



Press Conference

23 July 2019

with **DOMINIC THIEM**

Thiem – Cuevas 6-3, 7-6(3)

QUESTION: Dominic, are you back in your comfort zone on clay after the grass court season?

THIEM: Yes, of course I wish that the grass court season would have been longer. I also love this surface but it was only one match unfortunately. So, I hope that I can do it better next year. But you know I'm back on clay for two weeks and the two last weeks of the year. So, I'll try to enjoy them as much as possible. And as I always said Hamburg here and next week of course are very special, they mean a lot to me. So, I'm happy that I got off to a great start.

QUESTION: What have you and your coach Nicolas Massu been working on specially to make you a better player?

THIEM: Many things. Of course, it was a pretty bit change how the practice and everything is going but I think the main thing we changed that my game gets more unpredictable again. I think it was once when I was younger and it got lost a little bit this part of my game. So, slowly it's getting back. Of course, I hope it's getting even stronger than before but I think it's pretty fine now.

QUESTION: And my last question is not tennis related, it's football. You are a big fan of Chelsea. What are your hopes for the new season and how do you think we will do with Eden Hazard gone?

THIEM: I am really looking forward to the new season since a long time because Lampard is the coach now. He was one of the big reasons why I became a Chelsea fan, so I am very happy about that fact and they have a transfer ban this year, so they have to play with the young players. I think there are some really exciting young players in the team. So, I'm happy when the season starts and I cannot wait to watch the matches.

QUESTION: Dominic, when you were young you always seemed pretty shy. I'm curious after all these years of travelling, meeting a lot of people, has this changed?

THIEM: I mean I didn't really change. Of course with the experience and all these years on the Tour, meeting so many people, getting to talk to so many people, also so many interesting people it got better and I think I'm not that shy any more.

QUESTION: And the sponsorship talks?

THIEM: I try to be good because it is important and it is nice also in a way. So, I think I improved a little bit also.