

Citi Open

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Washington D.C.

Ramkumar Ramanathan

Press Conference



S. JOHNSON/R. Ramanathan

6-3, 7-6

THE MODERATOR: Questions, please.

Q. Talk about what it was like the last few days. You showed up as an alternate, had a couple of good wins. What has it been like the last few days?

RAMKUMAR RAMANATHAN: Yeah, got in from Lexington. I flew in on Saturday morning. As alternate, took my chance. I got in (indiscernible) because there was no special exempts in the main draw.

I was actually, you know, wanting to play this tournament. I played it a few years back. I qualified. I had a few good wins here. So, you know, Washington's always been a good place to play for me.

So I took a chance this year and I think it worked out pretty well. I had two good wins with two tough opponents. Even today was a very close match with Steve Johnson. I just have to keep working hard.

Q. Is there anything you felt like you could have done differently today or just a few points here and there?

RAMKUMAR RAMANATHAN: You know, it goes to just a matter of few points here and there. Maybe I could have won more points on my second serves. And also I missed an easy overhead in one of the games in the second set. I thought the first point in the tiebreak was a very, very important point which could have gone either way.

Q. I'm wondering, have you been able to get vaccinated? How tricky is it with the travel and everything?

RAMKUMAR RAMANATHAN: No, I did. After Wimbledon I came to New York for a few days. I was with (indiscernible). I took the Johnson shot. Then I played. I rested a few days, then went to Newport, those two challengers, then I came here, so yeah.

Q. How big a relief was that to be able to fit that into your schedule?

RAMKUMAR RAMANATHAN: I was lucky to have one week off between Wimbledon and Newport. After Wimbledon, the second week of Wimbledon, there's one week off. I was lucky with the schedule, so I didn't have to change anything.

Q. Do you feel like you need a week off to be able to get the vaccine?

RAMKUMAR RAMANATHAN: Not really. It just took me like two days. I just had a bit of fever when I took the Johnsons. Then I practiced for two or three days in New York, then I went to Newport on Friday.

Yeah, I think you need like four days, five days, you know.

Q. You look like you've been having a lot of fun out there the last couple days. You've been laughing after some long points, chatting with the crowd a little bit. Is that something you've been consciously doing?

RAMKUMAR RAMANATHAN: Not consciously, for sure (smiling). I mean, there's a lot of fun points. A lot of things happening on court. I think the best way is to just laugh it out and enjoy the match. I'm here at an ATP 500. It's always a good feeling to play on this level, compete with the top players, the best of players.

I know I'm there, I'm close. I just have to keep working on the final aspects. I think I can do well in the coming season.

Q. After 2-0 in the tiebreak, there were some fans who were getting riled up for Steve. Seemed like that might have bothered you a bit.

RAMKUMAR RAMANATHAN: It's all part of tennis. When you win, you don't say nothing. When you lose, you catch this.

Q. One weird point in the tiebreak. Did the ball go out

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but you threw your racquet at it?

RAMKUMAR RAMANATHAN: What? I didn't throw...

Q. You tried to throw your racquet at the ball.

RAMKUMAR RAMANATHAN: I tried to pick it, but I didn't.

Q. Did the ball go out?

RAMKUMAR RAMANATHAN: The ball was going in, but I tried to take the ball and I missed the ball.

Q. You had a heartbreaking loss in Wimbledon. How long did that affect you or you bounced back pretty quickly?

RAMKUMAR RAMANATHAN: I mean, I think it didn't affect me so much because I had a few good wins the last couple of weeks. It only gave me confidence. I mean, it was tough to lose 11-9 in the fifth, but that's how it goes. It's a matter of few points, like I said.

I know I've been working hard. I've been putting in the work. Been serving a lot every day. The coaches have been helping me, Chandra, Emilio. I'm always in touch with them. I think I'm doing the right things to get better. I'm giving my best every day. That's all I can do.

Q. What's the plan for the next couple of weeks?

RAMKUMAR RAMANATHAN: I'm not sure yet. It's too early.

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