

**April 15, 2010**



Post-Match Press Conference With:

**VERA ZVONAREVA**

VERA ZVONAREVA defeats ALONA BONDARENKO  
6-2, 6-1  
Round 3

**Q. Vera, could you talk about the match today?**

VERA ZVONAREVA: Well, actually, I didn't expect to be here at this time because Alona is a great fighter, great player, and I was expecting a very tough, physical match, but I think I was on the court a little bit fresher than her.

She played really tough match yesterday, like three hours. She saved two match points and came back from two match points down, won that match, so I think she was a little bit physically tired. And I was trying to pump myself up and play faster, make the rallies longer and tougher for her, and I think I was successful at it today.

**Q. Do you feel pretty confident about your chances going forward?**

VERA ZVONAREVA: You know, I'm always confident in myself. I always believe in myself, and you know, no matter how I play, I believe I can beat anyone who is on the other side of the net.

But I also know that it's very tough competition out there. All the girls are playing great, and it's very competitive. So it's never easy, but I always believe, and no matter who I am going to play in the next round, I'm going to try my best.

**Q. I know this is a little off the wall, but we can hear the jets flying over. Were you all**

**distracted at all by that? Could you see the jets, and did you know what's going on?**

VERA ZVONAREVA: Not today. Nothing was bothering me today. You know, there are some days where it's a little bit hard to keep your concentration. Then you can sort of notice all the things around.

But today, you know, I think I kept the concentration pretty well from the first ball to the last, and you know, I'm just trying on the changeovers to just recover a little bit and trying to relax, and I didn't hear anything today, so that was good.

**Q. In the second set you lost the opening at love, and in the fifth game you were down 0-40 and you came back and won that game. How important was that game to you finishing the match?**

VERA ZVONAREVA: I think that game was very important. You know, I lost my serve the game before, and then it was 0-40 pretty quick, you know. I think I made a couple unforced errors, and you know, but the most important thing that I was trying to fight through that game. You know, I was trying to hang in there and trying to win it no matter what.

I told myself, okay, you gotta stay a bit more aggressive. You gotta go for your shots and no matter what the score is, just -- yeah, just go for it, and when I won that game -- now I can hear it. When I won that game, I think it was a very important one.

**Q. Last year here you took a really nasty fall and hurt your right ankle. Do you carry anything with you from that injury here? I know you have your right ankle braced. But does it bring back any memories?**

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**TRANSCRIPTS PROVIDED BY:**

**KellyMcKee, CCR, RPR, CRR  
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VERA ZVONAREVA: Well, you know, I ended up having surgery at the end of last year because of it, but to be honest with you, I'm surprised, but I really don't think about it when I'm out here. I like this tournament. It's a great tournament.

Players, not only me, all the players love it because everyone is taking such good care of us. It's great, and I've been coming here every year, and I actually only have good memories from this tournament, and that's it. But I still wear the brace as a protection and I still need it. But I'm not really thinking about it anymore on the court.

**Q. Vera, before you had the issues with the ankle, I think you were No. 5. Do you have any goals this year as far as your ranking's concerned?**

VERA ZVONAREVA: I think I'm, you know, already mature and experienced player, and I had, you know, 10 titles in my career. I've been out there in Top 10. So I think for me ranking doesn't matter that much anymore. When you're young and you want to achieve, you want to get into Top 10, you want to get into Top 5, yeah, I think you go for it.

At the moment for me the most important is to stay healthy and try my best and still improve my game, and I know if I do that, then I can, you know, beat anyone out there. So every time I'm coming for the tournament, I'm just looking to win it. That's every tournament I play I'm going to try to win it. That's my goal pretty much.

**Q. Is Sam Sumyk your coach? I thought that was who was providing the on-court coaching.**

VERA ZVONAREVA: Yeah. He was helping me today. Vica is out of the tournament, unfortunately this week, and Sam is here, so he's just helping me for, you know, three, four days.

I don't know how long, one, two, three, however long I'm in the tournament. But that's about it. I think he's a great coach, but since Vica is injured for a few days, he has some time to help me out, and well, thanks a lot, but it's just, I think, just for this couple of days here.

**Q. Vera, you're going to get either Melanie Oudin or Christina McHale. Have you seen Christina play?**

VERA ZVONAREVA: No, not yet, but hopefully I can get the chance later today to see that match.

**Q. At changeovers you put a towel over your head. What goes on underneath the towel?**

VERA ZVONAREVA: You know, just try to relax and not to think things around because usually I see all the things around and that distracts me.

You know, some people can really stay focused. Me, I can -- usually I notice everything, so I think it's just to -- for me just to relax, I close my eyes to relax and then this way I don't see people moving around and then nothing distracts me so I can think of what I'm going to do next in my next game.

End of Interview

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