

April 6, 2016



**Monica Puig defeats Andrea Petkovic
7-5, 6-2
Second Round**

An Interview With: Monica Puig

Q. Just talk about what a win like this means and then moving forward in the tournament.

MONICA PUIG: Well, it's really exciting. It's the first clay court tournament of the year. It's a little bit shocking to see how fast the first quarter of the year went, but moving on in this tournament, I feel really happy about it and to see how quickly I got my footing on the clay.

Q. What about the atmosphere out there? It was pretty electric, I think, for a night match. Just talk about that and how perhaps that helped you a little bit. I know Petko is a big favorite here.

MONICA PUIG: I played Venus three years ago here in the second round, so I knew what to expect. The crowd gets really into it and they get really excited, and that's something you like to see in tennis, the fan involvement, and something that obviously in the WTA we try to work on as well, getting more fans to come out and support us; and I think it's a great thing to see that atmosphere and how loudly they were cheering, because it wasn't just one sided. It was a lot for both players.

Q. You were down, I think, 5-2 in the opening --

MONICA PUIG: 5-3, I think.

Q. 5-3 in the opening set, and then you just steamrolled her. What changed?

MONICA PUIG: Well, I think I was playing really well. Even though I was down 5-3, I missed a couple of easy shots, I thought, some short balls; and sometimes you're playing well and you just miss those shots.

So I just had to adjust my game a little bit, just keep believing that I could hit the same way and eventually they were going to go in. So didn't really change anything there. Just try and kept a positive mentality throughout.

Q. Well, speaking of mentality, Monica, did you notice, though, still in the first set that Andrea was starting not to have such a positive mentality because you maintained one for every point of the entire match.

MONICA PUIG: I think that's something I definitely try to work on with my team is just maintaining that positive outlook on things even though you might be losing 5-0 or you're winning 5-0.

And obviously looking at how the other person is responding is a big thing, too. So knowing if I'm doing the right things, if I'm frustrating her, if I have an opportunity to come back, try and just be aware of everything on court and having that type of really focused mentality where you're aware of every little thing that's going on.

Q. Have you been that way from the beginning or did you have to learn it?

MONICA PUIG: No. I had to learn, and I'm still learning. I mean I feel like every year throughout my career is going to be a learning process. Whether I'm 22 years old or eventually 28 years old, I'm going to continuously want to learn new things and always be open minded to any changes my team wants to bring to the table.

Q. Was there any kind of intimidation factor tonight? I mean two years ago she might have had the most dominant run ever in this tournament, and last year she went out to Kerber in the semis. Was there a bit of intimidation, night court against Petkovic, and at some point did you realize this is certainly a winnable match?

MONICA PUIG: Well, you know, I definitely do have a winning record against her,

Transcripts Provided By:

Kelly McKee Dorsey, Sports Media Transcriptionist

Email: kadmcr@yahoo.com

Twitter: @reporterkel

and we've played several times, but just because I had a winning record doesn't mean that each match was easy. I mean our matches have been quite tough, and the last time she played me on clay she beat me 0 and 0.

So I definitely had to be on my toes, knowing that she is a fan favorite as well because she won here in 2014. It's something that you have to be conscious about because the crowd is going to want to back her a little bit more.

So I just had to focus on my own game. And I have so much respect for her anyway. She's a great person, not just off the court, but on the court she's a great sportsman. So it's somebody who I'm always going to struggle against and always going to have difficult matches with. So it's an opponent I really look forward to playing more.

End of Interview

Transcripts Provided By:

Kelly McKee Dorsey, Sports Media Transcriptionist

Email: kadmcr@yahoo.com

Twitter: @reporterkel