

April 7, 2016



**Angelique Kerber defeats Kristina Kucova
6-2, 6-3
Third Round**

**An Interview With:
Angelique Kerber**

Q. Angie, a little bit easier time of it today. Can you tell us anything that you did today or learned that will make it easier for you in the next round?

ANGELIQUE KERBER: First of all, it was a completely different match, like with the conditions because it was like warm and it was much more windier than two days ago when it was really cold.

But I think like the first matches are always tough to play on clay, and today it was my second one. And I was feeling better, like with my movement and trying to hitting the balls, you know, like just playing my game and not just pushing it what I did in the first match. And I think that, yeah, makes this match for me a little bit better, like because I was playing a little bit better tennis than the match before.

Q. Do you find you're guarding your leg or have you forgotten about it?

ANGELIQUE KERBER: No. I forgot about it. Yes. It's good.

Q. With the way you looked today and moving on to the quarters, are you starting to kind of get that feeling you had last year where this is starting to move into place, fall into place and I can make a run in this thing?

ANGELIQUE KERBER: Yeah, I think the feeling is coming back like which I had last year because right now I'm feeling much better on clay

again. Moving like, yeah, it feels better. And also, when I hit the balls, I'm feeling the ball, I'm feeling the Court, and of course, also like to playing there again on the great center court with all the fans, it's just, again, a great feeling which I had last year.

Q. This was your first match against Kristina, and she hits two hands off both sides, and you play left-handed, so were there any problems with that, with her style, which is pretty rare?

ANGELIQUE KERBER: Yeah. There are not a lot of players that are playing both handed both sides, but I knew this before because I saw the match a little bit which she was playing yesterday. And yeah, I spoke with my coach a little bit about the tactic, but it was more like looking on my serve and my tennis, and it was like she was serving with right hand, so this is actually, then, the most important thing, like if it's lefty or righty.

Q. Angelique, you said that things had improved from Tuesday night to today. What do you think you need to improve next in your game on clay? What are the things you're going to work on before tomorrow?

ANGELIQUE KERBER: I think for the next round, like today, like of course, trying to get used to the clay again and trying to have a lot of matches and trying to hit the balls, and just trying to feel the clay court. It's a little bit different than the hardcourt, and the clay court season starts, so I will just try to have a lot of matches, trying to preparing as good as I can before the next tournament. And of course, I think that I need a few more matches to get used to the clay still.

Q. How much attention do you pay to what's going on in the draw around you? Do you go back to your room each night and look at what happened or what do you do?

ANGELIQUE KERBER: No. I mean I saw the draw like when the draw is coming out, and I am actually focusing just on my draw side, you know, and I am just thinking about my next opponent and that's it. I'm like not looking on the draws every night or looking who is in, who is out. Of course, I know this because, yeah, I mean sometimes you know when good players are out or they are tough matches they are still on. But at the

Transcripts Provided By:

Kelly McKee Dorsey, Sports Media Transcriptionist
Email: kadmcr@yahoo.com
Twitter: @reporterkel

end I'm just trying to playing day by day and trying to improving my tennis, especially now on clay.

Q. Angelique, has there been any difference this week in coming back here, not only that you're the defending champion here, but you come back with a major title as well. Is there any kind of a different feeling walking around here that maybe a year ago that wasn't the case at all?

ANGELIQUE KERBER: I don't know if it's a different feeling, but it's, of course, a better feeling, you know. I had like great memories from last year where I won it here. I won my first Grand Slam in Melbourne, and of course, I have a lot of more confidence than when I came here last year. And I didn't have the best start of the year 2015, so that changed a little bit. But also when I walk in here, of course the people are recognize me much more than last year in the first few days. But it feels good. I mean I'm enjoying it, and the people are so nice here. So I really -- yeah. I'm feeling like really I'm welcome at home, so it's great.

Q. Playing off that question, do you feel like more of a fan favorite this year? You hear a few more cheers maybe?

ANGELIQUE KERBER: Of course, I'm feeling that a lot of more fans are like cheering for me, and I have I think the greatest fans. And it's great, you know, to just showing them my best tennis and trying to -- you know, playing with them as well on court, and when they are cheering for you, of course you hear it and it's a great feeling just to play in front of all these guys.

End of Interview

Transcripts Provided By:

Kelly McKee Dorsey, Sports Media Transcriptionist

Email: kadmcr@yahoo.com

Twitter: @reporterkel