

**April 8, 2016**



**Elena Vesnina defeats Laura Siegemund  
7-5, 6-4  
Quarterfinal Round**

**An Interview with:  
Elena Vesnina**

**Q. Tired yet?**

ELENA VESNINA: No. I feel great actually.

**Q. You really ramped up your serve in that second set. Did you go through anything to do that or did it just come to you?**

ELENA VESNINA: Yeah. I was trying actually because the whole match we were struggling with the serves a little bit because of the wind. And then in the second set I actually kind of catch the way it was blowing, and I knew that I had to go for my big serves, you know, because otherwise it was a little bit like 50/50 in the points. And I was trying to be as much aggressive as I can on the first serve, so just give me opportunity to have like an open court and then just go for my shots.

**Q. What was the toughest thing about playing her?**

ELENA VESNINA: Laura, she's a very tricky player. You don't see that much players like her on the tour. She's very aggressive. She's coming to the net. She's doing a lot of drop shots. In the same place she's doing a lot of motions during her shots. She's walking, then she's taking the towel, then she's -- you know, she's very competitive. You can see that. And she's very tricky player, and with these tough conditions it wasn't easy because you don't feel your shot as much as you want, because it's always different

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zone. You're never hitting the ball in the same zone. It's always different, high, low, from the side. So I'm really happy about this win.

**Q. Five years since you've been in this stage of this tournament. What feels different? What feels the same, and maybe what's changed in your life a lot since then?**

ELENA VESNINA: I know what you mean. (Laughs). Everybody keeps asking me the same question. First of all, I really love Charleston. Since I come here first time, I always had some really good results. Not as good as in 2011 when I was in the final. But every time when I was coming here I was really enjoying my game. And this year maybe it's a bit different because this time I'm playing in let's say -- I'm a Mrs., yeah? I'm a Mrs. So it feels different. And maybe that gives me some power or some strength now to play and to compete and to win my matches.

But it just -- in the other case I'm just enjoying myself on the court and it's just great to play on the center court in Charleston again.

**Q. Have you had a chance to honeymoon yet?**

ELENA VESNINA: We had a chance right after the wedding. We went only for ten days. Is it counting as the honeymoon?

**Q. I think so.**

ELENA VESNINA: Eleanor Adams, she was like, "I know why you're playing good." She told me this morning. I'm like, "why?" "Because you're still on the honeymoon." I'm like, "Eleanor, he's not even here. I'm alone." She's like, "doesn't matter."

**Q. And what do you think about your next match coming up against these two that are playing right now? What do you know about both of them?**

ELENA VESNINA: I know Sara pretty good. She's a fighter. She's an ex Top 10 player and finalist of French Open. So obviously she really loves playing on clay. That's her favorite surface. She has her best results on clay. And it's never easy to play against her, and it's going to be a very difficult match.

And [ ] Yulia Putintseva she's a young, upcoming star, very competitive, great mover. And I never played against her, so it's always tricky

when you play against someone you don't really know. It's never easy. So we'll see because it's going to be a real interesting match now on center court.

**Q. We've talked all week with people about the transition from hard courts to clay the first time you're playing on clay this season. But with the success that you've had here, the way you like this city and this tournament, did that give you some good feelings coming here thinking, all right, I may be able to play well and advance to where I am now?**

ELENA VESNINA: Yeah. It's never easy to change a surface after hard court going to the clay, but for me it's not the hardest let's say change from the surface, compared to grass, for example. It's never easy to go from clay to grass. That's the worst one, to be honest.

Yeah, but green clay for me it's a little bit faster than the red clay. But still it's the same clay. You slide. Points are getting slower. You have to move really well. You have to anticipate.

So it's just -- I mean it's not easy, but for so many years on the tour, you know you need to adjust as fast as you can. And I know some preparation for this clay court season as well?

**Q. You and Dasha have been playing doubles for a few tournaments. Is that going to continue?**

ELENA VESNINA: We will see. Maybe. We don't know. We played with Ekaterina Makarova for a long, long time, and we had some great results. So we will see what's going to happen because we need to decide what to do with this situation.

End of Interview

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