## MY SPORT IDOL.

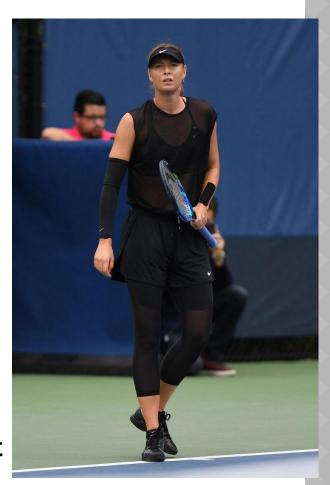
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Maria Yuryevna Sharapova born 19 April, 1987. is a Russian professional tennis player. Her parents are originally from Gomel, Belarus, but moved to Russia in 1986 in the aftermath of the Chernobyl nuclear accident. Sharapova was born in Nyagan, Siberia, the following year.

At the age of three, Sharapova moved with her family to the resort town of Sochi, beginning to play tennis at the age of four, using a racquet given to her by Yevgeny Kafelnikov's father. At age five or six, at a tennis clinic in Moscow, Sharapova was spotted by Martina Navratilova, who urged her parents to get her serious coaching in the United States.



At the age of seven she and her father Yuri, who could speak barely any English, boarded a plane to the USA with only \$700. When they arrived at Miami airport the next morning, her father took her on the handlebars of a bicycle to the Nick Bollettieri Tennis Academy without any notice whatsoever. They arrived at the academy and one of the coaches checked her out. The story goes that Maria knocked his hat off with the tennis ball, thereby making a favourable impression. This led to her obtaining a scholarship. At the age of 9, she was signed up by a number of sponsors including Prince (racquets), Oakley

and Nike.



In 2004, Sharapova became the second youngest Wimbledon women's champion in the Open Era (after Martina Hingis) by defeating defending two-time champion Serena Williams in straight sets (6-1, 6-4). In the process she also became the first Russian ever to win that tournament.





The victory was hailed as "the most stunning upset in memory", with other writers commenting on her arrival as a serious challenger to the Williams' dominance at Wimbledon. She entered the top ten in the rankings for the first time as a result of the win. Following her Wimbledon win, attention and interest in Sharapova in the media greatly increased, a rise in popularity dubbed as "Maria Mania."





As a result, she won her second major in 2006 in the US Open, defeating the then first racket of the world Amelie Mauresmo in the semifinals and win the second racket of the world Justine Henin in the final.





Sharapova was seeded fifth at the Australian Open 2008, but was not considered a favorite. Nevertheless, she defeated former first racket of the world. She is win Lindsay Davenport in the second round, and then first racket of the world Justine Henin in the quarterfinals. Proceeded to the finals, where she defeated Ana Ivanović to win her third Grand Slam title.





2012 has become rich for Sharapova on sports achievements. Maria started the season with a performance at the Australian Open, where she was able to reach the title match and lost to Victoria Azarenka (3: 6, 0: 6), after which she climbed to the third line of the rating



On June 7, 2014, in the final of the French Open, Maria beat Simone Halep 6: 4, 6: 7 (5), 6: 4 and became the champion of the Roland Garros for the second time in her career. This is the fifth Grand Slam tournament, won by

Maria.



At the Wimbledon tournament, Sharapova reached the semi-finals, where she lost the first racket of the world to Serena Williams 2-6, 4-6. Because of the right leg injury, Maria missed most of the second half of the season, including the US Open, as well as the whole Asian series.



March 7, 2016 Maria Sharapova at an emergency press conference announced the use of doping, acceptance meldonia.

A positive result was given by the doping test of the Russian tennis player, which was taken from her on January 26 in Melbourne during the tournament of the Australian Championship By the decision of the Anti-Doping Committee of the International Tennis Federation, adopted on June 8, 2016, she was disqualified for two years.

After the appeal filed by Sharapova, this term was reduced to 15 months, which allowed him to return to the court on April 26, 2017, as the court acknowledged that Maria had accepted meldon inadvertently, not to improve the results In October 2016, Maria was excluded from the WTA rating.

On April 26, 2017, Maria Sharapova, after the end of the disqualification, first took part in the WTA Porsche Tennis Grand Prix tournament in Stuttgart, where she was given a wild card. She reached the semifinals of the tournament, defeating the Italian Robert Vinci (7: 5, 6: 3), compatriot Ekaterina Makarova (7: 5, 6: 1) and Estonk Anette Kontaveit (6: 3, 6: 4). In the semifinals of the tournament, the Russian lost to the Frenchwoman Kristine Mladenovic (6: 3, 5: 7, 4: 6)

