



Press Conference



27 July 2019

with **ANDREY RUBLEV**

Rublev – Carreno Busta 4-6, 7-5,

QUESTION: Congratulations on your win, your first Tour final of the year. Is your arm starting to hurt again?

RUBLEV: It's just I have some inflammation over the elbow ... somewhere around here (shows). So, it's not the elbow but a little bit more up, and after every match I need to hold the ice to keep it calm and under control.

QUESTION: I was wondering that if you could play a former player, a retired one, who would it be? From the past?

RUBLEV: I don't know, that is a really tough question. I mean I practiced a couple of times with John McEnroe. So, probably the other person I would like to play is Björn Borg.

QUESTION: Talking about today's match, it was a pretty tough one again. It's the second time in a row that you had to come back after a break down and a set down. Maybe you can talk us a bit through that match today?

RUBLEV: I mean it was, like you said, he was winning and it was a really tough match for me because he was playing really well, he was serving well, he was returning aggressive. So, in one moment I, I don't know, not give up but like kind of accept that he is much better than me today, and he's hitting winners, he's returning aggressive, he's serving well, and I said, OK, today is not my day, today he's really better, and then when the score was 4-3, I was a little bit lucky that he didn't really make any first serves. So, I could start to play rallies, and at that moment at 4-3, he hit second serves so I had chances to win the points so I tried to play the rally and tried to be aggressive, and at that moment he slowed down a little bit and as soon as I had the chance I took the forehand, and I hit a few winners, so I broke him back, and then he kind of got a little bit tight and me kind of pumped and I started to play even better, and he was already not serving that good. He was serving more with second serves which was better for me because I was playing rallies with him and then everything was ... like after three, four points everything changed so fast and then I won the set. And then in the third set I felt already much more confident. I saw he was a little bit stressed and he was not playing the same, not hitting the same, not serving the same, and I said to myself, OK just keep calm and play the same. As soon as I had the chance I tried to take forehand and put more pressure because he is not that aggressive anymore, and then everything was so fast.

QUESTION: You seem to be very relaxed. Is it correct that you already booked your flights to Washington ahead of this tournament?

RUBLEV: I mean (laughs) I had flights on Friday since the beginning of the tournament. So, when I beat Dominic we changed it once. And today, if I would lose today, we had no idea how we can get for the flight because I had flights tomorrow from Barcelona. So, I had no idea if I would lose I would be late for sure. So, the only way was to win and to change it again (laughs), and in the end I was lucky that it happened. And now everything is alright. We changed the flights and tomorrow we have enough time to be on time in case ... after the match we have enough time to be on time to fly to Barcelona and then to catch the flight on Monday. So, everything is under control.

QUESTION: What are our expectations for the finals tomorrow? Basilashvili has won the last eleven games here and how do you see the game? What do you expect?

RUBLEV: We'll see tomorrow. I know Niko from long time ago. This year, we played each other. I mean I lost (laughs) but we know each other well, and he plays really aggressive, I'm playing aggressive. So, basically probably it's going to be the game, who will hit faster first and to try to take the lead and to start to dictate, to control. So, probably it's going to be like this tomorrow but anyway we'll see. It's the final. Everybody is tired, everybody had tough matches, it's a different feeling, different emotions. So, we'll see how it's going to be tomorrow.

QUESTION: Regardless what happens tomorrow, would you say it's a good week?

RUBLEV: Yes, this is for sure. I mean it's my first ATP 500 final. So, of course it's a great week for me. We'll see. I mean of course I would like to win and I will try my best but anyway it's an amazing week for me.