

April 8, 2016



**Sloane Stephens defeats Daria Kasatkina
6-1, 5-7, 7-5
Quarterfinal Round**

An Interview With: Sloane Stephens

Q. Sloane, it seemed like you really turned it on for the final two games, just blazed right through at the end of the match. Where did that come from? What happened and how do you keep doing that?

SLOANE STEPHENS: I don't know. I mean I was just playing, fighting the whole time, and I played some really solid games. I knew what I had to do. I needed to step inside the Court and be a little more aggressive and I think I started doing that towards the end of the second set and then when it came down to it, I was able to just kind of hit my way through.

Q. What were the things she was doing that was giving you the most trouble in the second set and early in the third set?

SLOANE STEPHENS: She was just playing her game. She was being aggressive. She was trying to control the Court. She hits a lot of balls back. I mean she's a great player, so I think she was doing obviously what her coach probably told her to do and it was a tough match.

Q. Sloane, how much of the success you've already had this year gives you confidence that you can keep it going here in Charleston?

SLOANE STEPHENS: Yeah, I mean for me this is obviously really great. In six years here I've only won one match in the main draw, so for me this is awesome. And I'm playing well. I've

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had a good year so far, and it's only the beginning of the season. So I'm pleased with that.

But this just helps me build for the rest of the year and I'm excited to be in the semis here.

Q. Your toughest match of the week coming up tomorrow with Kerber. The way you've been playing so far, do you have confidence that you can play well and beat her tomorrow?

SLOANE STEPHENS: Of course. I mean if you go on the court thinking that you can't win, then you've already lost. So for me I've been playing solid. I'm enjoying myself and having fun on the court and I'm just going to go out and play my best and just get out there and compete.

Q. I think you split two matches with her on hard court. What do you remember about those matches?

SLOANE STEPHENS: We split two matches? What does that mean. We each won one? Okay. I have no idea.

Q. Yeah. Indian Wells.

SLOANE STEPHENS: Oh, she beat me one time; I beat her one time? Oh, my God. The first time I played her I was up 6-1, 5-0, I think, and I had like eight match points and I lost. Thanks for reminding me. (Laughs). I remember now. Of course. Okay. That was then.

So yeah, I mean she's playing well. She's obviously Grand Slam champion now, so it's going to be difficult. But looking forward to it, just looking forward to getting out there and competing, and I'm excited for that.

Q. Sloane, everybody's talked to us this week about the transition from hardcourts to clay. Did you come into this week thinking, you know, I think I can make a run on clay; I'm feeling pretty good, that I can make the transition pretty quickly?

SLOANE STEPHENS: No, not at all. At the beginning of the week I was like, oh, my God. I don't know what's going to happen. I was really nervous, because obviously coming into here I haven't done well here. So I think I had more anxiety and nervousness about just being here.

And I mean it was kind of like you go out and play and do the best you can, and I think once

I kind of got that mindset, then everything else kind of seemed to flow a little bit better?

Q. You talked previously about how much you love Charleston. And what does it mean now that you'll have some good on-court memories now to look back on as well?

SLOANE STEPHENS: Just gives me confidence even for next year to be able to come back and know that I've won three matches here in a row and been able to get my footing. And just have some good on-court experiences here. I think that's really important.

For me it's great. Like I said, I love Charleston, and now I'll really look forward to coming back.

End of Interview

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