

April 4, 2019

**M. SAKKARI defeats K. Bertens
7-6, 6-3
Third Round**

An Interview With:

KIKI BERTENS

Q. Kiki, what do you think happened?

KIKI BERTENS: Well, I didn't take my chances. I had some, of course, in the first set. I was 5-3 up in the tiebreak also. And, yeah, I was just not really hitting the balls, I think. I was a little bit pushing. And I was still going for it, but it didn't work out.

Q. Did the tiebreak affect you psychologically in any way because you were just racing away with it at first?

KIKI BERTENS: Yeah, it was tough. It was 5-1 up. I played some good points there, but in no time I think it was 5-4 again. But, yeah, she was just keep on fighting there, keep on hanging in there, and I think she did a good job there.

Q. And Kiki from 4-1 up in the first set, did she adjust her game at all that made you have to readjust your game or was it more just like your level?

KIKI BERTENS: I think so. I think in the beginning she gave me a lot of points, so she made a lot of mistakes, so from then on she started to play a little bit better. But, yeah, I had to play more aggressive myself. I think that game was pretty good from 4-3 to 5-3. But, yeah, then afterwards I was a little bit more pushing the ball. So, yeah, she played a little bit better there. And I think in the second set she really raised her level.

Q. Unfortunately your stay in Charleston is going to be a bit shorter this time, but are there any happy and good memories you could share that you're going to take away from your time in Charleston?



Volvo
Car
Open



KIKI BERTENS: Still, I think being back on the clay it was great. Different tennis again. And it was just great to be back here, of course, with all the great memories of last year, and to see all the people again who are involved in this tournament. So, yeah, it was a good time.

Q. Kiki, obviously you've had this experience before, but when you are the defending champion, do you feel like you have that extra responsibility or how do you take that pressure or try to ignore that pressure on the court?

KIKI BERTENS: Actually, I felt quite okay this week. I didn't like had too much pressure, at least that was not like how I felt like. Of course, I wanted to play better, so we were a little bit searching for like why did that not happen. But for myself it didn't feel like that it was the pressure, more it was like my level was not really there. I'm still a little bit searching for level, I think, this year. But, yeah, we keep on going.

Q. What's the rest of your clay season look like?

KIKI BERTENS: Well, I'll go home now and then Stuttgart, Madrid, Rome, Paris. Yeah.

End of Interview

Transcripts Provided By:

Kelly McKee, CCR, RPR, CRR
Savannah, GA
kadmcr@yahoo.com
912-441-0821