

April 3, 2018

**C. GARCIA defeats V. Lepchenko
6-2, 6-3
First Round**

An Interview With: Caroline Garcia

Q. So what are your thoughts on the first match?

CAROLINE GARCIA: I'm definitely happy with the win, and it was a pretty good match. It was difficult conditions, very windy, and she played a match yesterday, so she was already into the clay game. And you know, it was a little bit better than what I did in Miami especially, and we had some good work behind us from Miami and here. So I'm definitely happy with this win, and I just want to keep going.

Q. I guess it's been months now playing on hard courts. Transitioning over to the clay. What are the key things that you have to work onto kind of play well on the surface?

CAROLINE GARCIA: You know, for sure it's nice to be back on clay and have a little change. It gives you like you are looking for something new. And I mean you know like on clay court, sometimes the ball can come back maybe once or twice more than on hard court. So you have to be ready for it and just be a bit more patient. But most more important for me is to play my game and be aggressive, so that's what I'm trying to do, and when I have to defend, I try to slide the best I can.

Q. I'm sure you're using different muscle groups on the clay. Are you feeling any effects from that? Are you sore?

CAROLINE GARCIA: No. I'm fine. We worked very hard after Miami, a long session on court. So it was a tiredness if we can say came over there. But it's still pretty much the same game. It's just a little bit more sliding, but sometimes we are sliding on hard court, too, so it's not very different. And every match on every surface is difficult and you have to fight for every point.

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Volvo Car Open



Q. When you have the pressure of being the No. 1 seed on you, how important is it just to get that first win out of the way and move on into the draw?

CAROLINE GARCIA: I mean if you don't get it, you are out anyway. So for me it doesn't really matter to be seed one or seed two. I don't look at the draw, like I said, and I'm just trying to be focused on my game and on my tournament, what can I improve and enjoy my time on court and in this beautiful tournament. So it doesn't really matter for me. It's not extra pressure to be Top 10. You have already enough pressure, so to be seed one or seed two, it doesn't really matter.

Q. Did you feel like your game was up to seed one level today? Did you feel like you were at that level?

CAROLINE GARCIA: I mean there is no level of being level seed one or not. So I don't have any expectation about that. So I don't know.

Q. So Nike moved to their summer season now from winter, and you have a new kit on. Do you like this one more than the last one?

CAROLINE GARCIA: About what? About the --

Q. The outfit.

CAROLINE GARCIA: Oh, sorry. Yeah. Yeah. I'm happy with that. It's nice. It's comfy. It's always nice to have a change, like we said earlier. So new colors and new mind and always going out there with motivation.

Q. Did you like your shorts?

CAROLINE GARCIA: Yeah, I did, yeah.

Q. We always assume that all French players are just naturally good and comfortable on clay.

CAROLINE GARCIA: Yeah.

Q. But I'm just curious with you, is that how you kind of rate yourself as a clay player as well or is hard court still a primary surface for you?

CAROLINE GARCIA: Yeah. I think everyone like makes mistakes. In France it's called all winter. So all winter we are playing hard court, indoor from like September up to March or April. So it's a long time indoor on the hard courts. That's why we are pretty much most of the time aggressive and taking the ball very early. So we are not very clay court player. Of course, it's nice to have sometimes on the clay when you are playing some tournaments during summer when you are younger. But like clay courts, there is all kind of clay courts, and sometimes it's bad clay courts, so it's not very enjoyable. But as we have French Open, like of course we like this season, but I don't know if I'm a clay court person or not. I just enjoy it as much as I enjoy hard court.

End of Interview

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