

April 10, 2016



**Garcia/Mladenovic defeat
Mattek-Sands/Safarova
6-2, 7-5
Final Round**

An Interview With:

Caroline Garcia and Kristina Mladenovic

Q. Girls, congratulations. Just talk about, I mean that was a great victory today, but overall a good week of tennis from you. You only dropped one set.

CAROLINE GARCIA: I go. Yeah. It was definitely a very good final, and I think both teams played a great level of tennis. And yeah, we have improved every day, and we try some different things, some new things, and it worked pretty well. And we have good communications since the beginning of the year, and we are enjoying what we are doing on court.

And yeah, we knew each other since a long time outside of the court. But we are learning how to play better together on the court and feeling what the other one is doing.

Q. When you formed this team for the Olympics, did you believe that you would be doing this well so soon?

KRISTINA MLADENOVIC: Well, first of all, it's not only about Olympics. It's true that it's a great coincidence that we are in 2016 and there's Olympics coming up. But for me there was no doubt of the quality player that Caroline is, and I guess it was just a matter of time, you know. We never had before an opportunity to play together. I had Timea Babos was one of my best friends on tour, also same age as we all are.

Transcripts Provided By:

Kelly McKee Dorsey, Sports Media Transcriptionist

Email: kadmcr@yahoo.com

Twitter: @reporterkel

I mean it was a great call and idea to join our forces together, and yeah, again, I repeat myself, but no doubt with the quality she has that I guess I have some. So working on it is like a process, daily process to just try to join and make our games completely really well.

And like Caroline said, we are enjoying ourselves on the court since the beginning of the year, and yeah, we can say we are quite satisfied how it's going so far. Third final today. Finally this first title; we were a little bit impatient. But yeah, we definitely have big goals week after week, and we're definitely looking forward to the future.

Q. Could you tell us how you plan to celebrate?

KRISTINA MLADENOVIC: In the plane. We are going straight to the Fed Cup to join our Fed Cup team in Trélazé. So we have still a couple of hours to get ready and then we're going to go to the Charleston Airport to Atlanta, then Atlanta-Paris, and then Paris by train to Trélazé where all our team is waiting for us.

CAROLINE GARCIA: Exciting.

KRISTINA MLADENOVIC: It's exciting. Big stage coming up for us. Semifinal of Fed Cup, which is a very big thing and nice opportunity to go one more step forward. And the funny thing is that it's going to be a long, long journey. I guess we are going to feel good and celebrate somehow together. We're going to be together. And we'll have five luggage each, so it's going to be the funniest part.

Q. Was it strange at all facing Lucie in this final, in particular because you had won the title with her here in 2013?

KRISTINA MLADENOVIC: Yeah, definitely she's one of my greatest friends as well on the tour. I play doubles only with people really like I have a connection, like friendship, and I was definitely awkward to go on court. Like I had the flashback memories three years ago, because like I didn't come back since then.

So it's pretty awesome feeling for me to, you know, back-to-back kind of finals, and with Lucie, to have her on the other side of the net this time. And unfortunately someone had to win, but I'm very happy this time to share these emotions with today's partner.

No, it's great, and she's a good girl, and I'm also happy for her that they made it to the final.

Q. The two of you play doubles all over the world, and I know on big stages, but how special is it here in Charleston? The crowds really seem to love and respect the doubles game so much.

CAROLINE GARCIA: No, it's a pleasure for us to play doubles in front of crowd like this who like doubles and who know how to play it and who enjoy the tough game it is.

So sometimes I think it's like people don't enjoy doubles as it could be. And sometimes it's disappointing when you see no one in the crowd. We are also playing for the crowd, and when the people are enjoying, it's push ourselves to play better and better.

So for us it's a pleasure to play. And on the smaller court, on the Althea Gibson or on the one you can see at 10:30 or even at 9 p.m. there is a lot of people who stay and enjoy. So it's great for everyone, for us and for the fans also.

End of Interview

Transcripts Provided By:

Kelly McKee Dorsey, Sports Media Transcriptionist

Email: kadmcr@yahoo.com

Twitter: @reporterkel