
Have you ever wondered what it's like to be a professional tennis player? The **glamour**, the travel, the **adulation**, the money.

It sounds like a fantastic **lifestyle** but this only comes to the most successful. For many **struggling** professionals life is very different.

When Li Na retired from tennis in 2014 she had earned \$24 million in the twelve months before her retirement. Compare this to the British player Jamie Baker. In his nine years as a professional he earned a **more modest** \$550,000.

Without big **sponsorship deals** less successful sports men and women often have to pay for everything themselves. If they are not winning, they can find themselves living in their cars and travelling around to small **tournaments** just to make enough money to pay for the petrol.

Some have to give up the sport they love and start a new career. What **opportunities** are there for ex-tennis-players? The British game's **governing body**, the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) has a Senior Performance Lifestyle Advisor who says that most tennis players have few qualifications. Many have **sacrificed** their education **to devote all their time to** the sport.

Without academic qualifications it can be hard to find a new job but professional sports people do have skills that are **transferable**. Skills like motivation, commitment, **drive** and **focus**. These **attributes** are highly regarded by employers and have led many to successful new jobs away from the tennis court.

Vocabulary

glamour

attractive and exciting

adulation

strong support and admiration from lots of people

lifestyle

way of life

struggling

not very successful

more modest

not so impressive

sponsorship deals

contracts with companies who pay for someone to use and advertise their products

tournaments

competitions

opportunities

possible jobs

governing body

organisation that controls a sport

sacrificed

gave up

to devote all their time to

to use all their time to concentrate on one thing

transferable

can be taken from one role or job and used in another

drive

strong determination to do something

focus

ability to concentrate on a goal

attributes

skills and personal qualities

This story is based on an original BBC News story:

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