

**April 17, 2009**



An Interview With:

## **MARION BARTOLI**

Marion Bartoli defeats Melinda Czink  
6-4, 6-1  
Quarterfinal Round

KEVIN FISCHER: Questions for Marion.

**Q. What was your reaction to the win?**

MARION BARTOLI: Well, it was great. First of all, I'm really happy to win the semifinal again.

I was playing well at the beginning of the season, and then I got some rhythm in Indian Wells and Miami, and it's just good to be back on the victory.

My goal is really to play well at the French Open. That's why I'm starting the clay season so early.

And last time we played, it was in Brisbane this year, and it was a really tough match, so I was pleased to be able to win in two sets.

**Q. Do you have any comment on playing Lisicki tomorrow? She's got that big serve. And have you played her before?**

MARION BARTOLI: Yeah. I played against her in Wimbledon last year, and I got the advantage because we played on Center Court. And of course, with my experience it was a lot easier to play Center Court than her, so I beat her quite easily. I think 6-1, 6-2 or 6-1, 6-3.

But you know, she beat Venus here. She's in the semifinal as well. So it's going to be very difficult, but if I'm playing the same way as I played tonight, I think it's going to be a great match.

**Q. What do you think made the difference for you tonight?**

MARION BARTOLI: I don't know. I think I played really consistent all the way through.

I mean I was not giving her a lot of free points. I was moving well. I was hitting the ball well, serving well, so it was not easy for her to win one point.

She has to really play some amazing shots, and it's hard to play some great shots all the match. She make some, but she makes also some mistakes, so I think also since I was so consistent, she was not able to win so many free points, like I think she used to do in her previous match.

I saw her playing. She was doing a lot of bases, a lot of winners, and against me it was not the case today, so I think it helped.

**Q. Can you talk about -- your service motion, I guess is a little unusual, and then hitting with both hands from both sides. Can you just talk about how that all developed?**

MARION BARTOLI: Yes. I should count how many times this question is coming by each year. I think it's going to be like a thousand times, but I love my serving motion. I don't know why everyone says it's weird.

It's just the same as everyone. I'm just tossing the ball, get my feet together, jump and hit the ball. It's no big deal.

It's like everyone is doing. I don't know why you call it different. What do you think is different? I don't know.

**Q. Maybe your stance as you get ready and then not bouncing the ball like a lot of players do.**

MARION BARTOLI: Yeah. I'm not a Djokovic case, so I'm not bouncing the ball 20 times before I try and serve. So at least I'm serving quicker.

**Q. How about serving with both hands on both sides?**

---

**TRANSCRIPTS PROVIDED BY:**

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

MARION BARTOLI: Yeah, I'm not the first one, again.

Playing in the '92 French Open final against Steffi Graf, and I was playing one-handed forehand by this time. I was eight years old, and he saw her playing two hands on both sides.

He asked me to do it the next day to try it because I was so weak with one hand. I couldn't hit a forehand almost over the net. The ball was barely going over the net, so he asked me to try with two hands, try to get more power, and it's working not so badly, but again, it's not so -- I don't know why everyone say I have a unique style. I'm just hitting the ball and try to play. That's it.

**Q. You hit the ball really far in front of you.**

MARION BARTOLI: Uh-huh.

**Q. And with precision. What do you do to prepare to track the ball so well and hit it so consistently well, deep, deep penetrating shots?**

MARION BARTOLI: Yeah. I think, again, it's coming from my early age. I think that's where you learn to play tennis, honestly.

And when I was between 12 and 14 years old, I used to practice with a ball machine. So my dad would just put the ball in the ball machine and watching me, so he had nothing to do, and I was hitting thousand and thousand balls deep in the corner, and every time I was hitting the target, I got a sweet.

And I was really motivated, you know, and that's why maybe I still love so much chocolates, but I used to practice like that, and I think it stays in my game.

That's right. I'm trying to take the ball as far as possible in front of me. I think that's the better -- the better you hit in front of it or you hit the ball and the more precise you can be, so I'm trying to do like this.

But it's easier on two hands to hit in front of you. I think with one hand it's more difficult.

**Q. Is your racquet longer or bigger than usual?**

MARION BARTOLI: Bigger? Do you think? (Laughs).

**Q. I thought it looked longer.**

MARION BARTOLI: Does it seem bigger? Honestly?

**Q. Longer?**

MARION BARTOLI: Yes. Longer. Yes, it is.

**Q. How long is it?**

MARION BARTOLI: They are made special for me. That's why my name is on it, and it's longer, yes.

**Q. Is there a rule on how long a racquet can be?**

MARION BARTOLI: I'm not for sure. I think in inches it's 70 something, 78, 79, something like that. I don't know. I know my racquet I can play with. I don't know.

**Q. How long is yours did you say?**

MARION BARTOLI: I'm not sure. I mean Prince is doing it for me with a guy in New York City who makes a racquet for Andre Agassi and Andy Roddick and some players like that. So they're doing my racquet.

I know they cost quite a lot because they are made just for me with the grip of my hand and whatever. So that's why they are specially made for me.

**Q. Hitting with two hands from both sides, my daughter did that, too, copying Monica Seles, and probably the longer racquet would benefit you because you can't reach certain balls because of the two hands from both sides, that normal person would -- I mean not that you're not normal, but a normal one-handed forehand would be able to reach that you can't possibly reach because of two hands.**

MARION BARTOLI: Yes. That makes sense. I'm quite small.

I wish I could be one meter 80, but I'm not, only when I'm wearing high heels. I fall short, just one meter 70 something, so I'm trying to have some more length. And of course, if I can play with a longer racquet, it's better for me to have a longer reach when I'm playing.

End of transcript...

---

*TRANSCRIPTS PROVIDED BY:*

*Kelly McKee Smith  
kadmcr@yahoo.com*