

Positive Pops

When I say the name “Positive Pops”, there can only be one person I am referring to and that is my father. He is someone I look up to and greatly admire. My father is a 54-year old tennis coach; average in height, dark-skinned from the sun and fit all around except for his belly. He was raised by a tennis-obsessed father and learnt the sport along with his six siblings. He trained vigorously and eventually became a top player in the Philippines, and even competed in the Asian Olympics.

To interview my father, I had to wake up early and follow him to work. With his early start and packed schedule, there really was no other time slot. On the taxi ride to the courts, there was really no room for questions either as he was busy on his phone messaging clients. Finally, a time for questions opened up. However, not how I was expecting. He was rallying with his student across the court when I asked him about how he started in the sport that brought him to where he was today. In between grunts and hits, he

answered my questions. I found it amusing but I was still solely focused on his story. I got most of my interview done during his one-hour lunch break and as soon as he had finished eating it was back to work. I felt it best to let him save his breath and left him to work.

What makes my father admirable is not his many achievements in his tennis career, but his undying love for the sport. Rain or shine, he shows up at the tennis centre hoping for the chance to play and spread his love for tennis with his students. From early in the morning to late at night he works to provide for his family, with few or no breaks. Despite bad weather being forecast, he encourages other coaches and his students to come down to the courts to play because “the rain will only come down for 10 more minutes, then it’s good to hit.” His positive attitude towards the sport is what makes him so admirable as well as his dedication to the sport he loves. Other than that, I also admire him!

