

April 7, 2017

A Post-Match Interview With:

SHELBY ROGERS

**Mirjana Lucic-Baroni defeats Shelby Rogers
6-7⁷, 6-1, 6-1
Quarterfinal Round**

Q. Shelby, can you just describe your feelings about the match a little bit?

SHELBY ROGERS: Just talk about the match? Okay. I thought I played really well in the first set, was super patient, kind of weathering the storm. She was hitting great shots. She was missing a lot. Like I was just kind of getting the ball back. I thought I served smart. Just pulled an ab, you know. What can you do?

Q. Just talk about that first set. How much did that take out of you? It was back and forth. You guys were neck and neck the whole entire way.

SHELBY ROGERS: She can get hot at any moment. So I was just trying to fight for every point. And I had a couple of set points, she had a set point. Like it was definitely back and forth. I thought we had a very good level. It was super entertaining; and bad luck, I wish I could have kept it up. But a lot of positives to take from that, and you know, moving forward into the clay season, this week's been great for me, and so many good things to move forward and build on.

Q. Shelby, when did you start to feel kind of the ab go and how were you able to fight through that, because it sounded like you told your coach between the set that you had already felt it.

SHELBY ROGERS: Yeah. I did it yesterday actually, and yeah, I was a little sore this morning. But that's part of it. There's always something kind of not 100 percent with us. We play so much and all season, and it's just one of those things that happens.

Transcripts Provided By:

Kelly McKee Dorsey, Sports Media Transcriptionist
Email: kadmcr@yahoo.com
Twitter: @reporterkel



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But I wanted to keep fighting, here at home. I tried. I just -- you know, I was serving probably -- I don't know what the speed was, but I just couldn't get anything on it. The wind wasn't great, blowing my toss everywhere, and then she was just hitting winners. It's like fed ball for her at that point.

Q. There were a lot of shadows in the second set, and you didn't seem to be seeing the ball as well as you had been. Was that a factor?

SHELBY ROGERS: I don't think so. I mean at that point I was thinking about other things. It wasn't terrible, to be honest, but got a little colder. That was kind of tough, you know, to stay warm.

Q. How do you go about competing in these kind of conditions?

SHELBY ROGERS: It's definitely tough. In the first set I tried to keep big targets. I hit down the middle a lot, because she was just kind of firing away. I tried to be aggressive when I could, used the wind to hit off the court a little bit and get her moving. Definitely have to serve smart. I served body a lot in the first set. That was pretty effective. Just a little more tactical things that you have to do in the wind, and patience and positivity, that's really all you can do, deal with it a little bit better than your opponent.

Q. To hear the fans and hear your name chanted, how did that feel for you?

SHELBY ROGERS: Yeah, it's great. They definitely helped me through that first set. I had some chances, a couple of set points that I didn't get right away, and they kept my energy up. They kept me going. It's unbelievable. It's tough to get that at other tournaments, so I'm very lucky to have this tournament here and be able to compete every year.

Q. What were you taking this week and did you show yourself that you can win this thing some day?

SHELBY ROGERS: Yeah, of course. That would be amazing one day. I think last season and matches in the past I've proved to myself that I can play with the top girls in the world. So this is my job, this is what I do. I love it, and I'm going to keep fighting every match, every week, and I'll definitely be back. I love it, and looking forward to the rest of the season and some good clay court tennis.

Q. When it's something that's kind of out of your control, like when you're battling an injury or something, how much tougher does it make, especially in this tournament, that that's kind of a deciding factor for you in the last match?

SHELBY ROGERS: I'm -- yeah, it sucks. There's no other way to put it really, you know. You know, I fought as hard as I could, but just -- I mean I don't know. Not much you can do at that point. You know, I don't want to make it worse. All those thoughts going through my head, and at the same time she's raising her level, so it's just like, lose-lose, you know.

But I tried to stay in, finally got a game at the end; didn't get bageled. (Laughs).

Yeah, like I said, a lot of positives from the first set and just focus on that moving forward.

Q. Has Kathy talked to you at all about Fed Cup and especially just the way that you played this week? It would be a pretty cool nod, but do you know what's going on with that at all?

SHELBY ROGERS: Not quite sure yet. I'm sure she'll announce it soon. We gotta get our guys through this one now. I was on court, they were down 2-0. I don't know the updated score, but hopefully they pulled it together today with the doubles.

Q. Just wanted to clarify, ab was yesterday, during yesterday's match?

SHELBY ROGERS: Yeah. I think little windy conditions. I mean I served great last night. Just maybe a funky movement. I mean we're all over the place out there, you know, reaching and hitting awkward shots. So who knows. It's just one of those things that happens. But there's always next week. Plenty of matches left this season.

Q. What do you take away -- you talked a little bit about it, but what do you take away from a quarterfinal trip, at home, on Daniel Island. What are the emotions as you leave today?

SHELBY ROGERS: Sure, yeah. I think everyone had a good time coming out and supporting me. I had a great time competing, and going through all of those emotions with them on the court, from the first-round battle, 6 in the third, to a more straightforward win last night. So we've kind of had it all this week, which has been fun. And I'm so happy to share that with my hometown, and I hope I can continue it on the road, and I know they'll be watching.

End of Interview

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Kelly McKee Dorsey, Sports Media Transcriptionist

Email: kadmcr@yahoo.com

Twitter: @reporterkel