

April 5, 2018

**D. KASATKINA defeats I.C. Begu
6-2, 6-1
3rd Round**

An Interview With:

DARIA KASATKINA

Q. Sup. Just talk about today's match. It seemed like you were very, very comfortable out there with the conditions of the court and the opponents.

DARIA KASATKINA: Yeah. Today was much better than two days ago. I think I was almost flying, and I'm really happy about it because I was really stretched the first match, but I hope this pressure disappears.

Q. Was it just about that? Obviously the other match was also a night match, which is a little bit different conditions. Is it just the change in conditions and just feeling a little bit relaxed?

DARIA KASATKINA: But you know, I love these kind of conditions to play night session, in front of all of the crowd, but it was not about that because I was really stressed. Nobody told me it's so difficult to come and defend a title. So I have to get used to it.

Q. How did you get over your stress the other night? I mean you were having a hard time.

DARIA KASATKINA: I know.

Q. What did you do when you went home? Did you eat, watch TV?

DARIA KASATKINA: After the match?

Q. Yeah.

DARIA KASATKINA: It was already 10 p.m., so I just went home. Yeah, I had dinner and I went to sleep. That's it. I was not able to go to the nightclub and celebrate my win. I just wanted to relax and that's it.

Transcripts Provided By:

Kelly McKee Dorsey, Sports Media Transcriptionist

Email: kadmcr@yahoo.com

Twitter: @reporterkel



Volvo Car Open



Q. Did you wake up the next morning refreshed and ready to go? You didn't have any lingering emotions?

DARIA KASATKINA: No. I was a bit tired, but that's fine. I already get used to this like a little bit sore in the muscles, but that's fine. I'm already good.

Q. Were you sore in the head at all?

DARIA KASATKINA: I am, all the time. (Laughs). No. That's fine. That's fine. In the head everything is fine.

Q. Talking about defending a title, what's it like to roll up to a stadium that has your face on the side of it that you can see from a freeway?

DARIA KASATKINA: This question. It's awkward. It's really awkward, yeah, to turn your head everywhere and your face is around. Yeah. I mean not every tournament doing this, honestly. It's very nice, but at the same time it's, yeah, put a little bit of pressure on you because everybody is asking you if I saw this big picture on the stadium. Like I think everybody saw it in the city. Yeah, it's really nice. Yeah, I like it actually. Yeah.

Q. And up next Julia, who you know very well. She was telling us the first time she remembers meeting you. Do you remember that meeting and what do you remember about it?

DARIA KASATKINA: Of course. I was 18. Yeah. I just came on tour. It was one of my first main draw matches of WTA, and she was like, kind of bad draw, Bucharest. Yeah, I passed the quali and I was like, oh, no, I'm playing serious. But at the end I was -- I lose the match, but during our handshake she told me a few very kind and inspired words. So I was really like, after this I was really surprised because she was so kind to me and she's one of the first players I get in touch with, and yeah and we are still really good. And I'm good with her team. So I'm really appreciate it.

Q. Talking about the matchup against Julia that you've had a tough match, obviously last fall in Moscow as well. And how do you

feel like your games match up? It's a bit of a contrast.

DARIA KASATKINA: Oh, tough to say because she's a really tough opponent because she's very aggressive, she's serving well. She has very aggressive forehand, very solid backhand. So to beat her for sure I have to show something special and to play not like go on court just to play. Of course, I have to go in, play my game and then we will see because I don't think she will just give me the match because we are friends. (Laughs). So I think it's going to be a good match.

Q. And then just the process of defending a title, what have the emotions been like? You say the word stress and added a little bit of pressure. Can you talk a little bit more about what it actually feels like to walk back into a stadium where the last time that you were there you won, that sort of situation?

DARIA KASATKINA: It feels horrible. (Laughs). You know what I mean. Even you are not trying to think about like defending titles, defending points and all this stuff. Anyway, it's your head and you cannot do anything with it. You just have to somehow -- for everybody is different. Somehow you have to just go through, yeah, that's really, really tough, I must say.

End of Interview

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