

April 6, 2018

**J. GOERGES defeats D. Kasatkina
6-4, 6-3
Quarterfinal Round**

An Interview With: JULIA GOERGES

Q. Congratulations. How do you feel like your game is coming together on the clay a few matches in, especially beating a player as good on this surface as she is?

JULIA GOERGES: I think it gets better every match I am playing. I improved a lot since I played my first match here. It was completely different. And yeah, it's sometimes happening in a tournament when you don't feel well but you manage to find a way to get through it, and then you never know where it's going to end. And now I am in the semis, which I am very pleased about, and especially the way I played today, I think that was already very much clay like.

Q. Yeah, today's match was quite the performance and very clean in terms of limiting the unforced errors. What do you think was the key? Is it just comfort? Is it knowing that you have to play well against a player who is as good here as she has been? What do you think was the difference today?

JULIA GOERGES: Well, first of all, I was prepared to battle it out today because I know Daria is a very good player in general but especially on clay. She has a lot of height on the ball. The balls are pretty heavy to the racquet, and I just made sure that I had to move well, to prepare well and be ready for the ball when they meet my racquet. And I think that's what I've done pretty good, that I was very patient, waiting for my chances. I let her sometimes also dictate, but putting defense into offense, and at the same time I created my service game pretty well. I served pretty big today, which was also good key, of course. If you have good service games, you can put more pressure on the return games, and I think that was a good combination today.

Transcripts Provided By:

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



Volvo Car Open



**Q.
You
are**

into your first semifinal here, and you are the fifth German in a row to make the semifinals here.

JULIA GOERGES: Oh, so we love it here. (Laughs).

Q. Can you comment on that?

JULIA GOERGES: No. I know we have a good German record here. I saw already some pictures of everyone. No, I mean I can understand why everybody is playing well here. I'm having a good time, too. It's a great city. It's a great atmosphere, great spectators here, and just in general they are doing a terrific job here, and I think all the players are very welcome and that's how I'm feeling, too. So there is nothing to complain about, which I probably wouldn't do anyway. But no, in general I'm having a good time.

Q. Yesterday you said that Daria was "very special for me." How does it feel to beat someone that's very special to you?

JULIA GOERGES: Well, honestly, it doesn't feel good. But one has to win, so, yeah, it's me today. You never know who's next time. But yeah, it's a nice win for me, but at the same time I can also feel for her. But it's not the end of anything today. We know that she's been playing great tennis throughout the whole year already, and we know that she's going to have a bright future. She's 11 in the world, 12 in the world. I think there's nothing to be said about it, and yeah, but at the same time, if it's your friend and you beat someone who you really like, it's always tough, but yeah, it goes on.

Q. You've had a lot of success on clay in your career. What do you think you've added to your clay court game recently that maybe you didn't have five to ten years ago?

JULIA GOERGES: Wow. I think it's nothing which is the same to five or ten years ago. It's completely different. I'm in a different shape with my body moving around the court better. And my defense improved a lot. I can, yeah, defend pretty well, but then switching into offense as well, and that's pretty important in my game, because sometimes I need to be patient and not just hitting

the ball as fast as I can, but at the same time sometimes I get into tougher situations, if you manage to get out of them and during already, but then still taking the point, it takes always a little bit away from your opponent. And I think that's a big part of my game especially which I can use now on clay. You can slide. You can grind more than on hard court sometimes, and I think this is coming more and more together from each match to each other here.

Q. Julia, in that first match you were down 4-5, 0-30 in the third set. It was quite the struggle, but sometimes I think maybe you need a match like that to kind of groove yourself into a tournament. What's the difference the last couple of matches? I know it was your first on clay, but how has your tennis progressed this week in particular?

JULIA GOERGES: Well, I think I cannot really compare my first match to the match today. It was for me already when I was warming up, I had a completely different feeling today for the ball in general, and, well, obviously you never know when you're coming to a clay court event when your opponent has had already a match, it's always tough to really get into the rhythm as well, and I just felt very stuck with my feet on the ground in the first round match. But still, I was able to come through somehow, so nobody asked how it's been. You know, it only counts which name you see in the next round. And yeah, I was lucky, but also happy to be in the next round, and now I'm sitting here, but yeah, as I said, I just take it one match at a time, and I'm just trying to improve. There is also room for improvement from today's match, but overall I was very pleased the way I handled every situation today, even though sometimes not everything went the right way, especially first set I was break down right away, but I still came back somehow and gave myself an opportunity to still win that first set.

Q. She mentioned the German success here. Clay can vary a lot around Europe, the red clay is different, and Spain. Do you think is there anything about the red German clay, the kind of clay most common in Germany that's more like the clay here than maybe other parts of Europe that you can tell? Any reason for this?

Transcripts Provided By:

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

JULIA GOERGES: Well, if you really go to a German tennis club, you don't find that clay somewhere on tour.

Q. I mean a court closer to it, like faster clay.

JULIA GOERGES: I would say Stuttgart is pretty fast since it's indoor and it's a different ground underneath. Madrid is also fast, Roland-Garros also, but if you compare it to a German club where we all practice, it's different. It's deeper. It's like tougher, it's much slower, and there's not really like the ground, like the normal street or road you have underneath. It's just so much clay, and you grind, and you don't find this really on tour, no.

Q. Daria seemed to play a lot down the middle today, which did open up the court a little bit for you. Did you notice that and did that help you with your good shots?

JULIA GOERGES: Well, first of all, I think if I get a ball through the middle, it doesn't give me any angle, so I don't get any opportunities. I still need to create some, because if you play an angle, you have more opportunity to create some angles, too. But I think she didn't want to hit it all through the middle sometimes, but it was tough to control the balls, especially when they are new. It's smarter to play through the middle, especially because they go somewhere and you have no control about it. So for me, I think -- I didn't really feel that she was hitting just many through the middle. I think she was trying to keep me on my backhand to get out of my forehand zone a little bit. But I just tried to stay patient there to really get out of that rally and try to dictate the point again, because I think in general we have a similar game to dictate with the forehand and really go against it, but at the same time I think we know each other's game so well, I think there is no secret about it anymore.

Q. You talked about going from hard court to clay. When you're on clay and you get off after a win, is there one statistic that you really look at and say, okay, what was that number today?

JULIA GOERGES: No. I think it's more about the feeling the player has on court. I think you need to work your way into a match, and that's what I've done pretty well all the three matches

here, even though you cannot expect playing 100 percent every single match. This is maybe happening once or twice a year. But to give yourself a chance to be able to work into the points and really work into that feeling, that's what I gave myself. But I don't look at any statistics. I think I'm a player who has, yeah, a pretty good feeling for some situations where I say, okay, Julia, this was not so good. Maybe you put some spin on the ball. But at the same time I think if you -- I'm here without a coach, so for me I'm my own coach here. And I think that's the biggest learning process, too, if you don't have anybody to come on court, okay, I can take my physio on court, but he's not telling me anything of my tennis tactics. So for me it's more important that I learn by my own and really, yeah, adjust to the situations I've just experienced.

End of Interview

Transcripts Provided By:

Kelly McKee Dorsey, Sports Media Transcriptionist

Email: kadmcr@yahoo.com

Twitter: @reporterkel