

European Junior Championships 18 & under

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The perfect country to combine sports and school

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Graubündens Lea Winkler has played college tennis for four years

They belong to the EJC Klosters just as the (normally) beautiful mountain weather. The men and women in track



suits, who follow the games with pen, iPad or mobile phone. Pepperdine is written on the clothes, Mississippi State, Wake Forest or Virginia Tech. They are all names of well-known American universities and those, who wear these clothes are representatives of their schools. They are here to scout players for their teams and ideally recruit

them.

The number of those who come to Klosters grows every year and in 2017 they have found a person, who knows their needs and speaks their language just as well as they do. Lea Winkler from Maienfeld has just finished a four-year term at Drexel University in Philadelphia. She combined tennis and school and got her bachelor's degree in Business and Engineering in June. She sums the experience up in one short sentence: „I had a great time.“

Most players will not make it to the very top of the world rankings but to get a scholarship at a University is realistic from approximately an R2 ranking. Therefore, it should be viable for most ambitious players. It's easy: The higher the level in academics and sports, the better the school. „I would advise everyone to take this path, you learn a lot“, Winkler says.

As a kid, she had already lived for five years in the US, in Syracuse, upstate New York and also started to play tennis more seriously there. Later, during her stay at the Sportgymnasium Davos, the wish for a second stint in the US matured and as a player with an R1 to N4 level she then got offers.

At Drexel, the young lady, who gives 150 percent in every practise, quickly climbed the ladder and was captain of her team from her second year on. And she set every day an example of what it's all about for her teammates: One team, one spirit. „Tennis is not an individual sport there. You do not only play for yourself but also for the team and the whole school.“ As a matter of fact, differences between the perception of sports in the two countries are huge: In Switzerland, almost nobody knows that national university championships even exist, in the US the athletes are the pride of every school.

Lea Winkler has learned a lot in the past years, a lot for life, but mainly one thing: „Leadership.“ These skills are beneficial on court and off court. Maybe the residents of Klosters can experience that next year. Depending on where her next studies lead her, it is well possible that she plays Interclub for TCK like in the past.



More Information on www.tennisklosters.ch

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