

April 7, 2017

A Post-Match Interview With:

JELENA OSTAPENKO

**Jelena Ostapenko defeats Caroline Wozniacki
6-2, 6-4
Quarterfinal Round**

Q. How does that feel?

JELENA OSTAPENKO: Yeah, it feels amazing. To be in the semis here. First time I'm in Charleston and today was a tough match because Caroline is such a great player, and I just tried and I think it was not bad.

Q. 40 winners is not bad. 26 unforced errors. That's a pretty good clip. You know that she's a good defensive player, so how were you able to stay focused and stay on your game tonight?

JELENA OSTAPENKO: Yeah, I was just trying to not make so many unforced errors and still stay aggressive. That's the way I play usually, and yeah, and I think I served pretty well today.

Q. Were you aware you were in the zone, were you conscious of it? Did you know you were playing like that?

JELENA OSTAPENKO: I just knew before the match that I have to stay aggressive all the time and still be consistent. And I tried not to step back, just to be like play in the court all the shots. And I think that's helped me today.

Q. Towards the end it got a little bit tight. So how were you able to kind of stay calm? It looked like she might get a chance to break back and you were able to hold her off?

JELENA OSTAPENKO: Yeah. I had match point I think on her serve, but then she played some really great shots and also she served pretty well that game. And then I saved my serve from 15-40, and again, I had match point and I served ace. So that was kind of good I think.



Volvo
Car
Open



Q. Were you getting nervous? Was the hand shaking at all when you tried to serve it out?

JELENA OSTAPENKO: Actually, no. Not today. Sometimes it happens to me, but not today. Today I was kind of -- I knew that in the deciding moment I still can serve because I felt my serve so well today. And yeah, it helped me.

Q. How long have you been working with Arturs? Is that new?

JELENA OSTAPENKO: Yeah. This is actually our first tournament.

Q. That's not bad. I know normally your mother coaches you, so how did you decide on getting a new coach? And I guess how has it been working so far?

JELENA OSTAPENKO: I mean he's not my coach. My mom is still my coach. He's my hitting partner, but he just went for on-court coaching. So yeah, first tournament with him here, because he's from the same country, and he also used to play. So it's really nice.

Q. So Mirjana Lucic-Baroni next for you. Very different type of player than Caroline. So what do you expect from that match and what will be important for you to get the win there?

JELENA OSTAPENKO: Yeah, she had great season so far. We already played this year in Auckland. But it's going to be tough match, and I'm looking forward for it.

Q. Are you surprised that you got this result on clay? I know you don't love playing on clay all the time. So to make the semifinals of a premier tournament is pretty big.

JELENA OSTAPENKO: Actually, not like I don't like. It was not my favorite surface. But I think I'm playing pretty well on clay, so I know how to move and I'm pretty consistent now, and I can still stay aggressive because green clay is a bit faster than the red clay.

Transcripts Provided By:

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

Q. And this is your first time in Charleston; right? So what do you think of this city, of the tournament?

JELENA OSTAPENKO: Yeah, it's a really nice city, but I haven't got time to see it yet, but I hope I will have some time. But so far the people are really nice here and the organization is really good, so I really enjoy my time here.

Q. Going back to Australia, do you think about that match against Pliskova very much at all? Yes? No? I don't know.

JELENA OSTAPENKO: Actually, no. I don't think about it so much. I just remember it when some tournaments we were kind of close in the draw, so if I won like my first round I had to play her. So that reminded me a little bit, but so far no, I'm not thinking about that match anymore, but it was a great experience and I think it helped me a lot.

Q. Yeah, I was going to say do you think it helped you like in an instance like today where you're trying to close out a top player and to maybe stay a little less nervous, be a little more calm?

JELENA OSTAPENKO: And it's still also a different surface. It was on hard and this is clay, and it was a bit faster there, the court. So yeah, I think it helped me, so now I'm trying to be more focused and just to finish the match. Stop.

Q. Is there anything in particular that's helping you focus or is it just happening as you have experience?

JELENA OSTAPENKO: Of course I am trying to practice, like on the practice to keep the ball more and to work on my consistency, because on clay you cannot just hit every ball so hard, because you have to be consistent there. So I think the practice has helped me a lot, yeah.

End of Interview

Transcripts Provided By:

Kelly McKee Dorsey, Sports Media Transcriptionist

Email: kadmcr@yahoo.com

Twitter: @reporterkel