

FAMILY CIRCLE CUP

35th Anniversary

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A Family Circle Magazine Premier Event

A POST-MATCH INTERVIEW WITH:

VERA ZVONAREVA

**Serena Williams defeats Vera Zvonareva
Final Round
6-4, 3-6, 6-3**

DANNY KENDALL: We'll take questions for Vera, please.

Q. Congratulations on a tough fight. Wondering what you were most pleased with and what would you do differently to beat Serena next time.

VERA ZVONAREVA: You know, it's tough to say. You always have to play great tennis to beat Serena. I think I did part of it really well, but she was much better on her serve today, so that made a difference at the end of the match.

Q. It looked like there was a lot of emotion on both sides and some odd calls there. At times were you getting a little frustrated?

VERA ZVONAREVA: I wasn't frustrated at all. I was just -- you know, you have emotions. We're all human

beings, and during the match you want to -- you know, there are two players and both of them want to win, and of course, you get a little bit upset at a couple of shots, but it's most important when you get back her and you're ready to the next point, and I think we both fought really well today and it was a good match.

Q. This was your second Tier I final this year, your first two in the same season. How do you feel about doing so well at the big events?

VERA ZVONAREVA: You know, it's been a great start of the year for me, especially since I got injured before my first final of the year and I wasn't able to play for one month, and I just came back and made my first final right away. It just feels great, but you know, there are many more tournaments to come and I'm going to try to do my best in those as well.

Q. Serena yesterday predicted a long match with you today. She said the points would be long. You get everything back. Did your strategy pan out? I mean obviously the end result was not what you wanted, but did you play your game as you wanted to, the strategy?

VERA ZVONAREVA: Yeah, I tried. You know, it's not always possible because you have such a great opponent on the other side. She's really powerful. She really likes to dominate, so it's really tough to always play the way you want to. You know, if I would think that, oh, maybe now I have to put this ball on the line and the next one on the line, it never works that way. But I

TRANSCRIPTS BY:

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

tried to stick to the tactics I chose from before the match, and I think they were working for me today at times, but like I said, her serve made a difference at the end of the match.

Q. You've had a lot of Top 10 wins before this week, but this was the first time you beat two Top 10 players in the same tournament. How do you feel about that?

VERA ZVONAREVA: You know, I don't look at the statistics really, you know. It's not that important for me. It's more important for me to go out there and enjoy my game and try my best, and we'll see what's going to happen then.

Q. Were you tired out there? You played before this three three-set matches coming in. How was the energy level during this one?

VERA ZVONAREVA: You know, I didn't really feel too bad. I felt like I did a good job recovering after my matches, but maybe -- you know, I couldn't notice, but maybe I was a little bit slower today than I usually am, but I think I felt pretty good, and yeah, just tried my best, but just couldn't -- she was just better today.

Q. Vera, did you feel like you had her in real trouble when you broke her early in the third set?

VERA ZVONAREVA: You know, with Serena it's really tough because she can come up with the big shots at the key moments, and that's what she did today. You know, she never made a mistake when I was up, and she didn't give me the chance. I think I could have done a little better job about holding my serve, which I wasn't able to do at that moment, and you know, but the match was real even and you didn't -- I guess you couldn't really predict who's going to win that till the last time she broke me.

Q. And then when you had the two double faults in that game, is that

just a lapse of concentration or what would you say there?

VERA ZVONAREVA: You know, she's really aggressive. She always puts pressure on you, so you always have to go for a bigger serve, and eventually your serve percentage goes down and it's just too bad that it happened in that game two times in a row. I know. I accepted that I will have some double faults today, and I knew that it was going to happen when I was coming into the match, but it's just too bad to have two of them in a row.

Q. Was the sun especially bad on one end?

VERA ZVONAREVA: Yeah. You could feel the sun, but I was trying not to pay attention to that, trying to concentrate on the ball, and you know, every point more and don't pay attention to what was going around because I knew she was going to have a crowd on her side today. You know, she's from the States, and I just had to concentrate on myself.

Q. Have you ever double faulted three times in one game?

VERA ZVONAREVA: I think it happens to every player, you know. It probably happened to everybody when they double faulted four times in one game, but you know, just part of the game.

Q. From your perspective how did you feel going into the second set? You beat her in the second set. What strategy did you have there?

VERA ZVONAREVA: I think I was just able to come up with the better serves than the first set, and I was able to get used to her serve, so I was able to be a little bit more aggressive from the returns, which helped me to get through that second set. But in the third set she just -- you know, she just didn't give me a chance to do that as much as I was able to do it in the second set.

TRANSCRIPTS BY:

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

DANNY KENDALL: Do we have any more questions? Okay. Thank you very much.

END OF INTERVIEW

TRANSCRIPTS BY:

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