:** If you were not a tennis player, what would you be?

**SK:** If I was not a tennis player, I think I would like to be a doctor to help sick people. Doctors helped me a lot, and I think this would be great to do this for others.

I had to do chemotherapy for two years and had many operations. It was tough to come back and play tennis again. But the sport helped me to recover because I knew that I didn't have to play but because I liked tennis.

**KW:** What would you tell a player that did not enjoy playing, that was playing just for the money or fame, or even to please their family?

**If you do something that you don't like, it is better not to do it, because life is not that long. You don't know what tomorrow will be.**

**SK:** If you don't like tennis, it is better to stop. Everything that you like to do, you will have more success. If you do something that you don't like, it is better not to do it, because life is not that long. You don't know what tomorrow will be.

Photo credit: Krista L. White, 2013.

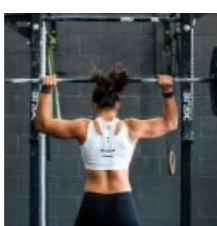
By Krista White Tags tennis

← Christina McHale Interview Interview with Poland's Alicja Rosolska →


## Leave a Reply

You must be [logged in](#) to post a comment.


## Read Next ↓



**You Are More Than the Score**  
August 24, 2019



**Parce que tu as du prix à mes yeux...**  
July 24, 2018



**Something Greater**  
July 5, 2018

### Categories

- Coaching
- Français
- iBelieve
- Pro Athlete

About Us  
Contact

### Tags

competition faith performance prayer snowboarding Switzerland tennis usopen volleyball world champion