

April 17, 2010



DANIELA HANTUCHOVA

SAMANTHA STOSUR
defeats DANIELA HANTUCHOVA
6-3, 7-6
Semifinal Round

Q. What do you think happened today, Daniela?

DANIELA HANTUCHOVA: Well, I thought it was a pretty close match. I definitely had my matches, especially in the second set. I feel like I almost turned it around like yesterday.

Obviously I felt a little bit tired and not as fresh as I was in the previous matches, but still, you know, I kept fighting. I tried to do everything I could.

And Sam played a very good match. She was serving unbelievable first and second set. So even though she was serving like that, I was still able to break her quite a few times, and I thought it was a good level.

Q. You played really well here and in Miami. How do you feel going to Europe now?

DANIELA HANTUCHOVA: Yeah, definitely there are a lot of positives I can take from this trip here in the U. S. I feel like I was playing very well in Miami with Venus, and just showed me that if I play my game, I can play with anybody.

I had very good preparation last week, and yeah, just hope to keep going coming to Europe. This was probably one of my toughest surfaces to play on. The balls are very heavy and very slow, so hopefully it's going to get only better from now.

Q. You have a career Grand Slam in mixed doubles and eight titles in women's doubles, and today you seemed to shine when you came into the net. You had a shoelace volley that you put away for a winner. You don't remember?

DANIELA HANTUCHOVA: I don't remember, but --

Q. It was good. So can you talk about your doubles, how it influences your singles game?

DANIELA HANTUCHOVA: Yeah. I think it's great practice, and it helped me so much to improve my singles game. Clay is not really the surface where you can come in as much, because there's so much time for the opponent to pass you like I did when Sam came in, so you have to be very careful which point you choose to come in on and try to be smart. And it's completely different playing on hard courts or grass.

So I felt like during the week I was coming in well, hitting the dry volleys, and I was not unhappy with my net game at all. This year I chose not to play doubles, just to focus on my singles and give it my best shot in that.

Q. Daniela, last time you played Sam, I think she was ranked number 50. That was in 2006. Can you comment on how her game has changed?

DANIELA HANTUCHOVA: Obviously she improved so much in the last few years. She's been a Top 10 player for a while now. And she's very powerful. She almost plays like a man, in a very good way, plays with a lot of spin, and the serve is huge.

I mean she was serving slice serves 118, which I think you don't see on the men's tour too

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often, so she's got a great game. She's a very strong girl, and yeah, she works hard for it, so she definitely deserves to be there.

Q. Where are you off to next? Are you going back to Europe or waiting for the volcanoes?

DANIELA HANTUCHOVA: I wish to know. I have no clue. I guess Charleston for now.

Q. It seems that you close your eyes right after you contact the ball. Was this a coaching decision?

DANIELA HANTUCHOVA: Absolutely not. I have no idea I'm doing that.

Q. It's nothing to protect your eyes against the clay or anything?

DANIELA HANTUCHOVA: Definitely not.

Q. No?

DANIELA HANTUCHOVA: No.

Q. Daniela, you've been through I think 11 years now?

DANIELA HANTUCHOVA: 10. No. 10. Please. (Laughs). Don't add more.

Q. Since May '99?

DANIELA HANTUCHOVA: I'm turning 27 next week, so please.

Q. Hey, some of us are older than you. So do you feel like there's more depth in the game than when you started?

DANIELA HANTUCHOVA: Oh, yeah, definitely. You can't even compare it. It's so much stronger, so much more physical. And basically any tournament can win anybody, so I think it's great for the fans and for the Tour to be so powerful at the moment that you have so many great champions, even like here, even some of the top players withdraw, you've still got a great tournament. It's the case every week.

And also, physically it's at a completely different level. Before it was enough to work a little harder than the rest and you were in Top 10. Now everybody in top 100 is working hard. So it definitely changed a lot.

Q. Daniela, in Serena's book I was thinking of this because of Caroline. In Serena's book she said when she was injured and she fell, you were serving to her and she thought the next serve or two she thought you served straight to her. She said, "she must have felt bad for me." I'm just curious. Do you remember that?

DANIELA HANTUCHOVA: I don't know what you're talking about.

Q. In that Wimbledon match when Serena fell, do you remember when she had the issue with the cramp in the legs? She said, "Daniela must have felt bad for me."

DANIELA HANTUCHOVA: Yeah. Obviously she was cramping there for like a half an hour. Of course I'm a tennis player, but I'm still human.

Q. Well, she appreciated it.

End of Interview

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