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A Post-Match Interview With:

LAURA SIEGEMUND

**Laura Siegemund defeats Anastasija Sevastova
6-2, 6-4
Quarterfinal Round**

Q. Laura, another good win. Can you just talk through the match? What do you think made the difference for you today?

LAURA SIEGEMUND: Yeah, it was difficult conditions again today. Not as windy as yesterday, but still very, very windy. And yeah, I think I came out strong, which I had planned to do also, and I think it may be looked a little bit easier than it was. I'd have to look at the match in the review, but I felt like it's a lot of close situations, close points, didn't feel as easy as 6-2. But yeah, I was happy with my performance in the first set, and then of course she had to step it up, you know. And there were times when she played really strong, and I got a little too defensive in the beginning of the second, missed a couple and then suddenly she's there, you know. That's this kind of level, it's kind of dangerous at all times. So a little unlucky to not make the 1-2 in the second set, and 0-3, it kind of flips the whole thing around. And I came back really strong after that. I think I stepped it up quite some and was very happy to turn it around in the second.

Q. For a player like yourself and the way that you play your tennis, do you consider the wind a bit of an equalizer out there insofar as it doesn't impact maybe you as much as other players?

LAURA SIEGEMUND: Yeah. I think it's definitely another variable that players react differently to it. Some get along with that kind of wind better than others. In the best case it's equal for both, but sometimes you'll have a little disadvantage maybe in one match where the wind blows against you in a bad situation, or another time you'll be a little bit lucky with the wind. So it's

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not always really equal, you know. But it's definitely a variable that players have to deal with, and I'm trying my best to do so. I'm trying to accept if bad things happen for the wind reason, you know, and yeah, every play, I guess, has their way to deal with it.

Q. Your last two matches have actually not gone on very long.

LAURA SIEGEMUND: Yeah. Surprise. (Laughs). If we go under three hours, I get messages like, "hey, you did it again!"

Q. How much difference do you feel that's making for you?

LAURA SIEGEMUND: Sorry?

Q. How much difference do you feel that's making for you in terms of endurance?

LAURA SIEGEMUND: Well, if you ask me if I want to be out there an hour and 30 minutes and win or three hours and 30 minutes and win, I'll take the first one, of course. Saves you some energy, but you know, I'm that kind of player. I don't care how long it takes. If I want to win in the end and if it takes three sets, I'll do it in three. Of course, I try to be quick and try to play strong, like yesterday and today and make it a quicker match, but just have to take it as it is, you know, as it comes that day. And I'm very happy if I can play strong and win matches like this, like yesterday and today in two sets, of course.

Q. Talking about Kasatkina, obviously you guys played last year. You're familiar with her somewhat and her game. What do you examine from that match? What do you think makes her a difficult opponent?

LAURA SIEGEMUND: She's very solid. You know, it's dangerous if people are very solid and very aggressive at the same time, like they're aggressive but they don't miss. So that's a bad combination. For her it's a good combination. For the opponent it's tough. You know, you sometimes have these very aggressive players that also make

a lot of errors, and then you have these solid players that don't hurt too much, but they just don't miss. She's kind of a little bit of both. She can step it up anytime and that makes her really dangerous. She's a good server, and yeah, I think, you know, I have to definitely play some very good tennis to beat her.

Q. And curious, Mirjana Lucic-Baroni was saying I think a couple of weeks ago or actually in Australia that she always knew deep in her soul that she had this level of tennis in her, that it would come out eventually. For someone who's had a remarkable amount of success later in her career, do you relate to that in terms of knowing that it was always there or do you feel like you had to still prove it to yourself that it was there and that you could compete consistently on this level?

LAURA SIEGEMUND: A little bit of both, yeah. I feel there is a lot of things out there that I do that now are also kind of my like characteristic, you know, with the crafty shots, with the courage. I think I'm a very courageous player. I go for my shots. I want to take the thing in my hand and not wait what happens. And I had that always in me. Just sometimes maybe, yeah, I wasn't able to execute so well and with such precision. But that's definitely something in my energy and all that. I mean that's me really. It's just me out there. And that was there all the time, and I'm really happy that now at this point of my career I can really show what's inside of me.

And then but also, you know, you can also kind of learn to lose at a point, learn like things are not working out, even over a longer period of time, and I had phases in my career where things just didn't quite work out. And then so there is a time when you really, yeah, have to learn that you can win and that actually all this is inside of you. You kind of forget about it. That's also true. So a little bit of both.

Q. At what point did you kind of learn how to win again?

LAURA SIEGEMUND: It's not that easy, yeah. People like to always draw like black-and-white lines. It's not like that at all. It's a process you're going through, and you get certain opportunities, I would say, throughout a career as well as throughout a match. It's kind of a micro life out there sometimes, these matches. So you keep

getting opportunities, and then you either take them or you don't.

Different reasons why you don't take them sometimes. Maybe it's lack of courage. Maybe it's too much courage, you know. You can want something too much. That's also what happens to a lot of people, what happened to me. And yeah.

Q. And you were obviously incredibly excited after the match point and everything. How long does it take for you to resettle to get ready for the next match? Like as you sit there right now, are you still kind of buzzing and over the moon or are you already locked into the next match?

LAURA SIEGEMUND: No. I don't -- it's interesting, you know. If you lose right away, there is this disappointment, and you're right there. And when you win, you are excited and all that, but there's this little thing inside your head that you know you gotta rest. You have the next match already on your mind. That's how my brain works at least. And also every match is different a little bit.

Every day is a little bit different, but of course, it's not like -- you know, you want you want to save your energy. You know you have a tough day the next day. So it's not like you're like, yeah! You just don't have time to celebrate so much, so at this moment, today for me, I'm like, you know, I'm kind of on -- how do you say? Like neutral mode. Like I try not to think about tomorrow too much. It's too early for me now.

And I just told my coach, I don't want to talk about strategy tomorrow. Let's do it some other time, you know. And I still want to keep this really nice moment from today, because I was very proud of my performance after being down 2-4. And you kind of have to cherish that sometimes because it goes away so quickly, you know.

I think that's one of the toughest things, if you win, you don't have a lot of time to really enjoy it because the next match is right there. And normally in the end, unless you win the tournament, there is the defeat in the end; and that stays for a long time, until you are playing your next tournament. So I always try to, for me personally, to keep that nice feeling as long as possible and then, of course, focus on the next match.

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Q. Are there other sports you like to play, Laura?

LAURA SIEGEMUND: Yes. I love all kinds of sports where a ball is involved. If I like top of my head, I love to play beach volleyball, for example. I love to do that. But unfortunately, I don't really get to do that kind of stuff a lot.

In my off season I played a lot of badminton because I think that's a great -- I love that game and it's a great actually physical -- physically it's good training for us, the stopping back and forth, squash as well, which is a little more dangerous to me. But all these racquet sports I love to play those, and I try -- really it comes down to the off season when I have time to do it.

End of Interview

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