

April 14, 2010



Post-Match Press Conference With:

MELANIE OUDIN

MELANIE OUDIN defeats SOPHIE FERGUSON
6-2, 6-4
Round 2

Q. I don't know if you know this, you probably do, but you'll be playing Christina McHale in your next round; Azarenka retired. I talked with her a little bit. She said the last time she played you was at the Easter Bowl in Palm Springs. Do you have any comments about playing her?

MELANIE OUDIN: Yeah. It's a little bit weird playing her in the third round of Charleston because the last time we played was in a junior tournament. We never played in a pro tournament before.

Yeah, seeing the draw and stuff, I was like, okay. Azarenka is playing so well, I thought if I got that far, I'd be playing her for sure, but because of her injury and stuff like that, wasn't able to, but Christina's been playing really, really well, and she's got nothing to lose this tournament.

I've beaten her the past times we've played. I've never lost to her, so she's probably going to come out with no fear tomorrow and I'm just going to have to be on top of my game.

Q. Is this about as good of a start as you could have anticipated for this tournament, playing two straight days without having to go three sets?

MELANIE OUDIN: Yes. I think so, because I've been going three sets a lot lately, and especially after winning the first set. So I'm so

happy to be done with my first two rounds and two sets in each one makes life a lot easier.

Q. Do you see this dodging a bullet that Azarenka had to retire today? Do you see this dodging a bullet or would McHale be as tough an opponent for you?

MELANIE OUDIN: Well, I mean you never know what's going to happen. Tennis is pretty funny because anyone can beat anyone on any given day. No matter who I play tomorrow, I'd be looking forward to a tough match.

I know anyone in the draw who's left now is going to be a good player and it's going to be a tough match for me, so I'm just going to go out there and play my game and not worry about what they have. Worry about what I'm going to do.

Q. It was a special crowd over there. You don't normally see people pack that stadium in. You had a packed house over there. What was it like playing on that court? Was it like a stadium court feel?

MELANIE OUDIN: Yes. It was for sure. I mean I know there are a lot bigger names that played on stadium, but I was like, oh, no, the stadium's going to be completely packed because I knew so many people came here to watch me play, and it's not that big of a court compared to the stadium they have here.

So I thought it was pretty funny that it was completely packed and people were just standing up and trying to see the match. But I had a lot of people out there saying I think they enjoyed the match, which was good.

Q. Do you have a preference for playing afternoon, TV match or night match,

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stadium court, everything that goes along with the evening showcase match here tomorrow?

MELANIE OUDIN: It really doesn't matter to me. I like playing day, nighttime. I don't really have much control of the schedule they make. So whatever I get I just do my best.

Q. Melanie, what do you think of Charleston and just the city? Do you like it here?

MELANIE OUDIN: Yes. I really like it here. Last year they asked me what my favorite tournament was and Charleston was one of my top two, so I think that's why I've started off so well here because I really enjoy the city. And the people here are so nice, and I just get a good feel when I'm playing out there.

Q. What was the other one?

MELANIE OUDIN: Oh, US Open.

Q. What are you looking forward to potentially playing Elena Dementieva again because it sounds like she'll be on the Fed Cup team.

MELANIE OUDIN: Yes. I hadn't heard anything about the Russian team yet.

Q. She's playing for it. Yes.

MELANIE OUDIN: Oh, okay. Yeah. That would be pretty exciting. We had such a good match last time in Paris, and even before, last year at the US Open. So both have been really, really tough matches, but first I'm going to concentrate on this tournament and then worry about Fed Cup next week.

End of Interview

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