



Press Conference



27 July 2019

with **NIKOLOZ BASILASHVILI**

Basilashvili – Zverev 6-4, 4-6, 7-6(5)

QUESTION: Was that already the Georgian president on the phone right now trying to congratulate you?

BASILASHVILI: No, no, that was my coach.

QUESTION: You had to play against the crowd. It was a very tough match. How did you stay that calm in the third set and managed to stay in there?

BASILASHVILI: I don't think I was calm. I was really emotional inside. Maybe I didn't show that much but I didn't serve ... In general my game, when my serve is not going well, I struggle a lot from the baseline. I think I'm changing my game a bit. So, I was serving really really bad in the third set. So, that got me very emotional and I got very tight also in the third set. But in general how I managed to come back from 5-2 in the tiebreak was something that I give credit to myself. It doesn't happen with my tennis that often. So, I'm really happy.

QUESTION: Congrats for your second straight final. I was wondering what were you thinking two breaks down and 2-5 down in the tiebreak and 6-5 up in the tiebreak?

BASILASHVILI: IN the tiebreak, I was really concentrated on the ball and just how to play tennis, how just to play the game. But inside I think Sascha was also very tight and emotional and me also because it is one or two points that decide the match.

QUESTION: Your coach, Jan DeWitt, seems to be a very calm guy. When I was watching match point he didn't really have much of a reaction. I was wondering like did you tell him that I don't want you to give a reaction or is that his personality?

BASILASHVILI: He is very calm, yes. When he is on court with me he helps me a lot I mean when he's sitting and that's something I have a lot of plus, just in general, because my coach ... I think it's important with my kind of game style what I have, my coach to be calm and to really believe in me. That is what Jan is doing really well.

QUESTION: In an interview for the stadium magazine you said that you can win Hamburg again after your victory last year. What is it that makes this tournament so special for you that gives you this confidence to know that you can win it?

BASILASHVILI: I actually don't remember that I said that I can win this tournament again because it is something that is really difficult to control and during this season I didn't have that many ... I think I only played one semi-final at the ATP Tour. So, I don't think I would say that. I don't know what I said. But also coming up to this tournament I was not fully prepared. I took a bit of rest after Wimbledon because I did very very good preparation before Wimbledon and somehow I managed to lose in the second round which I was not expecting to be honest there. But then I had some personal reasons why performed not so good in the second round. But physically I did very good preparation, maybe one month ago. So, maybe this is paying off and plus I rested.

QUESTION: If you could play any player from the past who would it be?

BASILASHVILI: Pete Sampras. I think he is a ... I really respect him as a player for many many reasons.

QUESTION: How is it possible to have such a length or depth and such a precise game and bring the ball directly on the line? How do you make it with such a consistency?

BASILASHVILI: Just my general game style is to be a baseline player and we are mixing a bit, we are starting to mix a bit. With Jan we are coming up with some different plans. But yes, I worked a lot. I'm basically practicing a lot from the baseline. From a young age, I have this baseline game pretty good. From the practice I think.