

Miami Open presented by Itaú

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Miami, FL USA

Karolina Muchova

Press Conference



K.MUCHOVA | V.Mboko
7-5, 7-6⁵

Moderator: First question from me. Karolina, congratulations, into your first semifinal here at the Miami Open. Just give us your thoughts on your performance today.

Karolina Muchova: Thank you very much. Yeah, it was very, very tough battle today. That's what I kind of expected. Victoria is playing incredible. So, tough battle, and I'm happy I served pretty well today. It helped me a lot and I won the last point.

Question: Congratulations on your win today. When we previously spoke, we talked about the incredible variety in your game. Victoria Mboko talked about it as well. Having all those shots, it's sometimes difficult to know what shots to hit, or does it just come naturally and through practice and strategy?

Karolina Muchova: Honestly, I feel like when I'm in the zone and when I feel good on the court, I'm not thinking of it much, and I'm picking the right shots, but it can happen when I'm not 100% focused. And then especially, it happens on the easiest points. It happened even today, in a few points when I could go line, drop shot, or high ball, and then I pick the fourth and it's going two meters out. So yeah, sometimes I struggle with that, but I feel when I'm in the flow I, most of the time, choose the right choice.

Question: Congrats. When was the last time that you ended a match with a drop shot? And talk about you possibly play Coco or Bencic. I know you struggled a little bit against Coco and not Bencic, but talk about the match?

Karolina Muchova: Yeah, the drop shot. I don't know. I don't know if I ever actually remember one. I don't know if it was the last time, but I remember in my hometown, in Olomouc, when I played 100k ITF tournament that I finished with a return drop shot, because I didn't know what to do. So, I won that match. I remember that one, on the clay court. I have no idea how. I was 20, probably around that age, maybe Victoria's age. A teenager, I don't know, but yeah, it's been, it's been a while. And, and, yeah, the next question, oh, Gauff - Bencic, yeah, both. You know, at this stage of the tournament, I feel like everyone is playing incredible. And as you mentioned, I don't have the best record against Coco, but I feel good. And you never know. And with Belinda, she's playing as well, very fast, aggressive. It's either of them. It's going to be really tough battle.

Question: Well done today. You're hardly an older player, but do you remember what it was like to be as young as Victoria is, and sort of playing free like that, and at the start of your career and everything was in front of you? And how does it compare with where you are at this point in your career?

Karolina Muchova: Yeah, you know, I keep getting these questions this week. I'm like, well, I'm really old or something. I don't know. I don't feel that old. I feel like I'm still pretty young, in my head, I could be 20 I feel like. My memory, I don't remember much what was yesterday, so it's tough to remember what was when I was 20 or 18, 19 years old, but I would say, I was kind of a late bloomer, so I definitely was not at this stage as she is, and while she's playing top 10, at her age, I just finished high school, and I was having a little different life, I would say, than only focusing on tennis, at that age.

Question: During the on-court interview, my colleague from Canal+ asked you which opponent would you prefer in the semifinal. You said you were not aware of who you would play, either Bencic or Gauff. But later, you said that, considering your record, you would have chosen Gauff. I wonder if it was just a joke and irony, or you feel, but it is the right moment to meet Coco and take the first win after five losses?

Karolina Muchova: Um, there it was a little bit of irony, I would say, because it was as well the way she asked me, I felt like she as well, was little laughing when she said that. So, it was irony, but, you know, I'll take either of them, and even I kind of don't care, and even the record, I mean, I would always take the challenge to play and to try to break it. So, I really, you know, the better win today, and then we'll have matching on Thursday.

Question: You wrote 305, on the camera there. Do you have any special attachment to this area? Did

you spend time here when you were younger at all, or is it just enjoying yourself the last 10 days and felt like writing that?

Karolina Muchova: Here and there I come to practice to Boca at the Chris Evert Academy. So, I, I like that area, but I never spent too much time in Miami, unfortunately. So, it's happening this year. And yeah, I'm enjoying my time. Between the matches, when we have a day off, I really take a day off and kind of try to explore the city and go around. So, yeah, I'm enjoying my time here.

Question: Was the Evert Academy when you were younger, or now that you're professional?

Karolina Muchova: Professional.

Question: Victoria was explaining how, during the match, she was, in some ways, trying to avoid your forehand. Can you share and elaborate how dynamic your forehand is? How do you think it kind of helped you today?

Karolina Muchova: I definitely try to create the game with my forehand. And, yeah, it's fast courts, and this week I'm feeling pretty good and that I can really be aggressive. So yeah, it's what prepares me for the next shot, or like that. It can create some space and can go to the net. So, it's an important shot for me. Backhand is as well, pretty important. But yeah, when the forehand is working for me, it definitely creates a lot of pressure on the opponent.