

April 18, 2010



Post-Match Press Conference With:

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

AMY BINDER: Questions for your champion.

Q. Samantha, just reading the media guide, this is the quickest championship ever in the 38 years of the Family Circle Cup. Can you just kind of talk about the dominance today? Did that surprise you how well you were able to roll through that match?

SAMANTHA STOSUR: Yeah. To be able to play that well in a final is a great feeling, and you always hope you're going to be able to do that, I guess, but to actually go out there and perform that way is very, very pleasing.

Vera and I played a few weeks ago in Indian Wells, and I was able to do that. And obviously I wasn't taking anything for granted this week, and I definitely had to play well; and I was able to do that.

Q. You were a pro for almost 10 years before you won your first title. How does this compare to that win and what do you see going forward for yourself?

SAMANTHA STOSUR: Well, yeah, I think the first title I won is always going to be very special, and it took a little while to get that, but that's always going to be, like I said, special. But this is bigger than Osaka, and to do it here and on

clay and be playing well all week and everything is just a great feeling. You can't really compare the two, but this is definitely a bigger event, and I'm very pleased that I was able to play so well.

Q. Obviously that first game of the first set you came out boom, boom, boom, boom four straight points. Did you feel that kind of set the tone for you or did you feel, I'm on? When you had that first game, did you just feel, I'm on today?

SAMANTHA STOSUR: Yeah, for sure. I had a good warmup and was feeling good, and then to come out and start so well always helps that confidence. And I think nearly all my matches this week I've gotten off to a 3-0 start. And to be able to do that again today certainly made me feel pretty settled and that I was ready to go and ready to play well.

Q. How unique was today? Have you had a lot of days like this?

SAMANTHA STOSUR: You can probably count them in -- you know, you have a handful, I guess, of matches where everything you hit is a good shot or winner and you just kind of can't miss, and I guess they're the days that everyone talks about you're in the zone or whatever; you just do it. And it's just a great feeling, and you wish that you could do that every day, but it's not that easy, so to be able to do it in a final is all that more pleasing.

Q. Could you walk us through your morning? What time did you get up? What did you do?

SAMANTHA STOSUR: It was the same as every other, get out of bed at 8, had breakfast, got out here and practiced till about 11, 11:30, had

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lunch, got ready, warmed up, then drove over to the court and then played.

Q. Sam, what about clay suits your game so well? Do you think you have more time to set up for your forehand and that sort of thing?

SAMANTHA STOSUR: Yeah. I think it does definitely suit my game. I can use my kick serve, and that's pretty effective on the clay, especially when it's a bit warmer, it can get up pretty high from the bounce.

And first serves, high first serves are effective, which I still like to hit, and obviously I have time to use my forehand. And I guess on the clay I have a bit more time to run around my backhand a little bit and really try and set up points and use my spin. And then when they're off balance, I can kind of pick where I want to hit, so there's definitely elements to a clay court match that definitely suit me maybe more than other surfaces, but some things that you can't do on clay you make up for those things I just mentioned.

Q. When you're in the zone like that, do you hear thoughts in your head? Is there anything going on in your head? I mean what's it like to move from point to point?

SAMANTHA STOSUR: Yeah, I guess as far as game plan or anything like that goes, it just kind of happens. I didn't have to constantly think about what I was going to do because I was very clear before I went out to play what that was, and when you can execute that straightaway, then that kind of -- you just do it.

And I mean for sure little things always creep in your mind, and you know, I'm going to win, I'm going to do this, what if I don't play so well in the next set, what if this happens, what if that happens. And when that happens, you just have to keep going back to, okay, next point, next point and then take your mind back to how you've been playing and what's gotten you into that position and try and block the rest of it out, but if anyone said they don't ever think that, they're kind of lucky, I guess.

Q. Were you getting nervous when she got back at 4-3 in that second set?

SAMANTHA STOSUR: No, not really. I still felt like I was definitely well in control of the

match, and even though it was on serve, I'd broken her a number of times. And you only have to add up the amount of games I'd won compared to what she'd won, and I was winning. So I definitely didn't want to panic, and I just sat down on that change of ends and said, okay, you know what, she's won two games. I've won 10 or whatever and just come out and play a good return game, and once I broke her again and get that ace on the first point of that service game, I was feeling confident and didn't really let any of that bother me.

Q. When you have a week like this and a final like this, do you kind of look at what could happen the rest of this year and say I can be more confident and know that maybe more is out there that I could accomplish this year?

SAMANTHA STOSUR: Definitely. It definitely makes you think that anything is possible. And whenever you win a title, you want to kind of go into the rest of the season feeling like you can achieve more and keep working hard and try to hopefully win more titles, but you know, because you win one doesn't mean you're just going to walk into finals all over the place. You still have to do all the things you've been doing to get to this point and all that. But definitely, if you can win a title in April, that's better than winning it in the last week of the year like I did last year.

Q. I know it's only been an hour, but does it dawn on you that you're going to go from a workman-like player on Tour to now your face on the side of the building, the one who every match is watched, the one that's talked about? Has that dawned on you yet?

SAMANTHA STOSUR: No, not really. It might be next year coming back and seeing my face on the grand stand, though, when I'm driving to the courts.

It's kind of cool. It's one of those things, and I don't know, it's just a great feeling. I just want to enjoy it as much as I can.

Q. How will you celebrate?

SAMANTHA STOSUR: Oh, actually going over to a friend's place for dinner tonight. The family actually gave us their house to stay in in downtown, so we're going to go to their place and have a bit of a barbecue and celebrate and just enjoy the night.

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Quite often when you win a tournament or do well, you can't celebrate at all. It's straight onto the plane and off you go. So I'm going to stay tonight and actually enjoy this one.

Q. No celebratory shopping spree at Sax?

SAMANTHA STOSUR: Oh, maybe, but yeah, first things I just want to, I guess, see everyone that's here and go from there.

Q. When you were dominating so much before she got on the board, is it uncomfortable even being on the dominating side?

SAMANTHA STOSUR: No. I mean I guess -- no, not really. I'd much rather be in that position than her position. So I'd take that any day, but I guess when you're dominating so much, it's easy for, like I said before, those thoughts in your head to creep in, what if this all starts and what if she comes back and all that kind of thing.

You know, you just again gotta think about what you've been doing to get yourself to that point and keep going. I didn't feel there was any reason why I wasn't going to be able to continue that today, and if she started playing better, then I was going to have to keep my level. Then if it became tight, then just, you know, go game by game and see what happens from that point.

Q. I guess you're about 10 years into your career. Do you feel like you're coming into your own at age 26, and what's been the key?

SAMANTHA STOSUR: Yeah. I mean I guess I've been playing for a while, but 10 years ago I wasn't on Tour week in, week out. I was playing the Australian summer circuit and going back to the challengers and all that.

So I've been here for a while, but it hasn't been quite 10 years. Yeah, I've probably taken a little bit longer to maybe develop my game. I can play a powerful game and have lots of strengths, and it's probably just taken me a little bit of time to utilize those in the best way.

But the last few years I've really been able to do that, and I've still improved certain things, and hopefully I'll be around for a few more years to come.

Q. You didn't play doubles here. Do you think it's a coincidence?

SAMANTHA STOSUR: Yeah. I don't know. It's a funny thing. Quite a few tournaments where I've done well in singles or made a final I haven't played doubles. I guess it's just one of those things.

I still enjoy playing doubles and I want to play whenever possible. So I'm definitely not going to give it away. It's certainly something to keep in the back of the mind.

Q. Did wind have any factor for you today in your technique?

SAMANTHA STOSUR: No. It was a little breezy out there compared to other days, but it didn't bother me at all.

Q. Do you follow the drama in Tennis Australia, Sam? Seems like it's always in the news these days.

SAMANTHA STOSUR: Yeah. There's certainly been a few interesting things going on the last couple of years and all that, but you know, it's just one of those things I think any big federation is always going to have their drama. People are always going to try and get in there and say that they know how to do it better.

But as far as I'm concerned, Tennis Australia is doing a great job. They've supported me my whole career and still do at this point. So as far as me personally goes, I think they're doing a good job and I can't really say anything bad about them.

AMY BINDER: Thank you.

End of Interview

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