

April 14, 2009



An Interview With:

NADIA PETROVA

NADIA PETROVA defeats PATRICIA MAYR
6-1, 2-6, 6-2
1st Round

Q. You looked like you were playing about as well as you were a couple years ago. How do you feel about your game right now?

NADIA PETROVA: I'm actually very happy with the way I played, even though I was 2-1 up in the second set and I let kind of the momentum going. I had some other things distract me a little bit.

Besides that I knew I was in control of the match, and even though I lost the second set, I knew even then if I just stick to the game which I was playing in the beginning, I'm going to win the match.

And I'm quite happy with my performance. I served the fastest serve of the day, so I feel like I'm picking up my game.

Q. Are you doing anything differently than you were a couple years ago, three years ago, I guess?

NADIA PETROVA: Well, you know, differently. Of course, I try to do a little more changes with my game, get a little bit more variety. And what else can I say?

I just need to be consistent out there on the court and just take the opportunities which I get in the match.

Q. Do you feel like you're maturing in your game and you're more in control of your game and yourself than you were maybe five years ago?

NADIA PETROVA: Oh, yeah. Definitely. I'm sure every player can say that. You know,

every year you learn better how to deal with emotions, with stress, with pressure in the matches, and you know, having the titles behind me is helping me a lot in the tournaments. It's helping me in setting my goals, and obviously it's also helping me in staying in Top 10.

Q. Why do you think so many girls from Russia are just dominating tennis the way you are now?

NADIA PETROVA: Oh, boy. (Laughs). Well, what can I say?

You know, we're coming out of the country where we're all aiming to do well. We're all aiming for a better life, and I think we're having the right mentality, the right athletic genes to do well in this kind of sport. And it seems like if we set our mind on something, we try to reach it, no matter what, you know, even though we have a lot of difficult times.

But still, you know, I think Russians are a little stubborn in this way. If we want it, we'll do everything to get it.

Q. Do you feel like you're playing well enough to win this tournament?

NADIA PETROVA: I'm very happy with this opening match, even though, you know, it was like up and down, which I feel it is necessary to have in the early stage of the tournament, because it does show, you know, that I'm stronger, that I'm fit, that I can play three-set matches. And with few adjustments for the next match, hopefully I can be more consistent in my mind and stay focused from the beginning till the end. I can expect good things out of myself in this tournament.

Q. How were you able to overcome everything you've overcome in the last three years and to bounce back? Did you think you'd ever get back in the Top 10 again?

NADIA PETROVA: Well, that's where I feel I belong, and I do everything possible to get

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here because that's where I feel most comfortable,
you know.

I think with my game and my physical
ability, that's the place where I should be.

End of transcript...

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