

April 3, 2018

**A. BARTY defeats S. Kenin
6-3, 6-2
First Round**

Q. Looks like you got your feet well on clay, so to speak, after a long run in Miami, not too much time to switch over.

ASHLEIGH BARTY: Yeah. My preparation was about an hour yesterday and that was about it. But it's always nice to be going deep into tournaments, and I didn't feel as though we were too rushed. We sort of got here and got a good practice in. I felt comfortable, and now it's just sort of about going out and playing the right way.

Q. How much do you change your game for clay?

ASHLEIGH BARTY: Not too much really. I think obviously there are a couple of things you try to implement a little bit more, just a bit more spin, shape and a few of those things. And obviously I think it's just getting used to the sliding and the movement more so, but no, I felt good out on court today and happy to come through with a pretty clean match.

Q. We know you can do a lot of stuff on hardcourts and grass, get good angles. On the clay do you feel like the surface opens that up even more and does that cloud the judgment a little more because there's more options now?

ASHLEIGH BARTY: Yeah, I actually haven't played a hell of a lot on clay across my whole career. I think last year was probably my first full clay court season and it was still only a month. So it's nice for me to come in now and play a few extra tournaments throughout the year, but yeah, it is a different game on clay. I think it can be fun, but it can be very demoralizing as well if you got someone who can pick you apart on the surface.

Q. So what is your relationship on the surface? It's all pretty new. But I mean where

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



Volvo Car Open



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kind of landing right now between demoralizing and fun?

ASHLEIGH BARTY: Every week we're on the clay is a week we're closer to grass. (Laughs). But no, I think I have to embrace it. Obviously we're stuck on the clay for the next couple of months, and I'm very much looking forward to the grass, but yeah, I've gotta get my socks dirty a little bit first.

Q. When you attack this section of the season, because I was talking to Keys and a few players yesterday who also have tenuous relationships with the surface, but Madison's response was "I'm going to add more tournaments and try to figure this out." Other players were like, yeah, I'm kind of just treading water a little bit until the grass and hard court season returns. How do you see it?

ASHLEIGH BARTY: Yeah, well, for us this season we've added in an extra two tournaments on the clay, so we're really excited about that. I'd love to be able to play a lot of matches on clay because it means you're doing well. There's nothing worse than sort of going 0-4 or 0-5 and not really getting a chance to get into a tournament. But we're excited to embrace it, go out and have a crack and try and get used to the clay as much as I can.

Q. Last week with the run to the doubles final, at the same time are you practicing out on a green clay court in Miami to kind of get ready for this or was it really the first time you stepped on it was yesterday?

ASHLEIGH BARTY: We snuck out for 15 minutes on one of the courts. I think it was on maybe Friday or -- Thursday or Friday last week. So yeah, it was just for me to see it again and go, okay, this is what it looks like. It's actually been a few years since I've played on green clay as well. I think I last played here when I was 15 or 16, and that was it. It's really all I've played on it. So it was nice to get out and slide around a little bit yesterday and just play some points and get used to it. But as I said, I'm pretty pumped with a reasonably clean match yesterday.

Q. We haven't seen a lot of Kenin before. She's one of the younger American players coming up for a while now, but what do you think of her?

ASHLEIGH BARTY: Yeah. I actually have never seen her play, and then coincidentally we hit together in Miami last week just as an hour practice session. So that was sort of nice for me to be able to know what I was coming up against, and I felt like in my game I was able to exploit some of the areas that I wanted to. But yeah, she's very solid, obviously, had some pretty good results recently in Miami as well as the US Open last year, and she's a Top 100 player for a reason.

Q. Just catching up a little bit on last week, can you just walk through how you and CoCo kind of paired up, and also, do you plan to continue to pair up going forward?

ASHLEIGH BARTY: Yeah. We had a little bit of discussions at the Australian Open about if she wanted to play a few tournaments throughout the year, and I think obviously we don't play full doubles schedule. I certainly won't be playing a full doubles schedule this year. I'll play a little bit, as much as I can, but there are really only so many times you can double up and try to be successful in both. But CoCo is a great chick. I've played her a bunch of times in doubles. I know she's a quality player, and I think our personalities match very well. She's happy to be very outgoing, and I'm more than happy to be the one that steps back and lets her go. But no, she's good mate of mine, and I know as well that she's got a good backing behind her with her team, especially with Cash, so there's the Aussie connection there. But CoCo and I have always got along really well, so it was nice to get a few wins on the board last week.

Q. How did it feel to be a part of the all-American sweep in Miami? One random flag out there.

ASHLEIGH BARTY: There was one little flag, and that's all that matters to me.

Q. Do you plan on playing with Casey?

ASHLEIGH BARTY: We'll sort of wait and see what she's doing. I know she's not here at the moment. I haven't spoken to her the last sort of about her plans coming up. But yeah, I was chatting to her a bit last week while we were playing in Miami and I kind of went to a few

basketball games, which I've never done that before. So I was telling her about that more so than tennis.

Q. What did you think of basketball?

ASHLEIGH BARTY: Yeah, yeah. A couple of them. It confuses me a bit. I don't really know what was going on. But my housemate loves it. It's always on the TV when I'm home, and I'm like, what are you watching? But some of the rules I don't get, but more than happy. It was a pretty good atmosphere there as well.

Q. And in Australia they play net ball. Did you ever play net ball? That confuses us.

ASHLEIGH BARTY: Yeah. Net ball is so simple, though. I suppose it's what you grow up with.

End of Interview

Transcripts Provided By:

Kelly McKee Dorsey, Sports Media Transcriptionist

Email: kadmcr@yahoo.com

Twitter: @reporterkel