

**April 5, 2016**



**Bethanie Mattek-Sands defeats Teliana Pereira  
5-7, 6-3, 6-2  
First Round**

**An Interview With:**

**Bethanie Mattek-Sands**

**Q. I didn't realize that was your first singles win of the year, apparently?**

BETHANIE MATTEK-SANDS: Well, I won a couple in qualis in Doha.

**Q. Well, does it feel like a big deal to get that first one, main draw?**

BETHANIE MATTEK-SANDS: Yeah, I think so. I mean it was -- she's a good clay court player and for my first match on clay I was really happy with it. I didn't get a lot of time coming from Miami. We drove, got in yesterday and I got one hit on clay, so I'm really happy with that win today, no matter what.

**Q. I don't know how the whole Olympic thing, doubles works. Do you have any plans?**

BETHANIE MATTEK-SANDS: Honestly, I think it's kind of out of my hands, from what I understand. I mean the USTA is the one who makes the selections. And I'm just kind of focusing on getting results.

Obviously me and Coco played well in Indian Wells, won that. That's definitely an option, but I think there's some other American players that are playing well, too. Madison is playing great. Sloane is playing great. It was hard to kind of play doubles with a lot of different Americans just because I was already set with Lucie. But I think there's some great options. I think the U. S. can put out a strong team.

**Q. Are you and Lucie pretty much going to be playing together the rest of the season?**

BETHANIE MATTEK-SANDS: Me and Lucie have talked about playing the tournaments, if we're playing the same tournament, that we're playing doubles together. Obviously sometimes our schedules aren't exactly the same, so those tournaments might be an option to maybe play with another American or maybe just play singles.

I'm kind of taking it week by week. But I think my last two tournaments have been great doubles. I've played with two different partners, so I'm having fun.

**Q. I was going to say, I think on the Olympic, if you're Top 10, you're pretty much in.**

BETHANIE MATTEK-SANDS: I mean that's what I've heard. I don't know if that's set in stone.

**Q. I think it is.**

BETHANIE MATTEK-SANDS: So then yeah, I mean if I stay Top 10, that's good for me.

**Q. Just curious, you've had a lot of player council involvement, WTA. Just wondering what you make of the equal prize money stuff flaring back up in the past couple of weeks, and I guess what WTA is doing to talking about equal prize money, but there still is a pay gap overall over the course of the year for men and women. Just how much of a priority that is for the WTA to close that as much as possible and if it's a priority.**

BETHANIE MATTEK-SANDS: You know, it's a hot topic right now, but it's never really gone away from our conversations when we've talked with the WTA about it. You know, if you take someone, a guy that's 15 in the world in singles and a girl that's 15 in the world in singles, they're still not making the same. So it's not technically equal.

And you know, it's equal at 8 tournaments a year. I think the men still have a lot more opportunities to play. They have more tournaments per week. So I think there's a lot of things that we have constantly been working on; whether it's a hot topic in the media or not, that's always something that we've felt strong about.

**Transcripts Provided By:**

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Obviously we're a women's sport. We're one of the most recognized women's sports in the world. So that's something that we have always gone after, whether it's talked about or not.

**Q. It doesn't make much difference to you that people are noticing now, or does it?**

BETHANIE MATTEK-SANDS: It does. I think when people are noticing it, I feel like maybe things can get done quicker, you know, but it's never been really in the background for us as female athletes and as women tennis players. It's something we've obviously I'm sure you've talked to Serena and Venus. They've worked on that since before I was playing.

So again, it's kind of a regurgitated topic, but it's an important one. So I am not saying that in a bad way. I mean obviously I work side by side with everybody on the WTA Tour, and we're constantly evolving and improving. And I think we offer a great product. It's entertaining for fans, and I think everything kind of plays a part in this, and so obviously I'm always for increase in our prize money, increasing our opportunities per week, just because that's -- you know, I see the effort and everything that's going into it behind the scenes, you know, from our point of view.

**Q. Do you think it's possible to get that gap closed?**

BETHANIE MATTEK-SANDS: You know what, I'll say yeah. You know, nothing is impossible. I'm kind of one of those people that thinks anything is possible. I mean really, like you put your nose down to the ground and figure some things out. I think it is.

I mean, again, in both Indian Wells and Miami, I had a lot of fans coming to watch my women's doubles matches. I had a lot of people supporting me and Coco, and you know, I think some of the arguments -- I saw some of your Twitter back and forth a while ago, and I think you actually made some really valid points on, you know, does Goffin warrant as much as a Serena semifinal. And you could nitpick all day like that. So I think that's -- I think it's great that you're having that conversation and that it's being talked about. But I think -- you know, I have the same stance with what I think about the women's tour, and we'll keep pressing forward.

**Q. Not even a question, so this doesn't really count, but it's flared up in women's soccer, too, now. So that whole thing where they are like suing the U. S. Soccer Team or something.**

BETHANIE MATTEK-SANDS: Yeah. I actually didn't even know that. No, but you know, I think it's something that's been happening in the U. S. for a long time.

I remember seeing a sign, I think it was on Pinterest, and it was an elderly woman. She had to have been in her 70s, and it had a sign saying, "I can't believe I'm still picturing for this shit," and it's kind of funny because it's been -- it's not like we're the first ones to be saying these things or doing anything about it. There's been a lot of women before us that have kind of paved the way.

End of Interview

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