

Adecco Global Newswire

# Successfully balancing family life and a tennis career in first ATP tournament



Kim Clijsters won three excellent matches in Cincinnati

**Kim's next tournaments 2009**

17-23 August:

WTA Toronto: Rogers Cup

31 August - 13 September:

New York: US Open

19-25 October:

WTA Luxembourg: BGL Luxembourg Open

10 - 13 December:

Diamond Games, Lotto Arena, Antwerp

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Kim Clijsters has been away from professional tennis for two years, married American basketballer Brian Lynch and in February 2008 she gave birth to a daughter, Jada. Supported by Adecco, she has come back again, balancing both her family life and her professional career. Since her comeback, she has re-revealed herself as an exceptional talent, winning three excellent matches in Cincinnati: She beat Top 20 players Marion Bartoli and Patty Schnyder and Top 10 player Svetlana Kuznetsova. AGN talked to Kim about the successful transition from motherhood to professional tennis.

AGN: Kim, congratulations, you have very successfully played your first ATP tournament after a two-year family break. How did it feel, to take your first steps on the court again?

*KC: "I'd be lying if I said there weren't a few butterflies in my tummy. But the overwhelming feeling was one of great excitement."*

AGN: What is it like to engage fully in professional life again, together with a professional team?

*"It feels great to have all the team around me like my coach Wim, my physios Sam and Tim, the support of my family, good friends like Bob and a partner like Adecco who believes in my comeback. I'm very lucky to be able to put myself in that position again towards which I have worked for a long time. I played really well in Cincinnati, I was happy how I dealt with everything and am looking forward to Toronto. [WTA Toronto, 17 to 23 August]."*

AGN: Your husband Brian Lynch and daughter Jada are with you on tour. How has this worked for you?

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*"I am pleased to say: really well. However, it has only been a week now and I am excited to see how it will go on, how I can balance motherhood, Jada's and Brian's needs, as well as my tennis career. Only time will tell. In any case we have proven to be a good team to which each of us contributes in his own way."*

AGN: Have you gained any strength and inspiration from the rigours of pregnancy and family life, which you can take with you on the court?

*"Yes, very much so. Having gone through these last two years I think I have grown as a person and I hope that this is something that is going to help me. I have done a lot of things that I never really worked on when I was playing, and never even had a chance to. That's something that I find very important. You may be surprised when I tell you that I might have returned a stronger player than before."*

AGN: The last mother to win a Grand Slam was Evonne Goolagong; that was at Wimbledon in 1980. Looking towards the US Open – which will start on August 30 – can you imagine rewriting history by also winning a Grand Slam?

*"If you can dream it, you can do it. Obviously that's something that any athlete wants. But believe me: I won't be happy just hanging around the 100 spot in the world. It's not that I am aiming for numbers, but you aim for those big matches and give yourself opportunities to play those big players and hopefully win."*

AGN: Thank you very much for the interview, Kim. Be assured that thousands of Adecco colleagues are passionately following your second career, wishing you the best, and many winners in Toronto.