

April 9, 2016

**An Interview With:
Andre Agassi
Andy Roddick
James Blake
Mardy Fish**

THE MODERATOR: Welcome everybody to the second leg of the PowerShares series. The gentlemen just got in last night from Chicago where James was the victor.

JAMES BLAKE: Thank you. Thank you. (Applause). Appreciate it.

Q. Welcome to Charleston, gentlemen. Tell us a little bit the match, why you love playing these type, and what we can expect tonight.

JAMES BLAKE: Andy?

ANDY RODDICK: James went to Harvard. He should answer. (Laughs).

JAMES BLAKE: I love the opportunity to play against friends as well as legends. These guys are one in the same in that regard.

My whole career felt like a dream come true doing what I love, and now to get to continue it, and we get to continue in a slightly less pressure-filled environment. So we have a lot of fun in the locker room.

And I really enjoy these matches because I think the fans get to see a little bit of our personality as well. We're having a little more fun out there. It's not as businesslike as some of us were when we were playing on tour, on the main tour. So for me it's a great experience to interact with the fans that way and for me to get to continue living out the dream come true.

Q. Andy, Mardy, you guys were here 12 years ago playing in the Davis Cup. Just your memories of playing out there, different surface this time around, but just your memories. What stood out to you then and what came back to

you when you knew you guys were going to be here?

ANDY RODDICK: Yeah, a lot of the bars we went to after that tie have since closed. (Laughs). That's a little disappointing.

But no, we were actually just on the golf cart over we were talking about how much we love Charleston, and my wife and I always talk about if we were forced to move, this would be on the short list of places we would want to go.

It was such a big deal for us then just because we had never been in a Davis Cup final. So kind of sweeping here and winning 3-0 in that tie was a real big deal for us. And Mardy won a big match against Mirnyi, who was their top player. And then once you got a couple under the belt and Bob and Mike get to do their thing, it was over most times.

But we had a great time. I was really excited when we chose Charleston for that tie, and then just all good memories from that week and really happy to be back now.

Q. Andre, you're the only one not wearing a baseball cap. Is there something they're hiding?

ANDRE AGASSI: You know --

ANDY RODDICK: Yes.

ANDRE AGASSI: I'm only follicly impaired above the eyebrows, so I've come to terms with that. My follicles are alive and well the rest of my body. (Laughs).

No, but I don't know if -- they are not -- I doubt they're hiding anything. They're pretty transparent guys.

ANDY RODDICK: I'm hiding something. And thank you for your question (laughs).

Q. Andre, as a teenager you played back here on the U. S. clay courts?

ANDRE AGASSI: Wild Dunes, yeah.

Q. Back in, I think, '88?

ANDRE AGASSI: '88.

Q. Back in Wild Dunes, if you remember that. Also you came here in '92 after you won Wimbledon. We had a sponsored event with Ivan Lendl when they were opening a new tennis center. Do you recall that weekend?

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ANDRE AGASSI: I try to forget every event with Ivan Lendl. (Laughs). So that one I'm struggling with.

However, Wild Dunes I remember well. Played Jimmy Brown first round. Played Lawson Duncan in the semis, beat him 4 and 3, Jimmy (indiscernible) in the finals, 2 and 2.

Beautiful, beautiful part of the world. I've always enjoyed coming here, no doubt. It is a quaint little town, and me and Andy's wife have also talked about moving here. (Laughs). Just kidding.

ANDY RODDICK: (Laughs). No, it was good. Just wish I would have thought of that. Well played.

ANDRE AGASSI: This gives us an opportunity to really spend time with guys 10, 15 years of your life you've been together out there in some pretty intense circumstances. You see the best and worst, and when you respect somebody through those times, they're good friends; and to be back together again is awesome, but then to go to cities where you don't get it to go very much anymore.

They got to play Davis Cup here as a team, which I'm sure was a wonderful week for them. We got to be in Chicago last night, which outside the blizzard was just an awesome deal. It's such a great sports town, they should have had tennis there throughout our career. So there's a lot of upside for us doing this, and it's achievable in the practicality of our lives these days.

Q. What's the challenge of this format just in the sense of obviously you're not playing a full three-set match. So you have to, I'm guessing, get a quick start or what do you guys see as far as for the fans this format brings that they don't see in a normal tennis match?

ANDRE AGASSI: I was shocked last night how much James has improved over the years. (Laughs). I mean he played lights out. Or maybe I've decreased. I don't know.

In either case, no, you do have to get off to a good start, especially against some of these guys who can put away a set with one or two shots alone.

It's very explosive tennis, so you want to get comfortable early. But playing outside with the wind on green clay, I just wouldn't expect a whole lot. (Laughs).

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Q. So much has been made of the comments that were made at Indian Wells. I just wanted to get your guys' perspective from the male side of it about what was said.

JAMES BLAKE: Mardy?

ANDY RODDICK: You mean from the tennis player's side, not the male side.

ANDRE AGASSI: Be politically correct.

ANDY RODDICK: I think it was unfortunate the way he went about making his comments, and I think after that, I think Novak was generally trying to say something complimentary and used a word that was bad and then got beat over the coals for it.

I don't think you'll find someone in tennis who agrees with the way that Ray Moore went about his point, and his word usage was probably suspect. The way he kind of went through that, you know, you wish he would have put away a shovel about two minutes into that conversation.

It's unfortunate that that issue needs to keep getting brought up in tennis when we're getting the bad headlines for it, but we're also one of the only sports that's paying equally. So it's a little backwards to me.

End of Interview