

April 14, 2009



An Interview With:

ELENA DEMENTIEVA

ELENA DEMENTIEVA defeats JULIE DITTY
6-0, 6-2
1st Round

KEVIN FISCHER: Questions?

Q. Can you talk about coming in, playing the first night match as the No. 1 seed?

ELENA DEMENTIEVA: You know, it just feels very good to be back here. And like I said, it's my first tournament on clay court, so I was practicing for 10 days on clay surface, and I was trying to get ready for this tournament. So I think today was a good start for the tournament, and hopefully it's going to give me confidence for the next round.

Q. Is there pressure being the No. 1 seed or do you put the pressure on yourself when you're the No. 1 seed?

ELENA DEMENTIEVA: I just don't think about it at all. I don't feel any pressure being No. 1 here. I know it's going to be a tough tournament. There are a lot of good players, a lot of players who won this tournament before, like Venus Williams and Nadia Petrova. So I'm just focusing on my game and trying to play as good as I can on clay court.

Q. Can you talk about the first set, 17 minutes? Could you play -- I mean you were pretty much really efficient. Everything went your way that first set.

ELENA DEMENTIEVA: Well, I think -- we never played before, so I was trying to make sure that I put a lot of pressure on her, so I didn't want to give her any chance to feel comfortable on this

surface and just taking the opportunity to move into the court, making, you know, short rally and finishing at the net. That was the key for the match.

Q. Elena, do you learn anything from over-matching an opponent like that? I mean what do you take from that that helps you for your next match?

ELENA DEMENTIEVA: I think it's very important to stay focused, especially when you're playing a match like that, when you're always up in the score, you know, like 6-0, 3-0, and I still need to be focused. You still need to play your game, be aggressive till the end, because it's very easy to lose your concentration when you're winning so easily.

So I think today I was able to stay focused all the way.

Q. Did you really burn any of your energy for the tournament tonight or are you still 100 percent fresh as you go on?

ELENA DEMENTIEVA: It was a good warmup. Let's say it was a good first round, and I have a day off tomorrow, so I'm going to watch my next round tomorrow, and get ready for the next round.

Q. You know, you seem like you were really into the match and you even contested a couple points. Is that just the competitiveness in you?

ELENA DEMENTIEVA: Yeah. You just want to feel the competition and have a little bit of fight in the end of the match.

It's always good to feel some tight moments, you know, so you can feel really the game and the competition, and I think it was pretty competitive in the end of the match.

End of transcript...

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