

FAMILY CIRCLE CUP

35th Anniversary

Charleston, SC

@ Daniel Island

April 17, 2008



A Family Circle Magazine Premier Event

A POST-MATCH INTERVIEW WITH:

MARIA SHARAPOVA

Maria Sharapova defeats Tatiana Perebiynis
Round of 16
7-5, 6-2

Q. Maria, you had that double fault there and you set up a set point for her and then you just kind of went on a roll. What was going on there at that point and what was working for you after that?

MARIA SHARAPOVA: I was just sloppy to let her get back in that first set. I started off really well and I should have just kept going. Instead I made a few easy errors and gave her that break back, and all of a sudden you find yourself in a dog fight, you know, where out of an offensive position you're back on defense and trying to get a break. So it was a

little strange, but after that set point, I think once I saved it, I came out with a few good serves and I put the pressure on her and was able to win that game on her serve and kind of roll from there.

Q. What do you think about playing Serena and especially on the green clay?

MARIA SHARAPOVA: Yeah, well, we've never played on clay, so that's new. We've played numerous amounts of times, and never on clay, so you know, I'm really looking forward to it. We haven't played in a while. I think it's been a year. So apart from the last couple, you know, appearances against her, we've always had really tough battles, but you know, lost to her the last two times and I'm looking forward to getting my revenge tomorrow.

Q. Maria, when you think about facing Serena, what's the first thing that pops in your head?

MARIA SHARAPOVA: Well, you just gotta be ready from the first point to the last, no matter if you're up or you're down. Against any opponent really, the match is never over, especially against her. You know, she's got a lot of experience behind her back. She's been there and done that. She's been in numerous different situations on the match court, and you just gotta be ready, really gotta take your chances. Against top players like her you're not

TRANSCRIPTS BY:

K. McKEE, RPR, CRR
SAVANNAH, GA
912-441-0821
kadmcr@comcast.net

going to get too many, and the ones you do, you really gotta take them.

Q. How much fun is it facing someone like her?

MARIA SHARAPOVA: It is. You know, it's great because I think she was -- we go -- even though I'm young we've already played many, many times, and you know, our matches are pretty -- apart from the last couple, they're pretty exciting. They're pretty -- you know, they're pretty interesting, and you know, both of us like to go for the big shots. And I think considering that this clay is a little faster than normal clay, I think it suits both our games pretty well, and hopefully we'll both produce some good tennis tomorrow.

Q. How do you analyze Serena's game? Just describe it.

MARIA SHARAPOVA: It's a very offensive game. She serves really big and she attacks, and you really gotta be ready off the return and make her hit extra shots and try to force the errors. And that's my game as well. I like to be aggressive, whether I'm playing on clay. I'm not necessarily going to start playing defensive tennis. You know, I'll definitely be looking to take those short opportunities that I have and hopefully take them and come in, because against her she's going to get a lot of balls back and she's going to try to force the errors out of you.

Q. Maria, she said she'd sprained her ankle today. You played deep obviously at Amelia Island all week. How do you feel physically now?

MARIA SHARAPOVA: I didn't feel too great energy wise today. You know, I did the things that I had to do in order to win the match, but you know, I don't know. I felt fine, I guess. You know, I'm used to playing events back to back and playing a lot of matches, and you know, I had a couple tough matches last week, and I recouped pretty well from them. And every day is a new day. You're always going to feel a little bit different. You never know how you're going to feel until you actually go out on court, but the best thing about this is that I've been playing a lot of matches and I'm giving myself an opportunity to get better and better each and every single day.

Q. Do you think the drop shot will be a good weapon to use against Serena?

MARIA SHARAPOVA: Yeah. Once in a while. I'm incorporating a few different things into my game, especially on this surface you have to add little things here and there. Although I'm not going to change my game completely, I think it will definitely help against anyone I play, yeah.

END OF INTERVIEW

TRANSCRIPTS BY:

K. McKEE, RPR, CRR
SAVANNAH, GA
912-441-0821
kadmcr@comcast.net