

April 15, 2010



Post-Match Press Conference With:

NADIA PETROVA

Nadia Petrova defeats Aleksandra Wozniak
6-2, 6-4
Round 3

Q. You're going to be playing Caroline in the next round. What do you think you need to do in order to win that match?

NADIA PETROVA: Well, I have to be very focused to start with, be very patient in the rallies because she's kind of a person, you know, she's a very good defender. She doesn't really go much for the winners, so it's going to be a lot of long rallies, because especially right now on clay, so it's really hard to finish off the points.

So patience is, I think, the No. 1 key, and hopefully my serve is going to work well so I can get some free points on my serve, and just to play free, you know. Don't pay any attention for the score. Just go out there and give everything as possible to win this match.

Q. How did you feel about closing out the second set? How did you compose yourself at the very end?

NADIA PETROVA: It's been a bit of a drama closing the second set, you know, me falling off at 5-1 and then having three match points on her serve and not able to finish it off, and also another match point at 5-2 on my serve, and then being 15-40 down at 5-4, you know, I had a feeling like from 5-1 and a couple of match points at my advantage she just started to go for the shots and hit, and don't even care, you know.

So she started to play so free, and you know, everything was working well again. She was putting everything in, so that way she kind of put the pressure on me. And I started to rush a little bit because I really wanted to close the match off, but quite happy that I still managed to do it at 5-4.

Q. Did you feel like you played very well today or capable of playing a lot better or what?

NADIA PETROVA: I'm really happy with my performance today. I played well. I served very well, returned very well. You know, I really tried to take advantage of the second serve.

Maybe a little bit slower today than yesterday. On shots where I really had to run to them, I was getting a little bit stuck in the court, but other than that, it was a good match.

Q. Nadia, how did doubles with Huber come about, and are you going to be playing with her more?

NADIA PETROVA: Well, that was actually surprising for me because I'm playing this season with Samantha Stosur, and she decided not to play this week because of the Fed Cup next week in the Ukraine, and she wanted to save her energy and focus on singles here.

And I was only supposed to play singles, but when I arrived here, I ran into Liezel's husband and he asked me if I would be interested to play, and I thought it would be an interesting opportunity to play with No. 1 in doubles and maybe it would be a good chance to maybe pick up a few things from her, and it's a lot of fun.

Q. Nadia, it seems like you also have been playing a while like Patty, and it seems

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like there's more injuries now than there were a couple years ago. Do you think so and why?

NADIA PETROVA: Definitely there are quite a few injuries. First of all, the level of game is getting higher. It's getting more powerful, and you really have to push yourself further in the matches, and that creates some kind of injuries. But then a lot of girls are playing way too many tournaments and they just don't have enough time to get the body some rest and work on some fitness, you know, so they stay stronger.

Q. Nadia, you've won this tournament. You've done very well in Charleston before. Is this one of your favorite stops of the year, the city, the tournament?

NADIA PETROVA: It definitely is one of my favorite ones, you know. I miss the Amelia Island tournament, and we usually go there and then we stop here in Charleston.

But this event has been one of my favorites. You know, it's just -- I love the city. My favorite book is "Gone With the Wind," so it took part here in Charleston. So for me it's a special place to come.

I just love the sights. I love our clubhouse, feels like home. Every single year is the same faces. It feels so home -- it's like a homey feeling for us to come and play here.

Q. Totally off-court question. Your hair seems a little different. I know Wozniak has colored her hair four times in the past year. Have you?

NADIA PETROVA: I'm letting my hair grow.

Q. Is that what it is? It looks longer.

NADIA PETROVA: Yeah, my friend has really long hair, and all of her guy friends say they really like the long hair on the women. So I'm like, okay, I gotta grow it now.

End of Interview

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