

April 6, 2018

**M. KEYS defeats B. Pera
6-2, 6-7, 7-5
Quarterfinal Round**

An Interview With: BERNARDA PERA

Q. Tight match. How do you feel you played overall in this match and this week?

BERNARDA PERA: I feel terrible right now. But overall I think it was a good week for me. I think Madison played great. The first set the court seemed so small because I mean I've never played on a stadium this big. So it took me a little to get used to all the people and how big the stadium is.

Yeah, I think the second and the third were much better.

Q. What do you think was the difference in that third set? Looked like a little bit controlling of the nerves kind of came in.

BERNARDA PERA: Maybe a little bit. Not that much. I mean I double faulted also in the first two sets. So my serve wasn't great today. So I think that made the difference. I think Madison served much better than me.

Q. Is this the kind of tournament and the kind of run that you've made at this thing giving momentum for you going through the season here coming up?

BERNARDA PERA: For sure, especially for like the rest of the clay court season. I love playing on clay, and I think, yeah, this is like a confidence boost after Australia, another great tournament for me.

Q. How are you feeling your ranking is steadily rising. How are you finding your schedule?

BERNARDA PERA: I'm doing all the big tournaments. So I'm playing Stuttgart, Prague, Rome, Madrid, French Open. All the big ones.

Q. So a lot of qualis then?

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Volvo Car Open



BERNARDA PERA

: Yeah. Maybe just Prague main draw. We'll see. A lot of qualis.

Q. You're set to make your Top 100 debut. Finally cracked that mark. How does that feel and what do you make of your last three months, just from Melbourne to here and the level that you've been able to show?

BERNARDA PERA: I'm a little relieved that I finally cracked Top 100, but I knew I was going to do it. So I have to set new goals now.

Q. And what do you make of the last three months from Australia to here? What do you think is the key to not just cracking the Top 100 but cracking Top 50 for you? What do you need to do with your game?

BERNARDA PERA: Well, I think I have to improve my serve. I hit a lot of double faults today, and I think my serve can be much better than this. But yeah, just keep working. I have a new team around me. And I feel good working with them. So just keep working.

Q. The crowd was kind of with Madison early on, but by the third set, I was hearing your name quite a bit. What was that like to hear your name and the crowd kind of get behind you a little bit?

BERNARDA PERA: It was nice. I really liked it. It's nice to get some support.

Q. You said you feel terrible, but when you look back, you know, in 24 hours, 48 hours, day or two goes by, this will be a more positive than a negative experience I would assume.

BERNARDA PERA: Yeah. Before the tournament if somebody said you'll lose to Madison in the quarters 7-5 in the third, I'd say I'll take it. But right now it's just that I had my chances and I feel like I didn't do enough.

Q. You talked about wanting to set new goals now. What do you think you want to do?

Besides ranking goals, I guess what sort of things do you want to accomplish the rest of this year?

BERNARDA PERA: Well, 50 is the next goal for sure. But game wise I would like to improve my serve.

End of Interview

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