

## **Essay Contest 2016/17**

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### **Canadian immigrants**

**Daniel Mark Nestor**

Every year thousands of immigrants come to Canada. These immigrants have many different motivations. Some enter Canada hoping to get a chance for a better life; others are refugees, escaping persecution and civil wars in their home country. Some people think refugees destroy their country and their culture, but that is not true. On the contrary, many refugees have special abilities with which they can improve their new country. One of these examples would be Daniel Nestor. He came to Canada when he was four years old. Now he is one of the best doubles players in tennis history. To this day he has won 91 men's double titles and one Olympic gold medal in Sydney 2000. This makes him the third most decorated champion among double players. He has also received a lot of medals and the "Order of Canada". In January 2016, Nestor became the first double player in ATP history to win 1000 matches. He is still one of the best male Canadian tennis players. He is an example for an immigrant who became famous in Canada. In the following I want to explore why Nestor went to Canada, how his life developed there and how he got famous.

Danijel Nestorovic was born on 4<sup>th</sup> September 1972 in Belgrade. He was the second of two sons to mother Anna and father Ray. Anna was a teacher and Ray was a mechanical engineer. Life in Yugoslavia was good, but there was one major problem: there was no housing space. It was expensive to buy an apartment or even a house in Yugoslavia. The Nestors had a single room in the house of Anna's parents. So they decided to leave Yugoslavia to start a new life in Canada. They finally arrived in Toronto in 1976. He received the Canadian citizenship and changed his name to Daniel Mark Nestor.

It turned out to be difficult for Daniel to find friends, because he was a shy and introverted boy, so he was often lonely. Moreover, he loved to watch sports on television. When he was seven he started to play tennis. As Nestor is a left-hander he was always playing alone. So he was hitting the ball against the wall for hours. His dad Ray thought that it was boring to play alone; however, Daniel enjoyed it and played daily. Daniel also loved to do other sports, like basketball or soccer. In 1984, when Daniel was 11, he reached the under-12 finals in singles. He lost the singles, but won the double match. At 15 he came to be taught by Pierre Lamarche. He was the coach of the national junior team and the All-Canadian Tennis Academy. At first he was a bit unsure, because

Daniel is a left-hander. However, when Daniel started to play, the coach knew he had potential. He practiced a lot and later he improved his tennis skills until he was the best male double-tennis player in the world. In an interview Daniel said that he often felt like he wouldn't fit in, but his parents motivated and helped him. Later he married Nataša Gavrilović. Together they have two children (Tiana and Bianca). They now live in the Bahamas. So tennis has changed Daniel's life. He isn't shy anymore and is happy with his family.

Finally and most importantly, Daniel's tennis career has made him the most decorated tennis player in Canadian history. When Daniel started to play professional tennis, he won his first double title in 1994. He was playing very well, so he became a member of the Canadian Davis Cup team. He also played singles for a long time, but he was often injured. One day he injured his shoulder and had to focus on doubles. In the summer Olympics 2000 in Sydney Daniel won the gold medal in doubles. It was the first and till present the last gold medal in tennis for Canada. He became the World No. 1 doubles player in August 2002. Daniel won in his career 91 titles and over 1000 matches. However, his double-partners helped him win the prizes. Nestor often played with Mark Knowles from the Bahamas, Sébastien Lareau from Canada, Nenad Zimonjić from Serbia and Kristina Mladenovic from France. With all of them he won big titles and proved that he is one of the best tennis players ever. For all the achievements, Daniel Mark Nestor received a star on Canada's Walk of Fame and the Order of Canada from the government of Canada. Nestor said later that his family is proud to be Canadian, just as he is. However in Europe Nestor isn't famous, because media isn't reporting much about him.

Daniel Mark Nestor is a good example for a famous Canadian immigrant. Although he had a hard time when he came to Canada, he became one of the best tennis players in the world. Although he is 44 years old now, he still plays tennis: "I'm pretty competitive [...] I realize this is what I do best. I like playing the Grand Slams. I like to try and do well in the Grand Slams. I'm wondering why I haven't done so well at Wimbledon [wins in 2008 and 2009], which is a better surface for me, or the U.S. Open last year."(1, Erik Duhatschek) For his achievements he was honoured by the Canadian government with the Order of Canada.

## **Sources**

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(2) Daniel Mark Nestor  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daniel\\_Nestor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daniel_Nestor) Access: 18<sup>th</sup> February 2017

(3) Olympic Team Canada  
<http://olympic.ca/team-canada/daniel-nestor/> Access: 18<sup>th</sup> February 2017

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(5) David Ebner (Sep. 05, 2014 8:41PM EDT) „Daniel Nestor: Canada’s most accomplished tennis player looks forward, not backward“ in The Globe and Mail  
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(7) Walk of Fame  
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