

April 8, 2017

A Post-Match Interview With:

JELENA OSTAPENKO

**Jelena Ostapenko defeats Mirjana Lucic-Baroni
6-3, 5-7, 6-4
Semifinal Round**

Q. How does it feel to be in your first final -- your second final. Sorry.

JELENA OSTAPENKO: Third.

Q. Third. Whoops. How does it feel to be in the finals?

JELENA OSTAPENKO: Yeah. It's really nice to be in the third final, but first final on clay court, and especially here, and I'm really looking forward for tomorrow's match.

Q. Nervous times. I know you were quite nervous you said earlier. Can you tell us, Jelena, what you did after the second set to calm yourself down?

JELENA OSTAPENKO: I actually was quite emotional in the second set when I was 5-3 up and I couldn't finish the set, but she liked when I was emotional. It kind of gave her confidence till then. In the third set I was just trying to be calm because I think it was tougher for her because I didn't show any emotions, and it helped me, so I won the third set.

Q. I mean you're striking the ball very well, obviously last night and then today. What is it about these courts or the way that you're playing right now? It seems like the ball is very big the way that you're seeing it right now.

JELENA OSTAPENKO: Yeah. She's a great hitter and she hits the ball so hard, so it was really tough to get the rhythm and to play my game because I'm also aggressive. So yeah, I was still trying to be consistent and try to not miss so many balls, but sometimes I was missing, but she was also playing very good.

Transcripts Provided By:

Kelly McKee Dorsey, Sports Media Transcriptionist

Email: kadmcr@yahoo.com

Twitter: @reporterkel



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Q. And did you ever play Daria in juniors at all? Do you remember playing her at that level?

JELENA OSTAPENKO: In juniors, no. I played her two times, once ITFs I played on clay against her and the second time I played last year in Eastbourne.

Q. Talk about your playing style. Was there a player growing up who you looked up to or were there some ideas that your coach gave you as you became a player?

JELENA OSTAPENKO: Actually, I liked Serena Williams a lot because she's aggressive player, but the way I started to play tennis, it was like not that I was following someone. I just liked to hit the ball hard and I had an opportunity to hit hard. So now I'm just working on my consistency and improving my game to be more, yeah, more consistent.

Q. When you came here, did you think you might be in the final?

JELENA OSTAPENKO: Actually, no, because I lost in Miami first round, so then I went to prepare for clay court season, and I was training really hard. And then when I came here I was just trying to play relaxed and just how it will be, and yeah, I think it helped me because I didn't think I have to win or something. I was just playing.

Q. So does ballroom dancing help at all on clay, or no?

JELENA OSTAPENKO: I think it helps on all surfaces, actually, because it's great for your footwork.

Q. And I know maybe last month or two months ago you posted some video of you doing some ballroom. Do you still do it at all or just as part of training or just for fun?

JELENA OSTAPENKO: Actually, I think everybody knows that I did it like some years professional when I started to play tennis; and yeah, then I didn't do for some years. And now I do just for myself, but only when I'm home, and I'm

home like maybe three months a year. But when I'm home, I really go like almost every day, and I really enjoy it, but I think in a short period I will post some more videos.

Q. What's your favorite ballroom dance type thing?

JELENA OSTAPENKO: I think it's cha-cha-chá.

Q. So against Daria, very different player from Mirjana. So do you plan on kind of doing the same thing you did against Wozniacki? Do you think she offers a different challenge than Caroline does? What do you think of that match?

JELENA OSTAPENKO: I think she's kind of defensive player, and I think clay is her favorite surface, but I'm just going to try to stay consistent and be aggressive at the same time and just play my game.

End of Interview

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Email: kadmcr@yahoo.com

Twitter: @reporterkel