

# Crushing the Court

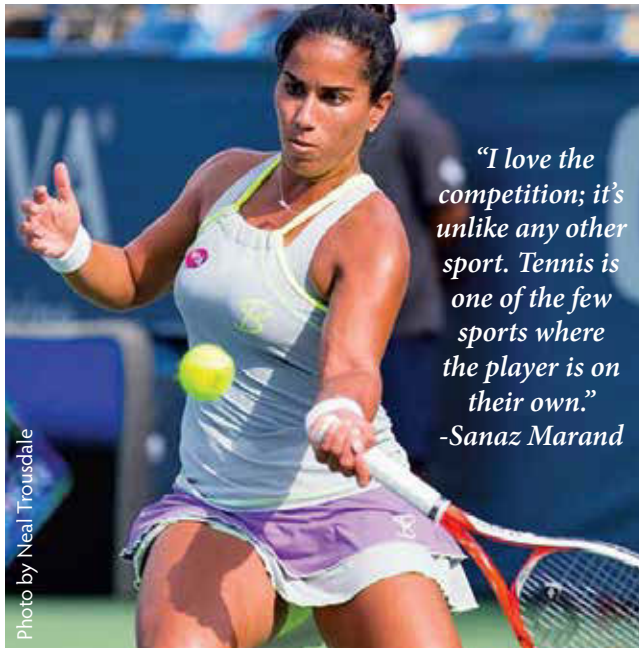


Photo by Neal Trousdale

*"I love the competition; it's unlike any other sport. Tennis is one of the few sports where the player is on their own."  
-Sanaz Marand*

## TENNIS

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Won first doubles tournament in 2015 (\$75k)
- Won first singles tournament in 2013 (\$25k)
- Won one singles & 12 doubles titles on the ITF tour
- Ranked 273 in world singles and 152 in doubles
- Helped lead the tennis team to a state victory at Taylor High School her freshman year

## Katy's own Sanaz Marand, 27, is making a name for herself as a professional tennis player

Written by Elizabeth Padgett | Photography courtesy of Sanaz Marand

At age 4, Sanaz Marand's father introduced her to tennis by tossing a sponge ball at her mini tennis racquet. In no time, Sanaz was taking lessons at Willow Fork Country Club and by age 8, she was competing in tennis tournaments. By her freshman year at Taylor High School, Sanaz helped lead the tennis team to a state championship.

### Blossoming Career

Her tennis career really began to take off while attending the University of North Carolina. "During my senior year there was a match that came down to me as the final player and I was able to pull out a win. It was against our biggest rival, Duke," she says.

After playing at the professional level for five years, Sanaz says one of her most memorable moments happened while still competing as a junior in high school. "I made the finals of a pretty big national tournament in the 16 and under age division; it was the best I ever did in singles in a tournament," she says. With a blossoming career that takes her all over the world, Sanaz has played in Europe, France, Slovenia, Italy, and Switzerland. This year she will be competing in Brazil, Acapulco, and Mexico, to name a few.

### Family First

When she does make it back home to Katy, Sanaz enjoys the simple things like going to the movies at Santikos Palladium, shopping at Target, or just enjoying some Mexican food with her family. "I miss my family the most. I don't get to see them often. So when I go home, I like to just relax and stay home all day." KM

Sanaz learned the basics from her dad who also loves tennis. Pictured with her sister Sahar, mom Afsaneh, and dad Reza.



Sanaz got to play Svetlana Kuznetsova who is ranked in the top 30 in the world and has won a couple of the Majors.



Sanaz's training includes court drilling, live point play, and practice matches.



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*Welcome to Katy Celebration*

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**FASHION SHOW 6PM to 8PM**

Professional models & sponsored by JCPenney.

*Moms Eat Free*

*Mother's Day*

Sunday, May 8, 2016

Mention Katy Magazine.  
See restaurant for details.