

April 16, 2009



An Interview With:

ELENA DEMENTIEVA

ELENA DEMENTIEVA defeats VARVARA LEPCHENKO
6-1, 6-1
3rd Round

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

Q. First of all, could you just tell us how you felt the match went today?

ELENA DEMENTIEVA: Yeah. I think I played well. You know, I was very aggressive. I was focused all the way, which is important when you're winning easily, and I'm satisfied, you know.

I think she was a little bit nervous, did a lot of mistakes, but I was trying to be focused on my game and trying to attack all the time. It really worked today.

Q. Can I get your reaction to Venus losing earlier today?

ELENA DEMENTIEVA: Well, I didn't watch the match. I just saw some of the beginning of the match, because I was playing next. And from what I saw, Sabine was playing really well today.

And what can I say? The competition is pretty tough. You have to be ready from the first round, because it's not going to be easy now, especially playing on clay court, first tournament. You really have to be patient and take some time before you really feel the surface.

Q. How do you feel about the Family Circle Cup and coming back to Charleston?

ELENA DEMENTIEVA: It's very nice to be back. It's a very different event. It's a very special atmosphere. It feels like home.

I know people who work here for so many years, so when you come here, it's like a place that you know very well. So it's always a pleasure to be here.

Q. When you say it's a very different event, how do you mean that?

ELENA DEMENTIEVA: Well, it's a family event, you know. You know people who work here and people from the crowd.

I mean it's the same people, they come every year, so it just feels like a very nice, homey atmosphere, and it's always nice to be here.

Q. Are you on top of your game right now after today? Do you feel perfectly good about the way you're playing after a pretty good win today?

ELENA DEMENTIEVA: I think it was a good win, and I'm sure it's going to be a tough match tomorrow against Cibulkova, so I'll have to improve some aspect of my game, but stay very aggressive like I did today, and just stay focused on the game. So we'll see if I can do it tomorrow.

Q. Last week you got up to No. 3 for the first time. How do you feel about your highest ranking?

ELENA DEMENTIEVA: Well, I mean it's great. It's great to be in No. 3 position, but it was never a goal for me.

I was always worrying about being No. 1, so I'm not too focused on my ranking. I'm just trying to improve my game. I'm trying to be a better player and just -- I keep the No. 1 position in my mind, so that's what motivates me.

Q. Coming on the court after an upset, is there any different feeling walking on after a huge upset, knowing let's not make this two upsets in a row? Do you have a different mindset when you come in after that?

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ELENA DEMENTIEVA: Well, actually, I was focused on my game, you know, and I really was trying to prepare well for the match, and you know, be aggressive and enjoy this match.

So I was not thinking about Venus's upset earlier today.

Q. When you talk about improving your game, what specifically do you need to improve it? Where can you improve?

ELENA DEMENTIEVA: Well, I mean everything. The footwork can be better. I still need to be more aggressive with the short balls and take the opportunity to go up to the net to finish the point, because the girl that I was playing today, she was -- I mean she has a lot of spin on the ball, so it's always important to attack to step into the court.

So this is what I'm trying to work for the last time, and this is what is very important playing on clay court.

Q. How much different -- it looked like it was pretty windy out there today. Did that make that much difference in how you were playing?

ELENA DEMENTIEVA: Well, actually I think it was quite nice weather. It was not windy at all. Just perfect. Just a perfect tennis day.

DANNY KENDALL: Any more questions?

ELENA DEMENTIEVA: Thank you.

DANNY KENDALL: Thank you very much.

End of transcript...

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