

Miami Open presented by Itaú

Thursday, March 26, 2026

Miami, FL USA

Frances Tiafoe

Press Conference



J.SINNER/F.Tiafoe

6-2, 6-2

Moderator

Frances, tough match today, but you've got to be proud of how you battled this week.

Frances Tiafoe

Yeah, no question. Honestly, you know, last bunch of weeks, pretty much all season's been good, really, really good start for me so far. And obviously just got to be a bit better in these matches. I've played some top 5 guys, top 10 guys, haven't played, ultimately, my best, but, I mean, really happy with what I've been doing.

Question

With all these improvements you've made, how excited are you about the clay court season? How will the improvements translate to clay?

Frances Tiafoe

Guess we're about to find out. I mean, I got Houston next. I'm pretty excited to get out there and play on clay and give me some, a little more time and be able to push guys and compete. So it's gonna be fun. It's gonna be interesting. I got a lot of matches under my belt right now, so I feel really good go into that season.

Question

Frances, hey, great, great tournament, man. Were you a little bit gassed from your other match, and also, it looked like you tried everything against Jannik. You're really rushing the net a lot and

mixing it up. What can do against this guy? Seems like a robot out there.

Frances Tiafoe

No, I mean, for sure. I mean he's one of the best ball strikers the game's ever seen. I mean, you know, I like, I mean, no excuses. I mean the guys, he's a hell of a player. Like, I mean he showed it against everyone, you know. I mean, I wasn't my sharpest, but he still made me, you know, I mean, he still put me in really, really tough positions. I think the biggest thing, I just think of any scoreboard pressure, he's No. 1 or No. 2 in the world, whatever, like he's, I mean, great front runner, and that was the biggest issue today, and getting broken early in both sets. Just want to see that match a little different. If I get 3-all, 4-all and have him feel me a little bit on the other side of scoreboard pressure, but it's all good.

Question

What kind of problems does he sort of present to you that obviously you're not getting maybe against some of the players that you're facing earlier in the tournament would you say?

Frances Tiafoe

This is, the biggest, biggest thing with him, he can do the same thing over and over again. So he hits the ball super clean with great depth, and he moves super well, right? So, and he does it over and over, serves at a high clip majority of times, and makes the court feel pretty small with how well he moves and, but also, he hits the ball pure as day every shot, and puts the same point over and over and over again. So you feel like you almost got to press a little bit. Makes you feel like you got to overplay.

Yeah, and he definitely tests. He'll test your ball striking, too. It's, it's an interesting matchup.

Question

Frances, they haven't used that room this much during the tournament, by the way, so you haven't been left out of here too much. I'm writing about this place, this facility, this building, just the sheer like size of this stadium, that this tournament has a home, and just what is it like for you as a space to sort of exist in for these 10 days, however long you were here, in this big in this really big, the main part of the stadium, all the tunnels and everything, and all the levels of it. It's a unique place on tour.

Frances Tiafoe

Yeah, obviously it's different in a football stadium. Came and watched a lot of football games here. So it's funny, when the tournament's going on. Yeah, I mean, it's a big space. There's a lot of things that can, they can do with it. Obviously, tournament's been here for a while now. Every year they're trying to make a little, you know, improvements and elevated a little bit. So it's been good. It's the best, the best I've done here in a long time. So it's been cool. It's been cool to be here. Cool to see the fans get after, after the match, get behind me. And, you know, I really like playing here, and being here.

Question

Is it a little tougher to play during the day, let's say, you know, on a work day rather than at night?

Frances Tiafoe

Yeah. I mean, it brings different challenges, right? I mean, I think, I guess, think, obviously it's warmer. I mean, I played, I played Mensik, you know, what, two o'clock, or, you know, 230.

Question

I'm talking about the crowd, the aura, the vibe.

Frances Tiafoe

Oh yeah. I mean, it's different. I mean, definitely different. It's, you know, not as rowdy, for sure, but, yeah. A little more corporate in there, but it's fine. It's fine. It was all good.

Question

Do you feel differently, you know, getting through this segment of the season than you did, say last year or the year before, in terms of when you're facing like this next trip to Europe, which is a hard one for Americans, because you're going away for three months or so, and, you know, it's a time when sometimes guys dip and sort of, do you feel more steeled to deal with that this year?

Frances Tiafoe

Oh, I can't wait. Can't wait to go Europe this year. Normally, normally, I'm like, it's gonna be an uphill battle. But now, I feel great, man. I feel great, physically, I'm in a great mental headspace. You know, I won a lot of matches. I pulled out some crazy matches. I think the North America swing was great for me. You know, from Mexico to Indian Wells to here, I had a great even run in Delray. So played a ton of matches. And now, you know, I get to play one more last term in the states in Houston and then, and then we'll see what I end up deciding to play in Europe. But it's going to be a great time in Europe and coming there with good mindset and try to, try to continue to keep pushing and try to get to where I want to be.