

Internazionali BNL d'Italia

Saturday, 16 May 2026

Roma, Italia

Coco Gauff

Press Conference

E. SVITOLINA/C. Gauff

6-4, 6-7, 6-2

THE MODERATOR: Coco, just want to share your initial thoughts on the match.

COCO GAUFF: Yeah, I mean, I don't know, today's definitely a match I learned from. I gave myself a lot of opportunities and just didn't really capitalize off of them. Played way too passive in certain moments.

Yeah, just a learning experience for next time.

THE MODERATOR: Questions, please.

Q. You had 17 break points, and you converted only three. What did you miss? What was missing in your game?

COCO GAUFF: Uhm...

I mean, nothing was missing. I think it was more of a sense of nerve. When you give yourself that many opportunities, it's not a game thing 'cause your game is fine because you're making those opportunities. It's just being better on those points.

I think I was, again, like I said, too passive. Some of them I got unlucky in the first set. A couple let cords. She raised her level. A lot of them I think I just didn't put enough on the ball.

Q. You said in the past that for you it can be like title or nothing at this point in your career. Do you feel like that now? Also at the same time are you thinking where your head was at the start of the week? Are you able to reflect on the progress you've made?

COCO GAUFF: Yeah, I mean, I definitely think obviously I had a tough couple first rounds, couple rounds, so I'm happy to be in the final. It is now like immediately disappointing just because I remember last year in the final I was just tired from my semifinal. This year I felt like I was playing good to start, then was playing good, then every



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time I had an opportunity, playing bad.

For me it's just more of a mental thing that I have to learn from. I don't think it's like a block. I think today's one of those matches where you just give yourself so many break point opportunities, you just don't convert.

I think I have to learn from it for next time 'cause I'm going to be in the same position again.

Q. Were you a little bit surprised about Elina's aggressive game, even if the evening was maybe a little bit slow, the court, for the conditions?

COCO GAUFF: No, I wasn't surprised. I played her already in Dubai and Australian Open. I knew what to expect. She played the same almost. It's me who I have to figure out how to do better against her.

Q. Roland Garros is in one week. What will be your mindset for the defense of this title?

COCO GAUFF: Yeah, there's a lot of positives I can take from this tournament and a lot I can learn from. I'm sure the pressure will be there.

I don't know. I think this week I experienced all the ups and downs of a tournament that can bring you before a Grand Slam of I've been down, had the lead, lost the lead, I've been in the final, been down match point. I think I've experienced every scenario that can prepare me for Roland Garros.

Hopefully I can actually learn from each scenario and do better.

Q. What was that mental block today? Were you in the big moments fearful to attack? Were you telling yourself something that you wouldn't normally?

COCO GAUFF: I mean, I don't know. I think in the first set, she wasn't as aggressive to start the match. I obviously noticed that. I think because of that I was playing a bit more passive. It was working.

Like everyone, it's not just her, every player when they're down, they start playing more aggressive, they start going for their shots. I have to just recognize that.



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That's not necessarily something that's just against her. Against Mirra it was the same. Up 5-1, whatever, 5-2, she started going for her shots when they're down.

For me I think it's something not to lower the intensity of my game when I have the lead or I have those break points.

Q. What is the thing that next week you will try to improve before Roland Garros?

COCO GAUFF: I think just being not necessarily more offensive because I'm getting the short balls and stuff. I think just capitalizing and working on capitalizing on those shorter balls, having more of a plan on what to do with them.

I think I got a lot of short ones today and just didn't do anything with them.

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