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**Angelique Kerber defeats Lara Arruabarrena
6-2, 5-7, 7-6³
Second Round**

**An Interview With:
Angelique Kerber**

Q. Just want to talk about what a challenge that was especially after the first set, she really sort of dug in and it was actually really high-quality tennis. You both had 50 winners in the match.

ANGELIQUE KERBER: Yeah. After the first set, she was playing better, and she came back on the match, and I think I lost a little bit my rhythm in the second set, but I think it was a really good match from her.

I mean, yeah, I never saw her playing like this, actually. And I heard already that she played very well, and I was feeling that, but yeah, it's always freaky to play the first matches on clay, and I was trying to stay in the match, trying to playing point by point in the tiebreak because I knew that's the last few points in the match.

So I'm just happy about the match and, yeah, it was for sure a tough first round on clay here in Charleston.

Q. You had a lot of games go to deuce. Game 4 in that third set just went forever, and you won it and I thought that maybe kind of propelled you to the victory. Can you comment on that?

ANGELIQUE KERBER: Yeah. I remember. I don't know how long the game took, but I think more than ten minutes for sure. And I think it was an important game for me because after this I lost the next games, I think. So it was important for me to take this game, but I think every game was really close until the last one, and

also the tiebreak was close as well. So yeah, it's good to win the match like this.

Q. As the night went on, how tough were the conditions for you, with everything getting colder and windier out there?

ANGELIQUE KERBER: Yeah, it was a little bit tough because like two days ago I was in Miami and it was a little bit different than here tonight.

So yeah, it was actually windy. It was cold, and we started when it was like the sun was still there, and then it's getting dark. So it was not so easy, but it's good to have a match like this down already, and I'm looking forward to play the next one.

Q. I know you've defended titles before, but how did it feel walking out on that court for the first time again after last year, and any of the memories that came up from 2015?

ANGELIQUE KERBER: Yeah. It's a really special feeling, and today also when I went there on the center court where last year this tournament was really important for me, which changed everything for me, and also for the next months last year. So the crowd was just amazing, you know. They are supporting you, and to playing in front of these guys here is just feeling like home and it's really great to be back.

Q. I don't know if frustrating would be the right word, but it just seemed like every time you'd get a lead, get some momentum, she would come clawing back at you. What was that like for you to battle like that?

ANGELIQUE KERBER: Yeah, I think for me it was not so easy because it was not like this that I was feeling my rhythm the whole match. It was like up and downs in the match, but I know that the first matches on clay are always like this, and I was trying to stay like positive.

Sometimes, of course, it's like not so easy because on clay the balls are also bouncing a little bit different, and so it was like more, you know, to stay in the match, focusing on the points, and yeah, not thinking too much about the negatives, more thinking, okay, play the game and try to, yeah, improve your game in this match and also in the next matches to be ready for the next matches on clay.

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Q. If you had to play her again, what would you do differently?

ANGELIQUE KERBER: I think going for it more a little bit because sometimes I was more like too defensive and too much like waiting for the balls and running too much. I think when I will play next time against her I will try to just going for it and trying to step maybe one, two steps in the court and just trying to hit the balls and going for it.

End of Interview

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