

April 6, 2018

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

An Interview With: MADISON KEYS

Q. Madison, match points in the second and down a break in the third. A bit of a stressful end to that one, but how were you able to kind of steel yourself and turn it around?

MADISON KEYS: Yeah. It's always tough when you have match points and they're not there all of a sudden. When Lindsay came out and she just said, I don't care what happens, just show me that you want it. And that was really all that I had to focus on, and I think that brought my level up, and I think I started playing to win instead of just seeing if she would start to miss. And I just really just tried to hang in there.

Q. Maddie, you said you didn't know much about her coming in to this match. What surprised you or what did you see in her game that gave you trouble and how do you feel like she adjusted as the match went on to give you that trouble?

MADISON KEYS: I wasn't really surprised at anything. I knew she was a pretty solid player. She's obviously had some big wins. So wasn't surprised to see her playing well. I mean I felt like from the second set until about 4-4 in the third she wasn't making many mistakes, and everything was from the baseline, hard, flat. So it was really just kind of, again, weathering the storm and trying to stay in it. And I have no doubt that she'll be doing better and better.

Q. Speaking of all the emotions and weathering the storm, how does going through a roller coaster match like that with the ups and the downs kind of benefit you going forward in this tournament?



Volvo Car Open



MADISON KEYS

: I think matches like this are really great, because you have to figure things out and you have to get through tough moments.

And I think those are the matches that you look back on, not only in this tournament, but later on in the season you can think back to how you got through a tough match like this.

Q. Madison, at this point in your career when you go through a tough match like that where you have ups and downs and you figure it out, does it help you in other aspects of your life outside the tennis court?

MADISON KEYS: I mean it probably could. I don't think I'm -- I don't think I ever really think about it, other aspects of my life. But it definitely helps later in tougher matches and things like that where a similar situation I think of the times that I was able to get out of that.

Q. Two things, one, are you feeling more and more comfortable on clay, and secondly, your thoughts on playing against lefties. Has that been problematic?

MADISON KEYS: No. I mean I think there's lefties kind of all of the time. And I mean I think some of my biggest wins have been against lefties. So it's just something that you have to figure out before the match and you get pretty comfortable.

And feeling more comfortable on clay, but it's always a battle.

Q. On your Instagram account I saw you were hitting the soccer ball around. Is that in your future, a soccer career for you?

MADISON KEYS: Did you watch the video?

Q. I did watch the video. Yes.

MADISON KEYS: So I think you can answer that question. It's not a talent of mine.

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Q. Do you have another sport you would play, if not tennis now that we've ruled out soccer?

MADISON KEYS: When I was younger, I played tennis and I danced, and that was it. I feel like I could be a pretty good quarterback. But other than that, no. It just isn't there for me.

Q. Do you think that playing on this clay helps you at all on red clay or is this clay so different that it really doesn't benefit you?

MADISON KEYS: I think it's different, but I think it's great to have it right after Miami, because it's a little bit faster, but it's still obviously slower than hard court and you're getting used to the movement and all of that. So I think it's a great transition week.

Q. In terms of the third set and Lindsay coming down, how important was it for you to not get a talk about tactics necessarily and things like that and just the broader picture of, yo, just fight. You know, in terms of maybe changing the mindset a little bit and not making it micro and making it a little bit macro?

MADISON KEYS: I think right in that moment that's everything I needed. I didn't need to focus on one tactical thing. It needed to be, just show me you want it. And as soon as she said that, it was, you know, I had to be proud of what I did on the court today. And I knew if I didn't leave it all out there, I would have been really mad at myself later.

Q. Next, either Alizè or Kiki, two very different opponents. What do you anticipate and is there a preference there? Would you rather just keep playing power players or do you want a little bit of a clay court test.

MADISON KEYS: I feel like I've had both so far in this tournament. The last two have been more of the power players, but obviously my first round was against more of a clay-courter. So I think I'm prepared for it either way. Honestly, I don't know who's going to win the match. I have no idea. They're obviously two very different players, though. Kiki it's going to be similar to today, fighting off shots and just waiting for opportunities, whereas, if it's Alizè, then it's a totally different match, I have to dictate and be ready for pretty much anything that's going to come at me.

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Q. And going back to the first match against Lara, to beat a clay court player on a pretty slow night in three sets, how -- I was going to say, how big of that is it more so than just like an opening round win. That was your first match on clay. That was a big test.

MADISON KEYS: Yeah. It's obviously not a perfect situation for me to go from a fast court in Miami to a clay court with a clay-courter on a heavy night. So that was definitely a test. And it's nice to kind of have that win in my back pocket.

End of Interview