

**April 16, 2010**



Post-Match Press Conference With:

**MELANIE OUDIN**

VERA ZVONAREVA  
defeats MELANIE OUDIN

7-5, 6-2

Quarterfinal Round

Q. Melanie, the frustration that showed towards the end of the first set and throughout the beginning of the second set, can you kind of explain what was going through your mind? Was that really just a mental thing and that kind of just lead to the mistakes and errors?

MELANIE OUDIN: I started off well. And it was like all of a sudden she started changing the pace up on me a lot, and I felt like I could not get a rhythm, and I felt like I was changing everything after that.

Like the whole end of the first and the whole beginning of the second I did not hit a clean ball, it felt like to me. Felt like I was hitting balls here and here and here, and she really made me hit like that because she started changing everything up on me. I was hitting really, really well in that same rhythm in the beginning, so she was smart to do that to me.

And yeah, I definitely got frustrated because I was playing so well, and then all of a sudden I just couldn't hit a clean ball. Everything felt off to me. I started shanking. I would hit the tip of my racquet and all kinds of stuff.

Q. Melanie, might be a little soon, but what do you think you learned tonight and this week?

MELANIE OUDIN: You know, I think I've been hitting the ball really well this week. It's just the first time since Paris I've won three rounds in a row. I mean getting to quarterfinals here, better than last year. So it's definitely a step up. I'm definitely disappointed because I just lost my match, but I'm definitely going to learn from it. I can't dwell on losses. I definitely don't.

I'm just going to go into Fed Cup next week, hopefully get another good two matches and look forward to the red clay.

Q. What did your coach say to you when you called him over?

MELANIE OUDIN: He told me, he was like, you need to get the ball in the court, basically, because I started missing almost everything, and she got more aggressive. She was not missing any more, and she got more confident. The match kind of just totally switched her way. Couple line calls here and there did not go my way at all. Every single one of them seemed like they went against me today.

I played her a lot closer this time than I did a couple weeks ago, which is an improvement, which is good. So hopefully next time I play her will be even closer.

Q. How do you balance the need to get better versus understanding that you are making steps because obviously you are out here to win?

MELANIE OUDIN: Right.

Q. So do you take some satisfaction, yes, I've improved or is it like, man, I'm so frustrated, it's like I should have been moving on tonight?

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**TRANSCRIPTS PROVIDED BY:**

**Kelly McKee, CCR, RPR, CRR**  
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MELANIE OUDIN: You know, the thing for me is I definitely take every tournament as learning experience and I know I'm still learning a lot. This is like my sophomore year on the Tour, which is supposed to be the toughest, and so far I think I've been doing pretty well. I just want to keep getting better, and each match I have to learn things from it.

**Q. Melanie, you've mentioned that one of your goals was to be seeded at the Grand Slams, and it seems like you might be there after the quarters of such a big event. How do you feel like your goals and pretty much been reaching them?**

MELANIE OUDIN: I try to make realistic goals, but this was a tough one because I knew I had points to defend here, and if I won tonight, I knew for sure I'd be seeded. So I know I'm like borderline right now. So I'm hoping I would be seeded. If not, I'm extremely close. So that's pretty disappointing because I didn't win tonight.

**Q. Did the crowd support encourage you and how do you think it impacted your game?**

MELANIE OUDIN: You know, the crowd definitely helps you, I think, when they're extremely for one person out there, but she's such an experienced player, and when you're 25 years old, and she's been through all of this, probably people have cheered against her a thousand times more than people have cheered against me or for me, so I think she knows how to handle it.

I'm still learning. It's definitely helpful when people cheer for me, but then you kind of feel like sad. You feel like you let other people down also besides just yourself. And sometimes that can count against you, it pumps you up even more. So I don't know, it's really not that big of a deal.

**Q. Do you feel like you've had a crowd against you, a similar crowd against you in Fed Cup?**

MELANIE OUDIN: Yes. For sure. I've definitely had crowds against me. And it's much nicer having them for you. But it's going to go back and forth over the years.

**Q. Could you talk about your foot work a little bit? It's one of your best assets, if that's possible.**

MELANIE OUDIN: Oh, thank you.

**Q. But do you work on that or is that something that has come to you naturally?**

MELANIE OUDIN: Yes. I've always worked on my foot work because I'm one of the smaller players, so I have to be quick out there because I'm not going to overpower anyone.

But I'm still getting my footing down on the clay. This is only my second tournament on clay so far, and I haven't really gotten to practice that much before going. So the red clay is going to be different. I'm going to be looking forward to working on that.

But yeah, I've always done little foot work drills, and my coach used to make me take ten steps before I hit every single ball when I was little, and that made me take those little steps, and I think that's what started me being able to be quick.

**Q. When it comes to the non Grand Slams, could you see yourself making this a regular stop or is it just because you're so young in your career, it's kind of hard to look ahead? It's obviously been two years now. It helps you're from Georgia as well.**

MELANIE OUDIN: Yes. I really like this tournament. I'm hoping to be back here next year and be even better and many years to come, so definitely look for me here again.

**Q. What kind of preparation will you do now for Fed Cup?**

MELANIE OUDIN: Well, I'm going to go home now for a few days because I feel like I haven't been home in forever. After Fed Cup I go to Europe for six, seven weeks, so I'm definitely going to try and not play tennis for a couple of days and just clear my mind and hang out with my friends and go to Fed Cup.

M.J. ORMAN: Thanks, everybody.

MELANIE OUDIN: Thank you.

End of Interview

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