

April 18, 2010



Post-Match Press Conference With:

VERA ZVONAREVA

SAMANTHA STOSUR
defeats
VERA ZVONAREVA
6-0, 6-3
Final Round

JOHN BERKOK: Questions for Vera.

Q. After reaching the finals here after what happened last year and the French Open coming up, you must feel pretty happy about your week. What are your thoughts?

VERA ZVONAREVA: Yeah, you know, I'm not really thinking about it. I think right now I'm a bit disappointed about the match, but overall I think it's a good start to the clay court season.

It's my first clay court tournament in two years pretty much almost. So I should be happy about how I did this week, and hopefully, you know, I can improve my game and play better during the clay court season.

Q. Vera, have you ever had an opponent so red hot as Sam was today?

VERA ZVONAREVA: You know, I think she played really well, but I also let her play really well. A couple of things that I tried to do they didn't work today. I made a few unforced errors, and then I stayed too passive. I didn't put her in trouble enough, and I think that's why she was able to play so well throughout the match.

But I will take it as an experience and I will try to do better next time.

Q. Now being a two-time finalist, two-time runner-up does that make you hunger to come back and win this thing as opposed to being someone just known for getting to the finals here?

VERA ZVONAREVA: You know, any tournament I'm playing at I want to win it, and if I don't have a title there, I want to, of course, come back and win it. But here it's very special event to me.

You know, I've been coming here every year, and of course, I want to do better; and hopefully, you know, I can be here next year and try to take one more step forward.

Q. Second set frustrations coming to a boil, just what happened when you decide to take your anger out on your racquet?

VERA ZVONAREVA: Nothing happened. You know, you just -- you gotta try to change something up, you know, maybe just change even like emotionally, try to maybe relax more and, you know, just relax and enjoy the game, just maybe break a racquet, forget about what was happening for the past half an hour and start all over again.

Q. You mentioned some things that you might have been able to do differently, but how frustrating was it because it seemed like her power, you just didn't have an answer for her power today?

VERA ZVONAREVA: No. I think there were answers. I think I just didn't make the right decisions at the right time. I didn't choose the right shots, and when I finally started doing a little bit better, I think she came up with a few great shots.

I had the chance in the second set, but still made a couple unforced errors, and I think, yeah,

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that was not at a good time. If I made those mistakes at different timing and played a little bit better in the second set when I needed, I could have turned things around a little bit, but I think, yeah, I think she just played really good on those key points, and it was tough for me today.

Q. Did you come in expecting a victory and were caught off guard or did you come in kind of knowing that this was going to be a pretty challenging match?

VERA ZVONAREVA: Well, I think the Tour is very competitive right now. You cannot just come and expect a victory like that. You expect a tough match, tough battle, but no matter what, I always believe in myself, and no matter what I know that I can beat anyone on the other side of the net.

That's what I was trying to do today. You know, maybe things didn't work out the best for me today, but like I said, I'm going to take it as an experience and try to do better next time.

Q. Did wind have anything to do with your match today? Was it a problem on the court?

VERA ZVONAREVA: Of course it was a little bit more difficult to find my rhythm, especially since she was playing so well, and I had to make the perfect shot. And a couple of times I felt like my shot was good and it's just I was, you know, maybe against the wind and it was a little bit short and she has a chance to attack it. And then a couple of times I felt like I make a couple of good shots, but they went a little bit out because it was with the wind. You know, but overall I don't think it really played a big role in it. I just had to adjust to her game today, but I didn't do it well.

Q. What did you think of the crowd support today, Vera? At one point it looked like the Aussies changed their chant to sing for you. Did you notice that?

VERA ZVONAREVA: No, you know, I was focused on the court and I wasn't paying attention to that. But it's definitely great to be playing in front of a crowd like here in Charleston. Everyone loves their tennis here. Everyone comes for this tournament every year, and you know, it's a pleasure to be able to play on the center court with the stadium packed with fans.

JOHN BERKOK: Any more questions?
Thank you.

End of Interview

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