

**April 6, 2018**

**K. BERTENS defeats A. CORNET**  
**6-2, 7-5**  
**Quarterfinal Round**

**An Interview With: KIKI BERTENS**

**Q. How is your hip, first of all, with the treatment?**

KIKI BERTENS: Yeah. The treatment was good. It got locked a little bit, so I needed the trainer to just release it a little bit, and of course, I was still a little bit struggling after that, but I'm just going to recover now and go back in again and hopefully it will be fine for tomorrow.

**Q. How motivated were you to finish that in straight sets, with the uncertainty?**

KIKI BERTENS: Yeah. Like really happy because it's tough like when you feel the hip and all the muscles around a little bit, and I could not push off so much anymore, so then it's just great that you don't have to play another set, yeah.

**Q. Of the final four players, I don't think any of them are as happy to be back on clay as you.**

KIKI BERTENS: Yeah. I guess so. Of course, in Miami it was really tough to lose my match against Venus. I had my chances there, and of course, I was really disappointed. Yeah, the day after I could not really hit because my body was still full in pain with the cramps, but the day after I was hitting on the clay again, just with a big smile again, yeah.

**Q. And when you play on clay compared to when you play on hard court, is it just that you're just happier and more comfortable? Is it that the game just makes more sense to you in your head? What do you think it is that gives you these results?**

KIKI BERTENS: Well, I think the clay is helping me a little bit like with my forehand and with my heavy strokes, but I guess it's more mentally. My level is maybe 20 percent better, but in my head I feel like I'm 80 percent better. So yeah, there's still

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Volvo Car Open



some work to do on the hard courts, but right now I'm just going to enjoy the clay court season.

**Q. Next match against Madison. What are your thoughts on that? Different type of clay court match.**

KIKI BERTENS: Yeah. It's going to be a tough match. She's hitting the ball so hard. I have to defend, I think, a lot and play aggressive where I can and then we'll see how that goes, but right now I'm just really happy to be in the semis and hopefully I can play a great match tomorrow.

**Q. Also, we're expecting some bad weather, and the conditions could get pretty heavy.**

KIKI BERTENS: I didn't know.

**Q. So how do you feel about that?**

KIKI BERTENS: Well, I played Madison like in Paris when the weather was also really bad for a couple of days, so I think it helped me a bit that the court, it was much slower there. So I think that helped me. So we will just see tomorrow how it goes.

**Q. Kiki, what kind of recovery steps for your hip are you going to take between now and tomorrow?**

KIKI BERTENS: First, I will do some biking, stretching, shower and then I'll go back into the physios to have some treatment, some massage and have some good food and good rest. Good night of sleep.

**Q. How different does it feel to be here without Raemon and working with Elise?**

KIKI BERTENS: Yeah. It is different. It's not many tournaments that I have not played with Raemon, but I know that he's watching all my matches, and even like my opponents, I think yesterday they played really late, like with the time difference, but then he said, okay, I record the match and I'm going to watch it tomorrow in the morning. So he's really there and helping us out. But I'm also really glad that Elise, but also Alex gave me the chance to work with Elise this week.

**Q. Because I didn't talk to you after that match when you played Alex, but what was that like to play against somebody and you're sharing the coach?**

KIKI BERTENS: Yeah. That was really weird, and the thing is I've only shared a coach twice in my whole career, and first was with Richel Hogenkamp and first tournament we play against each other. And here, same thing. But yeah, we made some really good agreements I think last week or two weeks ago when we sat down in Indian Wells and Raemon asked Elise to coach me for this week, and then it's like, okay, in case you play each other, you're just going to coach Alex, so I was really fine with that, but I was really happy that she was here again yesterday and today.

**Q. And what is your connection with Elise? Do you know her from way back? Kind of talk through the relationship a little bit.**

KIKI BERTENS: The thing is when I started like on the tour we were playing Futures, she was also still playing, so we were playing the same tournaments, so I know her still as a player, and we played the same tournaments then, so we -- yeah, she helped me a little bit when I started and to show me a little bit around. And now she's back on tour and it's always a great time together, and yeah, I'm just really glad that she wants to help me out for this week. And she's doing great.

End of Interview

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