

**April 17, 2009**



An Interview With:

**ELENA DEMENTIEVA**

Elena Dementieva defeats Dominika Cibulkova  
6-4, 1-0 (ret.)  
Quarterfinals

KEVIN FISCHER: Go ahead with questions for Elena.

**Q. Elena, could you tell she was hurt?**

ELENA DEMENTIEVA: Well, I wasn't sure. I mean she came with the tape on her leg, and I didn't know if it was bad or not, so I just feel sorry she couldn't finish the match.

We played a couple times before, and it was always very interesting, very tough match, so hopefully next time we finish.

**Q. Does this give you a little bit more time to enjoy Charleston socially?**

ELENA DEMENTIEVA: Well, actually I'm just planning to go to practice because I didn't play enough. And there is something in my game that I didn't like today, so I think I'm just going to go for a workout.

**Q. Overall, though, the way you played these three matches now, it seems like you've been on a mission when you were out there compared to some other top seeds that have been here this week. Do you feel that? Do you feel like you come here to win and that's it? That's your mission?**

ELENA DEMENTIEVA: Well, I think everyone comes here to win, and everyone is trying very hard. Sometimes it goes well; sometimes not, so I had some good matches here, but I'm sure next round will be pretty tough for me.

I just want to focus on the game, you know, trying to improve every single time I'm on the court, and let's see if I can do it.

**Q. She seemed to be playing fairly well in the middle of the first set. Was that her playing well or you playing poorly?**

ELENA DEMENTIEVA: Well, I think she was playing well. That's the way she usually plays. She plays a lot of balls back. She runs very well.

So maybe I was not aggressive today. I was not aggressive enough and didn't take the opportunity going to the net. So that's something that I want to be focused for my next match.

**Q. She doesn't have a very fast serve. Is that difficult to adapt to?**

ELENA DEMENTIEVA: Well, it's -- definitely it's different compared to the Top 10 players when you are really looking for the ball to block, you know.

I think with a player like her you really want to take the opportunity and step into the court and make a winner, especially from the second serve. So for sure it's different, and every time I play with a different player, I really need to have a look at the match before just to find the good tactic for the game.

**Q. What in your game were you not happy with today? You said you're going to go practice. What is it specifically?**

ELENA DEMENTIEVA: Well, I think I can be more aggressive today -- I could be more aggressive today on the court, and didn't play long rallies with her because that's the way she likes to play.

So I didn't put enough pressure on her serve. So that's the thing I want to improve for the next round, and that's what I'm focusing right now.

**Q. Do you look ahead in the draw at all? Do you know who you match up better**

**TRANSCRIPTS PROVIDED BY:**

**Kelly McKee Smith**  
**kadmcr@yahoo.com**

**against than others? Do you root for somebody to win these other games to know who you're going to match up against or do you really not care?**

ELENA DEMENTIEVA: Well, I'm just glad to be in the semifinal. I want to focus on my game. I don't want to pick a player to play, so I'm going to be ready for my match, no matter who I play.

For sure, I'm going to watch the next match, Caroline against Virginie, and just get ready for my semis.

**Q. I read that you're working with an ATP professional, Andrei -- and I won't hack the last name, but can you tell me how that's improved -- you worked four weeks in Miami and how that has improved your tennis?**

ELENA DEMENTIEVA: Well, actually, no, I'm not working with Andrei anymore. He was helping me during a few weeks because my mom she couldn't travel with me at that time, so I really needed someone to be with me at the tournament, just to warm up, and well, he was never a coach for me.

**Q. How much did today's -- you know, it's not rest, but you only had to play really a set today. How much does that help you going into the weekend?**

ELENA DEMENTIEVA: Well, I think we had a pretty good fight in the first set, which is good, and it always helps when you can feel the competition, when you can feel some difficult moments in the game.

So hopefully it's going to help me tomorrow, but once again, I just want to go on the court and practice some more.

**Q. You have a unique grip on your backhand. Your left hand is almost a continental grip, almost like you would hold a baseball bat. Did you learn that as a child or is that something that evolved?**

ELENA DEMENTIEVA: Well, you really surprise me. I don't think it's unique. I think it's the right way to hold the racquet. (Laughs).

I don't know. I don't think it's different than other players.

**Q. Okay. Thank you.**

KEVIN FISCHER: Any more questions?

ELENA DEMENTIEVA: Thank you.

End of transcript...

---

**TRANSCRIPTS PROVIDED BY:**

**Kelly McKee Smith**  
**kadmc@yahoo.com**