History in Chennai: Indonesia celebrates a WTA champion after 23 years.

Janice Tjen's last year feels unreal in the best way. Twelve months ago she was in the 500s, on Monday, the 23 year old from Indonesia reached No. 53. She won her first WTA Tour singles title at the Chennai Open, then coming back a few hours later to win the doubles too. Two finals, two wins. The day she won't forget very soon.

Her rise is historic. Chennai makes her the first Indonesian to win a WTA singles title in 23 years. Tjen's new no 53 is now the second best singles ranking by an Indonesian on tour. Earlier this season she reached a WTA final in Sao Paulo but lost in the title run. This time, she finished the job and it felt sweeter.

"I'm very happy to be able to get the win this time because it was a heart breaking loss the previous time," Tjen said. "I got to the final in Sao Paulo WTA 250 but luckily today, I came out on the better end."

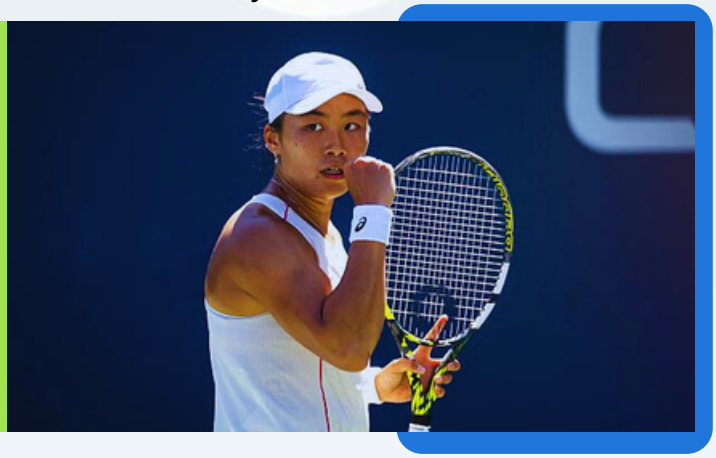
There is no secret, she insists only work. "I don't think there is any secret," she said. "I think it's just about putting in the work, trying to improve every aspect of my game, week in and week out. Also trying to learn from the previous losses and from the matches that I win as well."

Tjen was not a junior star. Her best junior ranking was No. 93. To keep the dream alive, she took the U.S. college path. First Oregon, then Pepperdine. Tennis costs a lot including travel, coaching, weeks on the road. College gave her time, matches, coaching and a way forward.

"Tennis is a very expensive sport where you have to travel and then you have to hire a coach," she said. "All of these expenses add up and it's not easy for me and my family. Luckily there was a college route that helped me to continue to develop my game and put myself in a better position to turn pro." She added.

Chennai tied it all together. She came in listed as no 82 on site, battled through, and beat seventh seed Kimberly Birrell 6–4 6–3 in the singles final. A few hours later, she was back with Aldila Sutjiadi to win the doubles 7–5 6–4 over top seeds Storm Hunter/Monica Niculescu. For Sutjiadi, it was her sixth WTA doubles title and for Tjen, a second doubles trophy in as many weeks. Winning singles and doubles on the same day is rare anywhere and in the process it ends a 23 year wait for a nation.

On paper, her jump looks huge. But Tjen doesn't chase numbers. "I would say it's unexpected," she admitted. "On paper, the rankings do jump out a bit but I don't really think too much about numbers. I just try to work and see what's going to happen. Me and my coach haven't talked much about rankings and that stuff. We just want to keep improving. We said we are not going to talk about rankings until a year after that and we can look back and see where we are."

For Indonesia, this is bigger than one player. Angelique Widjaja's 2002 title stood alone for over 20 years and now there is a new name beside it. For Asian tennis, it's another bright moment on a swing that moved from China and Japan to India.

The moment did not go unnoticed by the region. ATF President Yuriy Polskiy posted his congratulations on X, calling it a proud day for Indonesian and Asian tennis and a win that will inspire a new generation. It was a small message with a big meaning. A new champion, and a fresh line in Asia's story.