

March 28, 2009

Sony Ericsson Open

A. MURRAY/J. Monaco

4-6, 6-3, 6-2

An interview with:

ANDY MURRAY

THE MODERATOR: Questions, please.

Q. When you lost the first set, how worried were you?

ANDY MURRAY: Well, I was finding it difficult. You know, I don't tend to think the match is finished, you know, when you lose the first set. But I knew it was going to be tricky. He was playing very well. I was struggling a little bit to sort of get into a rhythm.

From one of the ends I was having to slow my serve down a lot, you know, because the sun was right in my eyes. So, you know, I was having to slow it down. He was getting into a lot of rallies and hitting the ball better than me from the baseline.

I knew I needed to change something, and I started going for my serve more and won a lot of free points. My serve was really the difference between winning and losing the match.

Q. How much of it was due to the fact you had not played him before?

ANDY MURRAY: I mean, a little bit, but we know each other pretty well. I practiced with him in Spain. He went to the same academy, and we had the same coach there.

You know, obviously when I play someone for the first time, especially when the conditions are tricky, it's going to be tough. Yeah, just happy I managed to find a way to win.

Q. Did you summon for a cap at one point?

ANDY MURRAY: Yeah.

Q. Did you forget one?

ANDY MURRAY: Well, I mean, I haven't worn a cap for a long time, since before Wimbledon last year. You know, each week it can be a little bit different where the sun is at certain times.

Today I was struggling with it. It's been the first time for a while I've had that problem.

Q. You're living down here and you did major training down here. How much of a help has that been?

ANDY MURRAY: I don't think it makes a huge outcome in the matches. It's nice, away from the court, just to be able to sort of go back to your own place and just relax and not have to stay in hotels. You know, you can kind of just get away from the tennis a little bit more than normal.

Sometimes when you stay in the hotels you see the players at breakfast, obviously lunch you'll see them, and at the courts. If you can just get away from things, it's a bit easier.

Q. How pleased are you with the way you dug that one out? You had to dig deep when you weren't playing well initially. You had to come through this one. Is that a good thing for you?

ANDY MURRAY: Yeah. I mean, you know, like I said, only thing that matters really is winning. If I played great today and lost, then I'm sure everybody would be pretty negative about it. But when you win it's a bit different.

I was really happy with the way I served. I thought that was just the key. I served a high percentage and got a lot of free points when I really needed it in the second and third set. I found a big serve.

It's something in my game that's improved. I have to work on the rest of my game, but, you know, I'm just happy I've got the chance to do that. I could have lost today.

Q. There's likely to be a pretty boisterous atmosphere against Massu. Are you ready for that?

ANDY MURRAY: Yeah. I mean, the Chilean supporters are great. Obviously they get right behind their sportsman, Massu and González

are probably two of the most famous people from there. They've both got incredible records in the Olympics. I think González has a gold, silver, and a bronze. Massu obviously won the double gold.

So, yeah, I'm sure it's going to be a great atmosphere. At the end of the day, it's just me and him that are going to be playing. I hope I can come through.

Q. Do you enjoy that atmosphere like when it's a crowd that probably should be against you? Does it fire you up? Do you revel in it, or are you just able to block it out?

ANDY MURRAY: Oh, it helps. I mean, sometimes if the crowd is kind of neutral, you know, it's just a nicer match. If you have someone against you or for you, yeah, it just makes it a little bit easier to get fired up sometimes.

The crowd were getting behind Juan at the end the second set. It helped me a little bit to sort of focus and, you know, realize that I'm in a fight here and, you know, I'm going to have to think my way out of it. So I think it helps.

Q. If you play at the level you did today, do you think you can go far in this tournament, or do you have to step it up more?

ANDY MURRAY: No, I definitely need to step it up. It was the same last week: I didn't play my best early in the tournament. But, you know, like I say, the only important thing is winning.

I found a way today, and I hope I can do it on the next match as well.

Q. How critical was that first game in the second set to you winning the match today?

ANDY MURRAY: Yeah, it was obviously key. You know, I don't want to go behind early. It was sort of after that when I started to return a little bit better. I played sort of closer to the baseline.

If I had gone behind early there, he might have got some confidence. I had a chance, and he was a little bit nervous at the end of the first set, and I had a chance to break him and didn't take it, and then, you know, it kind of stopped the momentum, you know, going with him. So it obviously made a difference.

Q. Dan Evans has reached the finals of a challenger in Jersey. Of the young British players that you've seen, where would you rate him amongst our talented juniors/almost seniors?

ANDY MURRAY: He's the best one. I don't think -- I think everybody knows that. You know, he's obviously starting to win matches. Challengers is obviously a step up.

I guess he beat Bogo today, which is obviously a good win for him. If he can win a challenger, I mean, you're a good player. It's not like the depth in tennis has got worse; it's got better and better.

He's obviously had some good wins this week. I saw him beat Simon Stadler who's been around a while and been a tough player. Dan's got a chance to be a good player. He's just got to make sure his mind is in the right place and that he works hard and focuses. He might get there.

But it's a tough thing to do now.

FastScripts by ASAP Sports