

# Rolex Paris Masters

Thursday, 31 October 2024

Paris, France

## Ugo Humbert

Press Conference



U. HUMBERT/C. Alcaraz

6-1, 3-6, 7-5

(In French.)

THE MODERATOR: Well done, Ugo, for this performance. Is it the most beautiful victory in your career?

UGO HUMBERT: It's the most beautiful victory in my career, and it's the best moment I lived on a tennis court. It's incredible. I train for that. I practice for that.

This is what I repeated to myself in the third set. I didn't want what happened last year to repeat itself. I also thought about the match against Zverev, and it made me stronger.

THE MODERATOR: Questions.

**Q. How did you approach the match to explain this first set, which is incredible? You almost tread on him.**

UGO HUMBERT: Well, Jeremy said to me, Don't do like in the Davis Cup. Don't try to play to an excess, to overplay. So I started. I was very aggressive.

As for my return right from the second set, I started missing some points and he played better. I guess I had fought too much in the first one, and then I fought until the beginning of the third set. All through the third set I talked to myself. I was constantly talking to myself to tell myself that I was there, that I wouldn't let go until the end, and it worked. I felt better, and that's the way I felt it, and it was the right solution.

**Q. The fact that you fought him well in Wimbledon, did this give you more confidence over the match?**

UGO HUMBERT: Yes, I knew that on this type of surface, like on grass, with my game I can be a problem for all the very best in the world.

But in the Davis Cup, it was incredible. I didn't even see

the light of day. He forced me.

But here, it was different. The public really was incredible and supported me. I was happy to give them this victory, because it was an important moment for me, and it was great to share it with them.

**Q. Well done, Ugo. Carlos five minutes ago said that against him you play very well, that your quality of game is a problem for him. Why does he feel that? You love this type of game?**

UGO HUMBERT: Because it's my game. I play well on this surface. On both sides I hit very fast. I think he's not the only one to feel that when he's playing me.

But I had a great match, and I love playing against the best players in the world. This is why I'm training and practicing, and the Paris Masters Bercy is one of my favorite matches.

**Q. Can we have a transcription of your conversations to yourself in the third set, or is it taboo?**

UGO HUMBERT: Well, the camera was next to me, and I thought, well, they're going to hear me, and maybe they will capture this on the video (smiling). But it was a very positive speech.

**Q. Seeing the other French people eliminated on court today, was that a kind of revenge?**

UGO HUMBERT: No, what I do on court I do for myself. I'm all the way into it for each match. I try to go to the end of my possibilities. I didn't look at the results of the French. I knew about Arthur, because I played right after him, but there is no revenge. I just follow the road, my road.

**Q. What kind of idea do you have for the rest of the tournament when you win like this?**

UGO HUMBERT: This is what I love in tennis. I don't want to do any prediction or tell you what's going to happen. I try to live the moment to the full.



I came to Bercy to live this kind of emotion, this kind of match. When it's like that, anything is possible. I don't know how far I'll go, but it's a question I don't want to answer.

**Q. Talking about that, for the next match against Thompson, on paper you seem to be a favorite. After a match like Alcaraz, do you think there might be a backlash?**

UGO HUMBERT: I don't know. I can't tell you. I'm going to prepare my match as usual. I'm going to try and recover. I try to do things well. I try to prepare myself well, to be focused, to enjoy the moment, and we'll see.

He plays very well. He's a great player. He beat me this year, so we have to respect that, and I don't know what will happen.

Tonight I'm going to try to have a good night and sort of wind down, because I don't know what time it is, but I'll try to get to bed as soon as possible and prepare for tomorrow.

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