

April 5, 2019

M. KEYS defeats S. Stephens
7-6, 6-4, 6-2
Quarterfinal Round

An Interview With:

MADISON KEYS

Q. That was one of the friendliest post-match talks between you. What did she say to you after you won?

MADISON KEYS: She was explaining why she hasn't responded to my Instagram direct messages the last couple of days. Apparently she gave it up for lent. So she wanted me to know why she hasn't been responding. (Laughs).

Q. Madison, just in that first set, down in the score line quite a bit and coming back, can you just talk through how important it was to get that first set under your belt? Did it free things up a little bit for the rest of the match for you?

MADISON KEYS: It definitely did. I think after being down set points to be able to come back and win that set was really important. And being able to do that. And then I think even in the second set, having chances and never feeling like I was completely out of the set definitely even helped for the third set closing it out.

Q. And it seemed like you were returning really well, at least seeing her serve pretty well from the get go. Is that how you felt because a lot of the first serve returns were doing a lot of damage as well today.

MADISON KEYS: I just knew that I was going to have to be really focused from the first ball, and playing Sloane you never want to get behind in a point. So it was really important today to try to have a good start to every point, whether it was serving or returning. So that was my focus.



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Q. When you get to this stage of any event, do you ever get over excited that you've made it to the final four or that you're looking forward to the final maybe?

MADISON KEYS: I'm obviously really happy to be back in the semifinals, but I'm just really focused on my next match and not getting ahead of myself.

Q. It was so quiet out there as far as no "come ons" or yelling, and you sort of took each other's word for line calls. What's the vibe like when you play Sloane? Is it different than other matches?

MADISON KEYS: It's always hard to play a friend, so on that side of it you're obviously not going to be saying come on and in each others' faces or anything like that. But, I mean, we've been friends forever. So if she circles a mark and says it's out, I'm going to believe her.

Q. This is your first time to beat Sloane, and I'm wondering, Madison, if that gives you any extra confidence going into your next match.

MADISON KEYS: I think every match here has given me more confidence, and I think I played really well at times today and had less moments of times where I wasn't playing my best tennis. So that has given me more confidence than who I beat today.

Q. Any thoughts about playing either Monica or Danielle?

MADISON KEYS: Honestly, either match is going to be difficult, difficult in different ways. Monica has obviously had some good upsets and good matches this week. I haven't really gotten to see any matches of either of them. So looking forward to seeing her tonight, and Danielle is obviously feisty and a fighter and goes for a lot of shots, so you have to be ready when you have your opportunities.

Transcripts Provided By:

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Q. You said on court that you felt like you played your tennis tonight or more this week. I'm curious if you feel like you figured out how to beat Sloane today or if you trusted your own tennis more today.

MADISON KEYS: I think a lot of the previous encounters I had been trying to do too much and just trusting that I can stay in points and I can stay in rallies. And I don't have to rush and try to hit a winner off the first ball. I think that was the biggest part from today.

Q. So this is your first semifinal since the US Open. How does that improve your confidence moving forward through 2019?

MADISON KEYS: It's definitely nice to have a semifinal under your belt. Whether or not just multiple matches in a row and it's been the first time since I think Australia that I've won matches. So that's definitely nice and helps build confidence.

Q. What do you think you've been doing particularly well this week compared to the rest of the season?

MADISON KEYS: I think bouncing back after having disappointing games or points and things like that. And not letting bad games become a bad set and all of that. So I think just kind of stopping myself before it kind of snowballs has been the best part.

Q. Can you say a word about the award you're getting tonight and what it means for the cause that you fight for?

MADISON KEYS: I am getting an award. Bob and Eleanor have been really, really supportive in my belief in FearlesslyGiRL, and they've always been asking what they can do to help me. So them giving me an award and donating to the charity means a lot because it's something that I believe in tremendously. And to have more and more people believing in it and supporting it just means a lot to me.

End of Interview

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