

April 5, 2019

**P. MARTIC defeats B. Bencic
6-3, 6-4
Quarterfinal Round**

An Interview With:

PETRA MARTIC

Q. Congratulations, Petra.

PETRA MARTIC: Thank you.

Q. First, how is your thigh holding up?

PETRA MARTIC: Well, it's been challenging. I started to feel it in the second round, but the physios are doing everything they can to kind of keep it in the control, and it's been so far, so good.

Q. It's very humid out there. How did you find the conditions?

PETRA MARTIC: Yeah, it was tough today. I mean, heavy conditions. Balls got heavy. Court is quite heavy from the rain. So it was pretty physical out there. But I'm really happy I managed to grind it out.

Q. Petra, tremendous performance and it just seemed like everything was really clicking for you today. How did it feel from your side of things, and why do you think that was possible? Like what did you do?

PETRA MARTIC: Yeah. I mean, it was my best match so far. I think these three wins prior to this match gave me quite some confidence, even yesterday that I managed to pull this match against Pegula was really a tough one, and I played pretty good level already yesterday. So I just brought it with me on court today, and I'm really happy about it.

Q. You had kind of a tough start to the year. Besides Australian Open, struggling to get the wins, what do you think has changed here for you in Charleston?



Volvo
Car
Open



PETRA MARTIC: Yeah, I struggled physically also. So I couldn't really get any rhythm prior to this event, and I came here, didn't know what to expect, didn't know how my body was going to hold up. So everything was a big question mark, but seems like things are turning around.

Q. Petra, you had a tough trip here when you came in 2011, and that was the last time you actually were here in Charleston. What do you remember of 2011, and Petra, why did you decide to come back here? Obviously you're having a little better of a week because you're in the semis?

PETRA MARTIC: Yeah. I don't even remember what I did in 2011. Like maybe it's better; right?

Q. Just a little.

PETRA MARTIC: Okay. Don't remind me then. Yeah, I mean I love this tournament, but it's just the fact that it comes off such two big events. It makes it tough to stay another one, especially for the Europeans, but this year I thought, okay, it's a big tournament. It's a good chance to start the clay court season, and looks like it was a good decision.

Q. Petra, you're one of the few women on tour who has a female coach in your box with Sandra. I'm just curious, I know after Miami you were quite frustrated and disappointed with things. What have the discussions been like with her leading up to this event, and just this week as well, what have been kind of the key discussion points between the two of you?

PETRA MARTIC: Well, to be honest, she really believed that I could do well. In Miami, okay, I lost second round to Pliskova, which was tough match, but I played two good matches; and she just kept on saying, okay, you're going to rule the clay courts, and I was laughing about it. But I was like, she made a point up there.

Transcripts Provided By:

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

Q. And just because it's a conversation topic in the States right now a little bit with female head coaches in other sports, but what has that experience kind of been like for you because it's not a common one on the tour, and what are kind of the additional I guess kind of values or opportunities that you see with having a woman as your coach?

PETRA MARTIC: Well, I really like it so far. She used to play herself, so she knows how it feels. She knows what it is to make a double fault when you're break point down, when you get angry, all the disappoints, all the excitement that you feel in the match, after the match, dealing with tough things. So I think that it really helps when you work with someone, and to be honest, I think in the future I would never work with someone that wasn't a player themselves and kind of didn't have to deal with it.

Q. Croatia has some of the top players on the tour right now. What do you think of the future of Croatian tennis moving forward, because obviously you have Vekic, Coric. Even Cilic is still making a great run on the men's tour. Where do you think Croatian tennis is going to be in the next five years?

PETRA MARTIC: I think we've always had good players. Maybe not that many, but for such a small country, I think we've been pretty successful. And with Vekic that's so young, Coric. Even Konjuh who's trying to come back and she was Top 20, I think we have a good future.

Q. You're going to get either Wozniacki or Sakkari next. Do you have any thoughts on either or both?

PETRA MARTIC: Well, they're both really tough players. They grind a lot of long rallies. So it's going to be physical tomorrow. I have to be ready to be there for quite a long time, I think, but I'm looking forward to it.

Q. Do you have a good recovery plan?

PETRA MARTIC: I'll need to come up with something really good.

Q. Petra, how do you rate clay in terms of favorite surfaces or things like that, because obviously you made the round of 16 at Roland-Garros as a qualifier, Bucharest final last year, so you play well on it, but is it your favorite surface? Do you like hard court more? Where does it chalk up to you and what do you find comfortable about it and challenging?

PETRA MARTIC: Well, I think clay suits my game really well, and I know how to move on it because I grew up on it, so I feel really comfortable out there. But the fact that I played well last year on hard courts as well and I made fourth round on grass courts in Wimbledon, which was quite surprising for me, to be honest, but it gave me confidence and gave me the belief that I can actually play well on all surfaces. So now in my eyes, okay, grass is still not my favorite, but hard courts and clay are pretty much the same.

Q. Petra, I don't know if you know this stat, but so far WTA have had 14 different tournaments and 14 different champions winning the trophies. And you just beat Bencic, who won Dubai, so now it's 15 and 16. What do you think is the reason for all this variety on the WTA tour this year?

PETRA MARTIC: Well, I think the level is high, and everybody can play great tennis. So it all depends on the week who is going to pull out five matches in a row on such a high level. And looks like the variety is really big.

Q. Obviously you're seeded here, and Bencic was a bit of a higher seed. Do you ever look at the seeding and go, it's a little bit intimidating or is there a mindset coming in playing a higher ranked player?

PETRA MARTIC: When I was younger, it used to play a role in my mind, but I think I've matured pretty much in the last few years, and right now I just try to focus on my game, not focus on the results or rankings or who will beat who. So I think it makes things easier for me out there on the court and makes wins like these possible.

End of Interview

Transcripts Provided By:

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

Transcripts Provided By:

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