

weight on his ankles.

He said that he isn't 100 percent yet, more like 85.

The rehab may have been hard, but Kuznetsov's life revolves around tennis. His parents, Yuri and Julia, Russians who moved to the United States when Alex was 3 and now live in Richboro, have homeschooled him the last few years to accommodate his tennis schedule. And Kuznetsov is determined to make his mark as a tennis player.

Can he do it after the accident?

Making it as a professional tennis player is tough enough; making it after a major accident "is even more of a challenge," said Eric Riley of Malvern, who has coached Pam Shriver, Lisa Raymond and John Paul Fruttero.

But Kuznetsov is tough and resilient and has the advantage of working with Zarrett, Riley said. "If anybody can do it, Alex has a good chance to do it."

Kuznetsov said that he will go into the Junior Open hoping to win.

"Just being out there playing tournaments again, that's what I'm looking forward to doing."

He learned a hard lesson from the accident.

"I got a little carried away," he said. "I thought I was a little untouchable. Teenagers think that."

In a way, he mused, the accident may have been "a blessing in disguise for me because before, I think, I was taking my game for granted.

"If you're really focused on something, you wouldn't be going out and driving cars as fast as you can, so now I definitely look at my tennis career in a whole different way."

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