

April 8, 2018

**K. BERTENS defeats J. Goerges
6-2, 6-1
Final Round**

An Interview With: K. BERTENS

Q. Congratulations, Kiki.

KIKI BERTENS: Thank you. Thank you so much.

Q. Will you drive me back to my hotel?

KIKI BERTENS: Yeah. Probably I can with the new car.

Q. This afternoon after your semifinal how were you feeling, and did you envision in any way that you were going to come in so strong in this final?

KIKI BERTENS: No. Actually, I was just like so happy that I could finish that match with the win, and also on court I was already thinking like oh, if I win I have to play another match. But I was just not focusing about that, just trying to get the win. And it gives you so much energy. So before the final I was just like, okay, just go out there and give all the energy you have left, you're going to put it in there, and then we'll just see, and yeah, it went pretty well.

Q. It did.

KIKI BERTENS: Yeah.

Q. Could you have envisioned dominating the biggest match of your life the way you just did?

KIKI BERTENS: I know I can play good on clay, but it was just a great feeling. But I think in the final Julia didn't play her best, but still, I was just trying to play aggressive where I could, just to hit some balls in the court when she was playing, making some errors. So I think overall I did a really good job, yeah.

Q. This tournament has such a rich history, so many of the greatest champions in



Volvo Car Open



this sport have won this tournament. To see your name now with all those other champions what goes through your mind?

KIKI BERTENS: It's just unbelievable. I think I cannot really realize it yet, but I'm just so happy and proud I think of myself. It's a great start of the clay court season, and yeah, hopefully still more to come, but this one I have already and I'm really happy with that.

Q. Did you have to prepare any differently coming into the day knowing that if things worked out you were going to have to play two full matches?

KIKI BERTENS: Not really. Yesterday was a day off. I was glad they canceled early so we didn't have to stick all day here on the courts, but unfortunately, it's not good for the tournament, I think, but I think we all had it. We all had to play two matches today. And you just give all the energy you have, and that's what I did.

Q. Kiki, we haven't gotten a chance to ask you yet, that match with Madison seemed really grueling. But it didn't appear to take all that much out of you. How difficult a match was that?

KIKI BERTENS: It was a really tough match, yeah. I think it was good tennis. It was tough because when we started it was really cold, so it was really different conditions than the rest of the week. But yeah, we both had to deal with that. And I think I was playing a good match. And then getting a little bit nervous to close it out in the second set, and yeah, there you are in the third set and I was just keep on going, keep on fighting even when I was match point down. And also I think what I said to myself before the final, okay, you could already have lost this morning, so just give everything and try to go for it, and yeah, now I'm here with the trophy.

Q. It's pretty impressive to win your biggest title with a coach you never work with much before this month. What did Elise do to help you win this title? Did she keep you in the right frame of mind, at least during the week?

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KIKI BERTENS: Yeah, it was tough Raemon not having him here but of course I was really happy that Elise wanted to help me. And it was just like I think Raemon and Elise had just had so much contact during the week, just like talking a lot, like how to play and Raemon watched all my matches at home, all my opponents' matches also. So I think together they made every match they made a clear plan, and then it was just, yeah, the three of us, I think, all week and Raemon was not here, but I felt that he was here today, yeah.

Q. When you stepped up to the line at 5-1 to serve for the match knowing that this was your biggest career title on the line and that you're the only woman from the Netherlands that had ever won here, what were you thinking?

KIKI BERTENS: Honestly, I was not really thinking about it yet. I was still like, oh, maybe because I had some match points already at 5-0, so I was still thinking maybe you lose this match. So I just focus point by point, and when the last ball went out, I was just so happy, and then it really kicked in, yeah.

Q. And what are you going to do tonight to celebrate?

KIKI BERTENS: I think I will have a glass of wine, yeah. Probably I will be dead after already because it was a really tough day and a really tough week. But we're just going to go for a nice dinner and celebrate maybe a little bit and then fly home and take some well-deserved rest the rest of the week.

Q. It looked during your semifinal like your hip was bothering you a little bit. Can you talk about what that was like and what adjustments you might have been able to make between the two matches?

KIKI BERTENS: Yeah, it was a little tough, I must say. Like after the quarters I had some pain and then yesterday it was feeling a little bit tight, but not too bad. But then we didn't play, so I was like, okay, hopefully it's going to be better today, one more day of rest should be good. But this morning it was more tight than yesterday, though. But I was just like, keep on trying to move as good as I could and trying to push from the legs. And yeah, I think the more the match went further, the warmer the leg got. It got better. And

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then after the match I was just, I think, full of energy still, like with, I don't know why, I didn't feel tired at all. I just wanted to give all the energy still for the final.

Q. Kiki, does any of this feel like a surprise given the fact that you hadn't had the results that you wanted so far this year or did you feel like you had a good plan for entering the clay court season?

KIKI BERTENS: I think I worked really hard this year, and hard court season was also not too bad, in Australia. I reached there the third round for the first time. So I was really happy with that. Afterwards I was a bit unlucky because I got sick and then from all the coughing I bruised a rib as well, so I could not -- I felt that for like six weeks, so Indian Wells was the first time I didn't feel that anymore. So it was a bit unlucky there, but I think there, then in Indian Wells and Miami I lost early, and of course, that's never a good thing, but I had really good time to practice physically, so physically I got much stronger over the last months, and of course, that really helped me this week and also for the rest of the clay court season.

Q. You've been one of the best clay-courtiers in the world the past few years. You've been to the semis of the French. Now that you've won this trophy, what are your expectations going forward over to Europe?

KIKI BERTENS: Yeah, I'm just going to try and do this again in the next event that I will play. I'm just trying to play better match by match. I felt that this week in the beginning it was not great, but every match went a little bit better. And still, I think I can play better than I did this week, so I think that's only a good thing. So we're just going to rest now for a bit, but then I'll go back on the practice court and having some more hours on the clay because it's just for me on the clay just a matter of how many hours you put in.

Q. Kiki, how difficult was it to make all those choices about your new car right there on the court?

KIKI BERTENS: Yeah, it was like it went so fast. It was like, oh, what do I want? Can I still change it? No, but it was really fun that you could pick it and drive this new Volvo for two years, yeah, it's unbelievable.

Q. Will you have the car in the Netherlands? Is that the plan? How does this work? Do you know?

KIKI BERTENS: I have no idea. I have to talk about it. Hopefully, yeah.

End of Interview

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