

April 8, 2017

A Post-Match Interview With:

DARIA KASATKINA

**Daria Kasatkina defeats Laura Siegemund
3-6, 6-2, 6-1
Semifinal Round**

Q. Daria, big adjustment in the middle of the second set, early in the second set. Talk about how you were able to kind of snap out of it.

DARIA KASATKINA: Yeah, it was a tough match, especially the beginning. I was so frozen on the court. I was trying to start aggressive, but I couldn't put the ball in the court. So in the middle of the second set my coach came on court and gave me a few things which I have to do, and it worked, so I am happy that together we made a good job.

Q. Daria, was your game plan to try and hit through the court and try to back her up? Is that what you thought you were trying to do in the first set? Talk about the game plan going into the match with Vlado.

DARIA KASATKINA: First, first plan was to play more aggressive, trying to move inside the court, play like just for myself. But then how I said, that was not working because I was frozen on the court, didn't move with the legs. So yeah.

In the second set I came to my old style, start to spin the ball and trying to move her, so that's it.

Q. And two semifinals you've played before, this one you finally get through. How did you feel going into this match? Did you feel calmer than normal? Did you feel more nervous?

DARIA KASATKINA: I was so nervous during the match and before the match, because even you are trying not to think about these things, they are coming to your head anyway. So it was tough, tough match. It was more about mental than about the game.

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Q. And then how do you feel about making your first WTA final?

DARIA KASATKINA: Yeah, it's nice. Finally I made the final. Don't know what will happen tomorrow. Never have been in the final. So we will see.

Q. You were very patient. You were not doing well in the beginning and then your coach helped you out. Siegemund said that you were like doing a lot of things, like playing moon balls. And so how did you in this situation where you have your head going on battling a lot of the different things? How did you keep your focus?

DARIA KASATKINA: You know, yeah, in the second set I start to play more higher over the net because she doesn't like it. Before, three matches which we play before, I beat her because of this moon, how she said, moon balls. So I just came back to this tactic and it worked. So why should I change something?

Q. Daria, it's difficult to keep your focus when there's an interruption in the third set with the medical and everything. How much with Vlado coming down were you able to just focus on what you had to do? Like how much did it frustrate you?

DARIA KASATKINA: Yeah, I was surprised why she was able to call a physio on 4-0 before my serve. Usually it shouldn't happen. But okay. And I called Vlado because I was feeling like something gonna happen now, and it was 0-40 on my serve after. But I just keep myself in my hands, and it was good.

Q. Speaking of Vlado, just going back to when you guys first started to work together, how did you decide on him as a coach? What makes him the perfect coach for you as a team together?

DARIA KASATKINA: It's like two and a half years ago. I was looking for a coach because I left Russia. I wanted to practice more in Europe,

and I asked my agent to help me with the things, so he find a solution. Like in Slovakia there is a coach. He was coaching Cibulková, Wickmayer and a lot of players. So if you want, you can try. So I came there. We try a few weeks. I like. So it was quite simple.

Q. What makes him the perfect coach for you right now?

DARIA KASATKINA: He start to be more tough on me, you know. Before, he was -- I was able to do a lot of things I shouldn't do. Now I'm not able to do this at all. So yeah, he start to be more tough. He know how to adjust to me.

Q. So you have a new coach. What makes you willing to listen to him? Why do you listen to him?

DARIA KASATKINA: Because I respect him. So we are working together, so if I am not listening to him, it makes no sense to work together. That's it.

Q. I don't think we know who you're playing tomorrow quite yet. But Ostapenko or Lucic-Baroni, can you talk through both opponents?

DARIA KASATKINA: It's absolutely same style of play. So whoever wins wins. It doesn't matter. Same style. I don't mind.

Q. Daria, can you say what some of your plans are for this evening?

DARIA KASATKINA: Today, lunch. I didn't get lunch yet. So yeah, no, I will finish all these things and I go to lunch finally. Yeah. And rest. That's it. Don't know what to do else before the final. Never have been there how I say. Yeah. So... (laughs).

End of Interview

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