

Video Interview Translation: What people think about Evgenia Kanaeva

English translated by Tatiana-17-July-2011

She could hardly hold back her tears; it seemed she was about to cry. But just moment later we could see serious expression on the face which before reflected inner sorrow. We felt a little bit uncomfortable because we interrupted training process, but there wasn't a word of complain about it from Evgenia.

Zhenya: You've caught the moment when my nerves were on limits.

New program required supreme concentration and maximum work. Even though The Olympic Champion missed her lunch again she didn't reject our interview. It's "in blood" of Evgenia Kanaeva to help everybody – not without reason she is called by coaches "Mother Teresa".

Vera Shtelbaums: When Zhenya was little girl there was small changing room (8-10 m²) for everybody, like for 100 people at the same time. So little kids always were missing their hats, boots. And Zhenya was always there helping everyone to find things in that mess.

Vera Efremovna says that there are kids whom you can barely get a word from; Zhenya on the contrary impressed her with being the very talkative girl.

Vera Shtelbaums: She was always very curious girl, she loved talking a lot. When she comes she always says what she did in kinder garden, what she ate there. She always brings some candy.

Zhenya: I couldn't sit still even for 5 min. I always needed to go and ran somewhere, talk to everyone around. I also liked meeting people in trams, trolleybus; I liked people so much.

In sport Zhenya has chosen her mother's path even though with gymnastics she also liked figure skating. At the same time Zhenya never liked her father sport – wrestling even though father and daughter resemblance was obvious especially when Zhenya was small.

Zhenya: When I was a child everybody was saying I looked alike with my father. My father is pretty big person. I always cried because of it, I didn't want to be big (laughing). Now everybody says I look like my mom, but eyes I've got from my father.

Zhenya's father: I am very proud that my person, my daughter has achieved such high results... (Note by Zoe Wan: sorry for this part, Tatiana and Alyona both only can hear part of Zhenya's father's words)

Zhenya's brother-Egor : Zhenya could have become excellent coach, teacher. She is a psychologist by nature, she feels people. Zhenya is a leader, she has many leader's qualities in her character; Olympic champions can't be "not leaders".

Rich inner world of the Olympic Champion is expressed in her compositions. Choreographers say that Evgenia is "a treasure. No matter how hard you dig you will never reach bottom".

Irina Zenovka: It's said that each choreographer needs to find "his" performer. In this case I'm very lucky because I have Zhenya and she is "my" performer.

Irina Viner: She is very sexy and tender at the same time. We see Stravinsky (famous Russian composer) "Rite of the Spring" in her composition with ball (of course Viner meant to say hoop); and her ball – the very sensual and outstanding; her Russian rope is her open-heartedness. She is always different.

But the brilliant technique and execution is not enough to shock the audience. You have 90 seconds to express your inner world and only then feeling of complete satisfaction comes. Evgenia feels it with her skin.

Zhenya: It's when I get "goose skin".

For these moments she is ready to spend her complete days in the gym, forgetting not only about lunch.

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