

**William Hatzis**

# A 6 year old with a true passion for tennis

interview: Anna Arsenis



*Hello. My name is William Hantzis and I love tennis. I have been swinging racquets and hitting balls since I was 2!!!*

**William, how old are you?**  
I am 6 years old.

**When did you start playing tennis?**  
I started playing tennis since I was 3 years old with a professional coach that my parents found. My god father Spiro Hantzis told them that I might have a talent in tennis, when I was 2 years old, when he saw me swinging a tennis racquet around and hitting balls.

**How often do you train?**  
I train almost every day except for Sundays and Mondays (Greek school)

**Do you like any other sport?**  
Other sports which I like are Basketball, soccer and swimming.

**Who is your favourite tennis player?**  
My favourite players are Roger Federer and Nadal.

**Why do you like tennis?**  
I like tennis because it keeps me fit, healthy and strong and most of all I like winning the big kids.

**Do you see yourself playing tennis professionally?**  
I want to be no. 1 player in the world but I have to train a lot.

**Tell me a few things about your family.**  
My parents take good care of me and my little brother Dennis who is 4 years old, he can hit a ball very well too.

**What is the best moment in your life so far?**  
The best time of my life at this

moment has been travelling to America, playing and training with the world's best junior tennis players at the Rick Macci academy. Rick was the William sisters, Andy Roddick and Capriati junior coach, he taught me great technique and has taken my game like he said to the next level. I can't wait to go back.

**Have you represented your school in any tournaments?**

At the moment I play junior tournaments under 10s, I will be playing for my school Trinity Grammar on the 1st December 2009 in the Strathfield school boys and school girls comp.

**William you mentioned you attend Greek classes. Do you like Greek. Do you speak the language?**

I go to Greek school every Monday at Belmore Church. I love my teacher, she teaches me well. I speak Greek when spoken too.

**Have you been to Greece?**

My family and I went to Greece last year for three months to see relatives in Nafaktos and Zakynthos.

**How do your parents feel that you are such a good player at such a young age?**

My parents are proud and support me.

**Are there times when you get really tired and you don't want to train?**

There are times that I do get tired just like anyone else, so we take a break. When we do take a break I still practice my technique on my own in the house while mum and dad are not watching, but one day I broke the window in the garage so they

found out I was practising on the wall... I got into trouble.

**Do you eat the right food in order to have the energy to train correctly?**

No, I am a bad eater I have to be reminded many times. Some times I forget to eat my lunch at school because I am too busy playing. Dad and mum get very angry. But I am better now since I spoke to Rick Macci. We talk over the internet once a week, he is a great coach.

**What do your friends say? Do they ask you to teach them?**

My friends don't really know that I play tennis only one does. Most kids don't understand competition sport they are too busy sitting in front of the computers.

**It sounds as if you don't like computers.**

I like to look up things like Greece, Volcanoes, earthquakes Egypt, but not all the time.

**Tennis needs lots of concentration and co-ordination. Do you find it easy to concentrate or does your coach need to remind you?**

When I train I try to always concentrate because it is very important. My dad has taught me that when you are learning you must listen and concentrate. So I have learnt to concentrate well and think outside the square like my coach tells me. When I am learning a technique he repeats instructions many times so I can remember.

William, thank you so much for your time. I wish you all the best in the future.