

April 9, 2017

A Post-Match Interview With:

DARIA KASATKINA

**Daria Kasatkina defeats Jelena Ostapenko
6-3, 6-1
Final Round**

Q. Well, I gotta ask, how does that feel?

DARIA KASATKINA: Very difficult to describe my feeling now. I feel I'm just sleeping and everything is not real. I'm so happy. Really.

Q. So which Volvo are you going to take?

DARIA KASATKINA: The big one, SUV I took. Yeah. You know, in Slovakia not the best roads, not like in USA. So I have to take a big car, big safety car.

Q. Daria, was there ever a turning point in this event that you felt this might happen?

DARIA KASATKINA: Oh, I don't know even what to say. When I won the last ball, everything like closed and I just feel like I'm dreaming.

Q. Does it feel the way you thought it would feel?

DARIA KASATKINA: Yeah. Something like this.

Q. I assume every player has to come in with confidence, but did you expect to come in and be this dominant to win this easily?

DARIA KASATKINA: No. I was ready to be on the court five, six hours. Because it's finals I have to be ready for everything, and I'm happy that I finish it in let's say an easy way. So I am very happy and proud of myself.

Q. You teared up when you were talking about your coach and your team. Can you talk about how your coach helped you through this week?

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**Volvo
Car
Open**



DARIA KASATKINA: He was very tough this week. Even today I had like with not just the warmup. I had to practice before the match; fitness, exercising and then almost one hour of tennis. So we were preparing very well for this match. So I think we made a very good job.

Q. Daria, going out there, it was your first final. You said yesterday you had no idea what it was going to be like, what it was going to feel like. So what did it feel like?

DARIA KASATKINA: It was terrible. It's nothing. Yesterday evening and all night I couldn't sleep. I woke up during the whole night like two or three times. I was so nervous, you cannot imagine. I was feeling like I want to just go on the court and everything let's finish, play. I cannot feeling this anymore. And now it was worth it really. Really. I'm very happy.

Q. Two wins over Kerber, now this. Do you feel like you're getting into a groove right now?

DARIA KASATKINA: I know. Yeah, I beat Kerber twice, but it doesn't give me nothing, actually. Only maybe a little bit of confidence in the beginning of the season, but then I lose all this confidence because I was losing every tournament. This is really special moment now for me because I was working very hard five or six weeks I was working with my coaches, with my brother. So I am happy that hard work pays off.

Q. You seemed to play a very smart match. You moved her well. You went for the corners. You used the slice to produce a lot of errors off her racquet. Would you characterize your play as defensive, because she thought it was defensive.

DARIA KASATKINA: Today tactic was to be a little bit more defensive, go back, spin, slice the ball because it's clay, and she's playing really aggressive. And usually she is beating aggressive players because she like this type of game, everything. So we decide that I have to go back and make her tired. So it was a good tactic, I think.

Q. Was it comfortable for you to be in that situation where you could play the way that you naturally want to play, a little bit more defensive, a little bit far back, than to go in there and try and hit with her?

DARIA KASATKINA: Yeah. It was quite comfortable for me today. I was playing just with my feelings. I go back, spin the ball, running, everything, and thanks God she were missing (laughs).

Q. In the first few games she wasn't missing very much.

DARIA KASATKINA: Yeah.

Q. But did you ever panic? Did you ever worry?

DARIA KASATKINA: No. No. I was ready that she would start to hit all the lines, everything, because she's playing like this. And the main point of today was to make her tired in the first set. It happened earlier because she also had a tough week, and yesterday she finished doubles in the night let's say. So yeah. I am happy that how I said, the tactic was good. Thanks, Coach.

Q. Do you realize the piece of history that you made, do you realize who you join as former champs here and do you realize that your face will be up on the side of the stadium when you arrive next year?

DARIA KASATKINA: Oy. (Laughs). Okay. I need to prepare for these things. It never happened to me before. So little bit makeup for the pictures. No, I am joking.

I don't realize it yet, so I'm just enjoying it every moment, every second. And really, when I was on the court after the last point, I just wanted the moment to stop because it was one of the best moments in my life. Yeah.

Q. What will you do tonight to celebrate?

DARIA KASATKINA: I don't know. I need to pick up my bags. I'm leaving tomorrow, early morning. So yeah, I am coming home tomorrow, so I need to pick up my bags, pack my bags. And not so much celebration.

But no, no, I will celebrate, for sure. What are you talking about? Pack the bags. Come on,

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Daria. (Laughs). I think we will go out for sure today. First I will pack and then we will go out so I can go back and just go to sleep.

Q. You seem like you really study your opponents really well. Have you always done that going back to when you were a kid or is that something you've done more as you've been a pro to kind of understand what they like to do and what they don't like to do?

DARIA KASATKINA: Yeah. I like to play let's say from the opponent. I like always watching the matches and trying to understand what the opponent really don't like, what she likes, how better to play, the weather conditions, and from this I am building my game.

Q. Were you like that when you were younger?

DARIA KASATKINA: Yeah. Because I was traveling all over with my brother, so I had to really think on my own, and I was just playing with the brain. Because I didn't have so much power, I was running, trying to spin the ball, move the opponent, and that's it. I didn't have so good fitness. So yeah, I was trying to beat the opponents only with the brain work.

Q. Speaking of brain work, I mean Belinda won Toronto, you won here. In terms of the teenagers to win the big titles, it tends to be players maybe who think a little bit more, not just pure power. Do you think that that's the case with your generation of players that you're maybe a little bit smarter in how you play your tennis?

DARIA KASATKINA: You know, we have a few players who is maybe more skill and fewer players who are really hitting hard. Depends on the player. So in any generation there is players with a different style of game. So I think it's normal.

End of Interview