

April 4, 2019

**D. COLLINS defeats K. Kanepi
7-6, 6-1
Third Round**

An Interview With:

DANIELLE COLLINS

Q. Danielle, can you just talk through the match a little bit? Obviously Kaia is a very dangerous player, but she can be off and on, so it can be hard to get rhythm sometimes I guess?

DANIELLE COLLINS: Yeah. She played aggressive the entire way through and gave me a little bit of a scare there when I was up 4-2. But I just had to kind of stay calm and stick to my game plan and just keep doing what I was doing, even though there was a couple of game periods where things weren't going my way.

So yeah, nothing too complicated.

Q. After such a tight first set what was clicking for you going into the second?

DANIELLE COLLINS: Yeah. You know, I think I was just pretty consistent the entire way through. I was playing good tennis and going for my shots, but giving myself a lot of margin. So, yeah, I just kind of kept it simple, was ready to play long points, no matter what. I really like playing on the clay because I'm able to be a little bit more versatile, so that kind of helps me out a lot.

Q. Now that you've had these first few matches on clay where do you feel like your level is at? What are you most pleased with? What do you think you can improve?

DANIELLE COLLINS: Yeah. You know, I think I didn't have my best match in Miami. I played well at Indian Wells. I think just continuing to work on the things that we've been working on in practice. It's been nice going and switching to the clay. It slows things down a little bit, and again, it just adds -- it gives me the ability to kind of use my



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defense and be able to come in a little bit more, slice at certain times in the match. So, yeah, it's just different being on the clay, and I think that I've adjusted really well this week. I think that's the biggest thing. I haven't struggled with my footwork at all or movement. And that's kind of it.

Q. You talked about starting your own business; correct? Starting your own jewelry line.

DANIELLE COLLINS: Yeah.

Q. How important is it for you to find something besides tennis just as a general business or a job?

DANIELLE COLLINS: Yeah. For me, I mean everybody is different, but I enjoy having other passions aside from tennis, and I'm very creative minded, so going into jewelry allows me to kind of trigger that part of my brain in ways which maybe tennis is different. And it just kind of takes my mind off of tennis and helps me relax a little bit. It's a passion and it's something that I enjoy.

Q. What made you fully commit to this?

DANIELLE COLLINS: To the jewelry line?

Q. Yeah.

DANIELLE COLLINS: I just have fun doing it. I think that's the main thing. I would have never envisioned like when I was in college or even like this time last year wanting to do something like this. But the more and more I find myself buying jewelry and becoming more and more interested in it, it became more fun, and I'm good at drawing. I'm good at doing designs. And it's just kind of something, like it's easy, like to commit to something when you enjoy it. I think that's the biggest thing is I have a passion for it. And it's very interesting to learn about. I'm learning as I'm going. I'm certainly not an expert by any means. But I'm always learning about new things and different stones and different ways people make jewelry. I think it's really fascinating.

Transcripts Provided By:

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Q. Danielle, what was the biggest takeaway for you from the clay season last year?

DANIELLE COLLINS: I had a couple good wins in Madrid and Rome, and then I played a great match against Wozniacki at the French Open. It was really kind of my first full season, WTA schedule in general. But then to have, I think, four or five clay court tournaments in my schedule, that was kind of the first time that I've done that. And there was a little break there when I was in college where I just didn't play on clay. So it took a little bit of getting used to again.

I grew up playing on clay. So I'm comfortable with it, but I think just getting more match experience, that was the biggest thing. And learning how to kind of change my game in some ways when, you know, you make the first initial adjustment switching over from hard to clay. I think that was a bit of a transition last year.

So I think there were a lot of great takeaways from the results that I had, but just the learning experience that I gained from going over to Europe for the first time and competing on red clay. I've never played on red clay prior to last year.

Q. Up next for you is Puig. You've had a couple of matches against her. What are your thoughts on her game and that match?

DANIELLE COLLINS: Yeah. She has a very aggressive game style, and she's playing great tennis right now. She fights until the end. Her and I have known each other since we were little. We used to play each other all the time, it seems like, like the 10-and-unders, and 12-and-unders. She's a familiar face, and I don't think there's any secrets about my game or her game, so I think it's going to be a great opportunity for both of us to put on a good show for the fans here in Charleston.

End of Interview

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