

April 6, 2019

**M. KEYS defeats M. Puig
6-4, 6-0 Quarterfinal Round**

An Interview With:

MONICA PUIG

Q. Monica, can you just talk through the match? Obviously first set nice and tight. Madison kind of stepped it up after that?

MONICA PUIG: Yeah. Obviously not the same quality of play as the other day, so just disappointing, but all props to her. I mean she really kept me pressed back behind the baseline, didn't really let me hit my shots. But that's tennis. Sometimes you have great days like I've had the past four days and then today you come up against an opponent who's playing ten times better than you on the day. So I'm very disappointed, of course, but I can't really leave this tournament angry because it's been leaps and bounds better than what I've been playing this whole year. So lots of positives to take forward.

Q. Monica, did the rain make the conditions any harder for you in the second set?

MONICA PUIG: I felt like they were the same. The court didn't change too much. You know, I came out good after the rain delay, you know, put it back 4-4 and just couldn't keep it together there at 5-4 when I was serving to stay in the set. And there she kind of just elevated her level and just kind of ran away with it. But again, that's tennis, and she definitely stepped it up today and just gotta go back to the drawing board.

Q. From these great few days that you've had here, what are some of the things that you feel like you did particularly well that you're going to take with you into the rest of the clay season?

MONICA PUIG: Yeah, I felt like physically I was moving well on the clay. I was constructing points rather well. I'm not really going to focus too



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much on today's match and all that happened there because, you know, the past four matches that I've played have been really, really solid and really consistent. So a lot of positives to take away from that, and I just feel like mentally I'm in the right place. Physically there's always room to improve, of course, but now I'm just going to take a few days off and kind of regroup and start training really hard for Europe.

Q. She's a type of player that can take the racquet out of your hand just with the power.

MONICA PUIG: Uh-huh.

Q. Is that how you felt today in terms of her level or do you feel like looking back on it there were certain things that had you been able to execute better, that you'd be able to kind of level that up a little more?

MONICA PUIG: Yeah, she hits a really big ball. There's no doubt about that. But I felt like I gave her the chance to do that. I felt like a lot of my shots went short. I pressed on a lot of balls. My down-the-lines weren't working as well as they have been. So I feel if I would have probably had a little bit more margin, construct the points a little bit better, maybe had more depth on my ball, then maybe the points could have been a little bit more different. But since my balls were short she was able to step in and tee off a lot and keep me always on the move. And yeah, she also served incredibly well today. So it's like that.

Q. What are your plans for the rest of the clay season?

MONICA PUIG: Well, first few days off because I need them. And then, yeah, start training for Madrid, Rome and the French Open.

End of Interview

Transcripts Provided By:

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