



KEIKO TOKUDA
Clifton HS
Athlete - Tennis

Keiko Tokuda graduated from Clifton in 1998 as one of the most dominant athletes in state history. A tennis star for the Mustangs, she is the only player to win four NJSIAA singles championships, which she accomplished from 1994 through '97. Not only that, she was undefeated during her career, compiling an 86-0 record. And if you're looking for more dominance, she only lost two sets in her career - one apiece to Anastasia Pozdniakova of Moorestown Friends during the state tournament as a freshman and sophomore.

Keiko was born soon after her parents immigrated from Japan to Clifton in 1979. She played first singles during all four years of high school, and also won four straight Passaic County singles titles. Concurrent to her high school career, she was at one point ranked 13th in the world among players 18 and under, and was the National 18-and-under clay court champ in 1996. She played in the junior events at Wimbledon, the French Open and the U.S. Open.

It wasn't all easy for Keiko. During the summer of 1997, just before her senior year, she was diagnosed with ulcerative colitis. She spent three weeks in the hospital, and lost almost 30 pounds. Tennis had to wait for a period, but she gradually rounded into form, made it to the state tournament and capped her undefeated career with a 6-1, 6-2 championship victory over Maren Haus of Manasquan.

Tokuda graduated 13th in her class at Clifton, and she went on to attend Stanford University on a full scholarship. She was a member of Stanford teams that won NCAA championships in 1999, 2001 and 2002 and was runner-up in 2000. She was a team captain her final two seasons, and also earned All-America recognition. She graduated with a major in International Relations and minor in Psychology.

After playing a year on the WTA Tour, Keiko decided to retire from tennis in December of 2002. She has remained in the San Francisco area, and is currently head of marketing for Front, a computer software company.