

FAMILY CIRCLE CUP

35th Anniversary

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@ Daniel Island

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A Family Circle Magazine Premier Event

A POST-MATCH INTERVIEW WITH:

ELENA DEMENTIEVA

**Elena Dementieva defeats Patty Schnyder
Quarterfinal Round
6-4, 6-4**

Q. Elena, congratulations.

ELENA DEMENTIEVA: Thank you.

Q. What made the difference for you in the match do you think?

ELENA DEMENTIEVA: Well, I think, you know, I was pretty confident today because last two matches that we play, I won, and we just played like a few weeks ago in Dubai. Well, and it always feels good, you know, to have some positive results against a player, but I knew it's going to be a difficult match because Patty loves to play on clay courts. She's a clay court specialist. And for me it was not an easy match. Even two sets, it was very hard to play against her, lots of long rallies, and I'm just very happy to win in two sets.

Q. Sometimes you have to hit two or three winners on a point against her, don't you?

ELENA DEMENTIEVA: Well, yeah, you know, you have to be ready to play the next point, another point because she play everything back, and even when I was going for the winner, then it was coming back and it was pretty difficult to stay focused, to concentrate for the whole match.

Q. You made the finals in your last time here, but that was, what, three or four years ago?

ELENA DEMENTIEVA: A long time ago, yeah.

Q. Do you have good memories about this tournament?

ELENA DEMENTIEVA: I have really good memories. I remember playing Justine in the final here, and I really like this tournament, so I'm glad to be back. I'm glad to be in the semifinals and try one more time.

Q. Why haven't you been back, just didn't fit in your schedule?

ELENA DEMENTIEVA: Well, you know, it's pretty difficult to play four tournaments in a row, especially with Indian Wells and Miami, two-week events, so this time I decided to change my schedule a little bit, came to Miami and play these tournaments on clay because I didn't play for a long time, so I just wanted to come back here.

Q. So this is your first tournament on clay this year?

ELENA DEMENTIEVA: This is my first tournament on clay, yes.

Q. How are you making the transition? Is it going well? Obviously pretty well.

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ELENA DEMENTIEVA: Yeah, it took me a couple of days. I like to play on clay courts, but for sure it's completely different than the hard. It takes some time for that adjustment, for the movement, but it feels pretty good so far.

Q. Didn't you have an injury at some point earlier this year? I forgot. Did you?

ELENA DEMENTIEVA: Well, I had some problems during -- in the beginning of the year, but it feels better now.

Q. What about your serve? How are you serving? What have you done to your serve to be able to serve so well now?

ELENA DEMENTIEVA: Well, you know, I was just working on my serve. I feel like -- I feel more confident on my serve, but I feel like I have to improve even more. You know, I'm pretty satisfied with how I served today in the match, but I want it to be more consistent, to be able to serve well during the whole week, during the whole tournament, not only in a few games. So that's the goal for me.

Q. It was your back that was bothering you earlier?

ELENA DEMENTIEVA: Well, it feels better now.

Q. Against Jankovic; right?

ELENA DEMENTIEVA: Well, in Miami, yes. It feels better now. I took a week off. I didn't play Amelia because of that, and it feels much better now.

Q. Can you just talk briefly about either of the players you might face, Jankovic or Vera?

ELENA DEMENTIEVA: Well, I think that they're both in great shape, you know. Jankovic was in the final, Zvonareva the semifinals, and they both like to play on clay courts. They move pretty well. They're very solid player, you know. They have very good baseline game and good serve, so it's -- I cannot speak.

It's going to be difficult in any way.

END OF INTERVIEW

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