

**April 4, 2017**

A Post-Match Interview With:

## **SHELBY ROGERS**

Shelby Rogers defeats Veronica Cepede Royg  
6-7<sup>1</sup> 6-3, 7-6<sup>6</sup>

**Q. So the look on your face when you won the match was pretty much wrapped up the whole match for everybody in the audience. They were like really sitting on the edge of their seats. Can you just talk about the win?**

SHELBY ROGERS: Yeah. It was definitely a lot of momentum changes in the match. You know, I came back in the first, kind of lost it in the third there. I thought she raised her level quite a bit in the third and played very well. You know, she had a couple of matches under her belt already, was feeling very comfortable clearly. It's always nice to get that first win on clay, and especially here, you know, in front of that crowd, they were absolutely amazing today, and especially when I don't have my A game. That kind of helped me through it today. So I'm very happy to get those last couple points.

**Q. Today was a first-round match against a qualifier but in your hometown. You've beaten Halep, made the quarters at the French Open. You played for the Fed Cup team. Where does today rank in your tennis hierarchy?**

SHELBY ROGERS: It's definitely really special. Having my family and friends in the crowd, going through that battle with me today is extra special, but I've had so many great wins in my career, and I cherish every single one of them. But doing it where I grew up, where I learned how to play tennis and with all the people that have gotten me to this point in my career, I think it's a little extra sweet, yeah.

**Q. You love to come back obviously to your hometown. Is there a little extra pressure you feel when you come here, too, and how do you deal with that?**

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SHELBY ROGERS: Not externally. I think it's just for myself. I work so hard throughout the year. I'm away from my friends and family, and I just want to show them that I've gotten better and I want to show them what I can do. But regardless of the results here, they always support me; they always love me. They're behind me 100 percent no matter what. So it's -- you know, they support me always. It's just from me, I think, wanting to do well in front of all the people I know. I mean I know they watch me all year on the live streams and on TV, but it's different kind of seeing their faces in the crowd.

**Q. First of all, your jacket is --**

SHELBY ROGERS: Thank you.

**Q. You know who you play next round?**

SHELBY ROGERS: Ms. Madison.

**Q. Yes. And you've played her only one time and it was five years ago?**

SHELBY ROGERS: Yeah.

**Q. It was on clay, and who won?**

SHELBY ROGERS: I think I won in three sets.

**Q. You won in three sets. Yes. Do you remember anything about that?**

SHELBY ROGERS: It was in Charlottesville.

**Q. Yes. Well done.**

SHELBY ROGERS: Okay. A little bit. It was a super windy, kind of misty day. We both played terribly. So hopefully tomorrow is a little better quality. It can only get better I think than the last match. But she's healthy now. I think she's going to come out real excited to play. She was out for a little bit. She's got a really powerful game. That's going to be tough, but hopefully we put on a good show.

**Q. It might get windy here. Do you feel you can handle the wind fairly well?**

SHELBY ROGERS: I think so. I mean I don't think anyone loves playing in the wind. It's just handling it a little bit better than your opponent. We're both going to be dealing with the same things, if that's the case, and just kind of picking bigger targets, playing smart, going for your shots when you have them. High-percentage tennis, I think, is key. But we'll deal with that when we get there.

**Q. You were down 3-1 last night when the rain came. Did the overnight break help you do you think?**

SHELBY ROGERS: Yeah. I think so. Kind of just to reset a little bit. It was a little bit different conditions today as well. I felt like I was rushing a bit last night. I knew it was going to rain. I wanted to get kind of ahead early, but the exact opposite happened, actually, because I was rushing and kind of making it difficult for myself. So I think to be able to reset.

I mean I didn't start great today either, but then, you know, was just a little more aggressive, started going for my shots, and it paid off later in the match. But yeah, I mean everything happens for a reason, and I'm happy to have got the win.

**Q. You were up two sets, up two breaks in the third set, and failed to serve out the match a couple of times. What were you thinking when the third set tiebreak began?**

SHELBY ROGERS: I was thinking that I needed to change what I was doing, because, you know, she raised her level unbelievably. She didn't miss a ball in the third set, you know. I broke back, though, to try to serve it out again, and then she came up with some great shots. It got a little windier as well. The conditions changed. It was a bit more difficult to kind of hit off the court and, you know, I had hit bigger targets, things like that.

And in the tiebreak I think we both had a great level, we had great points, some long points and just came down to that one like awkward shot I hit into the wind and was able to get the pass down the line, but I was just trying to be more aggressive and not let her push me back so much, because she was moving forward really well and getting in a good rhythm.

**Q. This might seem like a dumb question. You've had a good year in the past year. You've had some milestones. Have you**

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**reached a point where you're not trying to make it on tour anymore but this is your career. Does that make any sense?**

SHELBY ROGERS: Yeah, absolutely. I think that's a great question. And I think you're right. I feel like I belong here. I feel like this is -- this is my job. This is what I do. And every week I'm going to fight to win that next match. I don't feel like I'm trying to break through anymore. I've been in the Top 50. It's just a matter of getting to the next level, taking care of those little details and being more consistent through the whole season.

So far this year it's been really good. I haven't lost first round in any of my events. I've beaten some great players, and I feel like I know exactly how I want to play. I've established the kind of player I am. So yeah, I think I've matured a lot. I think I've come a long way. But still, a long way to go. I mean Roger Federer is still getting better. So we all have things to improve upon.

**Q. Obviously your fantastic run at the French Open last year; Madison, final of Rome; Sloane winning this title, there's a crew of Americans that can play on the dirt, which hasn't always been the case in the past, and I'm wondering from your perspective why do you think that is? Why do you think that right now more, especially with the women, the American women? It's like this is a surface that you guys feel like you can attack.**

SHELBY ROGERS: I think we just believe in ourselves a little bit more. There was always the stigma that we can't play on clay, but why? There are clay courts in the U. S. Why do we have to lose on it?

I've always loved clay. I grew up right here on the green clay. That's where I first learned to hit a tennis ball. And I've had my best results on the clay. So I think once one person kind of breaks through, the other one is like, okay, I can do that, too, and we kind of work together to sort of rewrite that history and say, okay, the Americans are here; we're good on every surface.

I mean, why not? You know, I think we're all confident that we can play anywhere. And yeah, it's a group effort. I think we work together, and it's awesome. I'm happy to be a part of it.

**Q. Can you tell us about the jacket?**

SHELBY ROGERS: So this is from my new sponsor, Diadora. I have a couple different

colors. Earlier on court I was wearing like a blue one. But yeah, Italian company; they're coming back in tennis. I signed with them this year in January, and a little out of my comfort zone, but I'm liking it. I'm getting used to it.

And I want to make a comment. This shirt is from my good friend Ms. Bethanie Mattek-Sands, "hashtag Ms. Rogers' Neighborhood." I thought it was appropriate to wear today. So shout out to Ms. Bethanie. Got a lot of fun items going on here.

But no, fashion is fun. I think when we step on court, it's another chance for us to show our personality a little bit, so I'm happy to be working with Diadora, and you'll see a few more fun things later this year.

End of Interview

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