

April 6, 2017

A Post-Match Interview With:

DARIA KASATKINA

**Daria Kasatkina defeats Daria Gavrilova
6-3, 4-6, 6-0**

Q. Third Round tough match, tough conditions. How would you rate these conditions? How hard was it out there?

DARIA KASATKINA: Yeah. Today was very tough to play. You go on court, you are tossing the ball for the serve and it goes in the tribune, you know. It was very difficult, and I was playing against my very good friend, so it was like double portion of toughness, but it was I think a good match, so I'm happy that I won.

Q. What was the key for you today, especially after the second set? It didn't look like you were playing the same way that you wanted to for the match.

DARIA KASATKINA: In the second set my coach came on the court. He told me I was start to play quite soft, and I stopped moving. So he was right, because in the third set I pushed myself to play more aggressive, to start to move with the legs, and I did the job. And the main key was, I think, the break points. I don't know. She has maybe, I don't know, 25 break points, and I won almost every break point. So it was the main key, I think.

Q. Daria, what about expectations for this week? When you come in, it's the first week on clay of the season. What sort of expectations did you have on yourself, especially because you're such a good clay court player?

DARIA KASATKINA: Thanks. You know, I had a few tough months. I couldn't win a match. So I came here with not a lot of expectations for sure. I was just happy that I came back on the clay so I can play my favorite tennis, and I'm happy that I'm moving on and I'm in the quarters here.

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Volvo
Car
Open



Q. Daria, you've played Irina a lot.

DARIA KASATKINA: Again.

Q. Yeah. Again. So what is the challenge of playing her? What do you need to do tomorrow, and will the change in surface matter?

DARIA KASATKINA: For sure. She will be very motivated because she lose last two times. For sure she will try to do her best, and she's better on the clay for sure. All her best results are on the clay. And I lose my last match against her on clay in Rome last year. So for sure I have to prepare well to show my best tennis tomorrow.

Q. When Plato comes down and gives you a talk like that today in the second set, how long does it take for you to kind of think -- because it's only 90 seconds, two minutes. How long does it take for you to realize what he's saying?

DARIA KASATKINA: Immediately. You know, when he's on court, he just like punch me and I'm again in the match. So he knows what to say in which moments.

Q. Did it help you? Did it help you to have him come at you with that much -- you know, he was very stern.

DARIA KASATKINA: Yeah, because he remind myself what I have to do on the court, because sometimes I can forget because it's nervous, it's windy and everything, and a lot of things in your head. So he just go on court, tell a few things and you're like, ah, yeah, okay, I have to do this and you are in the match again.

Q. How much did you and Daria talk about this match?

DARIA KASATKINA: Let's say every tournament we are talking like, ah, imagine we play against each other. When the draw is out, we're like for sure we play against each other first round, and it never happen. So it was like, so we go for dinner today. Maybe, yeah. I think we go for dinner. And today we go for dinner.

Q. So you're going to go for dinner after this?

DARIA KASATKINA: Yeah. Of course. She's leaving tomorrow.

Q. Are you paying?

DARIA KASATKINA: Looks like it. (Laughs).

Q. And then just one more question from me. The handshake. Talk about that. Whose idea was it and what was it supposed to be?

DARIA KASATKINA: It was like we just spoke, like let's do some weird handshake. She was like, okay, let's do the weird handshake. And I said, let's go like fake handshake. She goes, okay, that's a good idea. So we just were trying to make some fun. That's it.

Q. Daria, the draw has opened up quite a bit. There's not very many top players left. Do you look at that at all? Do you sort of inspect the draw or do you kind of take it one match at a time?

DARIA KASATKINA: No. Actually, I never check the draw. I'm just playing match by match. After the match I'm just asking my coach who is the next one and that's it. I don't even know who is the next if I win.

Q. And when you get to a quarterfinal, do the matches feel different? Does it feel different at the end of a tournament or are you trying to play, say, a quarterfinal the same way you play a first-round match?

DARIA KASATKINA: Usually the first round it's very difficult because you go on court and you don't know how you will play, how the opponent will play. And then when you are moving on to the second and third round, you already know what is your form, how we are playing. So I think it's getting better and better. I hope so.

Q. Daria, last year you had a great hard court season, and then you got on the clay and it wasn't what you wanted it to be. So going into this clay court season, how do you see it maybe a little bit differently than maybe what you saw last year?

DARIA KASATKINA: I hope this year different story because the hard season was not so good let's say. And I don't know what was the reason why I played so bad last year. Maybe because first time I play Fed Cup and I was very tired after that and I came to Madrid, I was already tired. And then it was going just like this. So this year I will not do this mistake. I will prepare well and not going for too much.

End of Interview

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