



April 7, 2011

A Post-Match Press Conference With:

SANIA MIRZA

Mirza defeats Lisicki

6-4, 6-4

Round 3

GINA CLEMENT: Questions, please.

Q. Sania, can you talk about your performance today?

SANIA MIRZA: Well, you know, we played once before, which was in Auckland, which was just before Australian Open, and I was just telling her I lost 7-6 in the third to her.

So you know, I knew it was going to be a tough match. Obviously she's coming in after beating Bartoli. You know, I was into a tough match also. My body is pretty tired. I've been playing since Saturday every day and now having to come through qualis and playing doubles yesterday as well, so I've not really had a day off.

So I've had a few niggles now; my groin and my hip flexor is a little injured as well, so there were a lot of things that were going through my mind in those last two games where I felt like I was getting a bit nervy.

But I'm happy to come through a match like that where I think I could have played better, a little bit maybe served better, but it's always good to come through matches when you're not playing your best.

Q. Have you ever played this well in your life, on your ground strokes?

SANIA MIRZA: Have I?

Q. Yeah.

SANIA MIRZA: Yeah, I think so.

Q. I mean you played amazing.

SANIA MIRZA: I would like to hope so I have. No, I mean you know, I feel like I'm close to my best now as to where I was. I was Top 30 two years ago. You know, with injury with my wrist and everything, it's been a tough couple of years, and I'm just happy to be, you know, healthy again, to be honest, and you know. I feel like -- I couldn't even hold a fork last year for five months. And to be playing tennis and winning, obviously is a bonus, but for me to be playing tennis, I feel like it's a new life for my tennis.

Q. It's like you have a bionic wrist now. What did they put in that?

SANIA MIRZA: Nothing. I just took five and a half months off. I think that really did it.

Q. But you've gotta feel really confident with your ground strokes right now.

SANIA MIRZA: Yeah. I feel like I'm hitting my forehand really well. You know, part of the reason why I had that wrist problem is because I have such a hypermobile wrist, but because of that I get the power and I get the precision and stuff, but it's also a disadvantage because I get injured in my joint.

But the fact is that I feel like I've made myself stronger and I've made other parts of my body stronger to kind of compensate a little bit and not depend completely on my wrist.

Q. Is that what you did in the five and a half months when you were injured, you worked out a lot and got in great --

SANIA MIRZA: Yeah, I did. I did work out a lot on everything, the rest of my body, and I tried to become stronger on the whole, and I think the rest, obviously five and a half months of no tennis helped.

Q. So tomorrow you're going to have to play doubles and singles, unfortunately. But

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can you tell us if you're going to be able to pull out or still play doubles tomorrow?

SANIA MIRZA: Oh, well, I mean after beating the second seeds yesterday, it would be a shame if we pull out. No, I mean you know, my partner, Vesnina, she's playing singles as well, and obviously I have two more matches on her because I played qualis, but you know, when you enter singles and doubles, you have to expect to double up on certain days, and we've been lucky that we did not double up.

She doubled up yesterday, but today we're lucky we had just one match. But you know, you gotta do what you gotta do and first worry about the singles and then come out and play doubles.

Q. Have you been doing anything differently with your training to be prepared to play six or seven days in a row?

SANIA MIRZA: You know, this is like, I mean a welcome to clay for me because you come on clay. I have so many blisters on my feet now because of the clay and the friction and everything. But you really can't do anything different. I mean I've been playing every day since Saturday.

So most of my time goes on the court or in recovery. So I have not really had time to train in between. But I think, like I said earlier, the five and a half months of training and getting stronger is obviously showing now.

GINA CLEMENT: Any other questions? Thank you.

End of interview...

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