



Press Conference



26 July 2019

with **ANDREY RUBLEV**

Rublev - Thiem 7-6(3), 7-6(5)

QUESTION: Congrats on the win. Some thoughts on the match? Was it tough?

RUBLEV: Of course, it's tough, especially when you play ... I mean in my opinion he is the best player on clay after Rafa. So, of course to have a match like this is something special and for sure I hope that it will give me the confidence and I will keep working and keep improving.

QUESTION: You played him twice already but not with the result you wanted. What did you change today to get the result you wanted?

RUBLEV: I mean, it's tough because I remember the previous matches I was a little bit having mental problems, especially the first of our meetings that we played in Vienna. I remember both of us were playing so bad. Then, the second match that we played last year in Monte Carlo was a really good match from both of us. I mean maybe the level was not that high but the match was great and I was serving for the match, I had match point and he was better than me. And today, I don't know, I was just saying to myself that it's going to be a match like who the first is going to try to be more aggressive, who the first is going to take the lead, who is trying to dictate more and who is going to do it, every point maybe who is going to take the forehand and try to be aggressive, and the point who was winning you could see that when I was winning I was more aggressive. So, it was more about, who is going to do it faster and better and at the end, you could see, it was a close match and I was a little bit, I don't know, better or a little bit more lucky.

QUESTION: I think you had some problems with your wrist over the last couple of weeks. How do you feel physically? Are you a hundred percent?

RUBLEV: Oh, yeah, it is also a funny story. The first tournament after the wrist injury was Halle and then since Halle, like almost since the first week that I started to compete, I started to have like unreal pain, I don't know, just a little bit higher than the elbow. And I started to get afraid and tight that it is again a little fracture or something like that, and right before Umag, like one week ago, I did a MRI because the pain was like ridiculous, I could not serve, and they told me that this might be a fracture and that I have to miss like six weeks again. And I said how is that possible, I just recovered from a fracture, six weeks I didn't play and now again from nothing and I said, it doesn't matter, I'll go anyway to play because if I stop six weeks now the season is over. And we did like one more test that shows exactly how is everything in the bone and in the end they said that it's not as dangerous as they thought. So, I can play but that I need to take care and control. So, now there is no pain and everything is fine.

QUESTION: Congratulations on the win. During the match did you feel something in your bone in your arm?

RUBLEV: No, everything was perfect, physically I feel good, fast. So, especially today during the match everything was fine, emotionally everything was great.

QUESTION: In your bio one can read that one of your favourite sports is boxing and your father used to be a boxer. Was he a professional boxer and do you box yourself and what does it probably bring you for your game and for character?

RUBLEV: I mean to be honest I like many sports. In general, I like to do some sports. It doesn't matter if it's boxing, it doesn't matter if it's, I don't know, surfing, wakeboard, I like all these like kind of adrenaline sports, like snowboard. All these things I like so much. I enjoy it a lot. And I mean my father, it's tough to say because at that time it was USSR, so a different time. And it was a hard time for the people, who used to live at that time and, I don't know, I think he was doing some in this country but he never was like international because at that time it was impossible to go out. And as soon as he started to make some money from different things he finished it because there was no reason. He wasn't gaining money. So, it was like this. But, yes, if I have the chance I try to do boxing. I enjoy it. I like it because maybe it comes genetical because my grandpa used to do Graeco-Romanian wrestling and my father used to be a boxer. So, probably since I was a kid they will try to show me this way but still I was going on court (laughs). So, they couldn't change my mind because, I don't know, I love tennis. But still I enjoy to do all the other sports and every time I have time in Moscow to do boxing I enjoy and I go.

QUESTION: Still do you see any similarity between boxing and tennis? I mean it's one on one and the one with the best hits wins?

RUBLEV: I mean you can do some connections in boxing and tennis, some movements. But I can tell you one thing that helped me a lot is that till basically 18 years old or so I was not really doing fitness, like the fitness that the tennis player should do, like the special programme or something, and because I used to do in one moment quite a lot of box, they have really intense exercises, there are really intense some specific things. So, because of boxing endurance-wise I was really much better than some other players. So, I was able to play three hours, I was not strong enough like physically, like fast enough but heart-wise, endurance-wise, I was able to practise a lot of tennis and play matches for a long time. So, that is the thing that box really helped me a lot with.