

April 17, 2010



Post-Match Press Conference With:

SAMANTHA STOSUR

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

AMY BINDER: Questions for Sam, please.

Q. Hey, Sam. Just the match in general and the toughness you showed at the end there.

SAMANTHA STOSUR: Again, I thought I played well. I expected a tough match from Daniela. And we hadn't played each other for a few years, and actually practiced with each other right at the start of the week, so I guess maybe we both got a bit of an idea about what we were going to do today from that practice.

But yeah, overall, very pleased. Obviously very happy to come back from 5-2. I was struggling to hold serve during that second set, and I knew once I could hold serve again, that I was going to have a chance. I just had to keep pushing forward and keep going, and I was glad to finish it off in two sets.

Q. I've seen you get frustrated and angry in other matches, and you were acting that way in the second set. But this time it seemed to motivate you. Can you tell us the difference? What happened that was different?

SAMANTHA STOSUR: Well, I think, you know, I think a lot of players get a little bit frustrated and angry with themselves out there,

and it depends how much everyone shows it, whether anyone else can work out that they're feeling like that.

But it's like -- I don't get too mad with myself for showing emotion like that as long as I can step up to the line the next point and play a good one and still be kind of in control of the way I'm playing, and maybe I didn't do that initially, but to be able to come back and really fix it up from 5-2, then that's pleasing, so I think, you know, I'm one of those people that like to let it out a bit. I don't want to hold onto it. And sometimes it's good and sometimes it's bad, but if you can turn it around and make something positive, then that's okay.

Q. Were you already in your mind planning for a third set? You know, she was leading?

SAMANTHA STOSUR: Well, I guess, you know, I wasn't going to think that it was into a third set until it actually was. You know, I felt that I was able to break her a couple of times, which I did, so then it was a matter of being able to hold serve. And once I hold to go to 5-3, then break, it's anyone's match again. It's back on serve, and I just had to remember it was only one break, even though it looked bad at 5-2.

So I just had to try and get one back, and once I did that, then obviously I was back in it. And she had those two set points and came up with some good serves to level it at 5-5, and then once it got into a tiebreak, I was able to play aggressive and really step up and if she could beat me when I was doing that, then okay, I'd settle for a third set. And I guess I played well enough that I didn't have to go that far.

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Q. I see you're having your own private Fed Cup preparation here.

SAMANTHA STOSUR: Yeah.

Q. I know you had said that if you got this far, you'd be happy, but you weren't playing doubles because of Fed Cup, but you're okay with that?

SAMANTHA STOSUR: Well, we can't play there anyway, so it doesn't really matter.

Q. I wanted to ask you what was it like to be called on court so early when you were expecting to play late?

SAMANTHA STOSUR: Yeah. I was in the physio room getting ready and getting my ankle taped and everything else, so once we saw that Caroline had to pull out, yeah, it was a bit of a rush and get going, but we have to be prepared for that. We know that that's possible every time you're waiting second or third match, so you just have to be ready and adapt as best you can.

Q. Did you have any idea who those people were that were making all the Australian chants out there? Were they friends of yours or are you just kind of drawing a fan base since you've been here in Charleston?

SAMANTHA STOSUR: I think they're the tennis team from the Charleston university here. One of the girls was actually Australian. I knew her back in juniors or whatever else. She's obviously got her teammates together and made a little contingent. So it's good they're there. Makes me feel like I'm at home.

Q. This is good. You've been in two semifinals this year and now you're going to be going into a final since -- I can't remember the last time you were in a final.

SAMANTHA STOSUR: October.

Q. How does that make you feel?

SAMANTHA STOSUR: Great. Yeah, it's great to be in another singles final, and I've been getting close this year. I've had pretty consistent results and been playing well, so I think I'm kind of getting rewarded for doing that week in, week out. And to be in another final it's great, but I want to try and win it, and if I could win here, that would be awesome. I'd leave here very happy.

Q. What do you think about playing Vera specifically?

SAMANTHA STOSUR: Well, we played only maybe six, seven weeks ago in Indian Wells, and I won that match. And obviously different now; we're on clay and whatever else, but again, I have to expect a tough one. I can't take anything easy out there, and she's obviously played well to make it to the final.

And I think I'll probably look over those notes from that match in Indian Wells and work up what I did well then and what helped me win the match. And it's probably going to be pretty similar, even though we're on a clay court, but have to expect her to run down a few more balls, and if you have to hit maybe two or three winning balls each rally then I'll have to be able to do that.

Q. Do you really take notes on each match? What's your off-court mental preparation as far as that goes?

SAMANTHA STOSUR: Yeah, certain matches you take more notes than others afterwards, and I've got a coach who does it all the time, so I can rely on him a little bit more than myself to know every single thing about every player. So we kind of go through it together and work it out.

All the players have been around for a little while, so it's not like there's going to be anything new out there. It's just a matter of working it out and how your strengths are going to work out against them.

Q. Is it mental or actually physically writing notes?

SAMANTHA STOSUR: After matches and stuff?

Q. Yeah.

SAMANTHA STOSUR: Yeah. You take notes about what your opponent does well, does bad and what you did well against them to win or lose or whatever. So yeah, you write it down so you don't forget.

Q. Did you watch the match and see Caroline fall, Sam, and did it make you more cautious if you did?

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SAMANTHA STOSUR: I didn't -- I was watching bits and pieces. I didn't actually see her fall, but going into clay court, grass court, anything that's a bit uneven, yeah, you maybe are a bit more cautious, but you can't play carefully. You still gotta be moving free and feel like you've got control out there. Otherwise you won't move at all.

So I mean I sprained my ankle last week as well. So I know what it feels like. You have to get out there and just handle it as best you can.

Q. When did you sprain your ankle?

SAMANTHA STOSUR: Before I came here.

Q. Have you been feeling more pressure, Sam, from Australia since you've been in the Top 10?

SAMANTHA STOSUR: No, not really. I mean I enjoy having that support back home and obviously good support here. I think that's a good thing, and I've been trying to get this highly ranked for a long time. So once you're there, you gotta try and enjoy it and not think of it as a burden, because that's what you try and do every day and get to that spot. So with the rest of Australia behind me and all that, it's a good thing and I really, really enjoy it.

Q. Are you going to continue playing doubles this year with Nadia?

SAMANTHA STOSUR: Yeah. Nadia and I are still going to play throughout the year. We're going to play a few tournaments throughout the year, but I might have odd weeks like this where I choose just to play singles and work on that. Sometimes it's good just to play one event and you can rest your body a bit more leading into bigger events as well. But we're still going to play but maybe pick and choose which ones and just give it our best when we get out there.

End of Interview

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