Nitto ATP Finals

Tuesday, 17 November 2026

Turin, Italy

Inalpi Arena,Torino

Arthur Fils

Press Conference

A. FILS/R. Jodar

4-6, 6-2, 6-2

THE MODERATOR: Well done, Arthur. Another great battle. What was the turning point, do you think, of the match?

ARTHUR FILS: Well, probably the start of the second set. I was maybe a bit frustrated from the first set. Then tried to find a way.

The early break helped me, of course, to manage my emotions. Then I start to play better and better. So was pretty happy.

THE MODERATOR: Questions in English.

Q. Congratulations. The last time a Frenchman won a match in this tournament was 2011. It was Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, semifinal against Berdych. Do you have any memory? I know you were six or seven. No? Okay. What does it feel to you bringing back a win for France in this tournament?

ARTHUR FILS: Yeah, of course I'm very happy to win for France. First of all, a win for myself. Then if you say that it's kind of long time that no Frenchman ever won one match in Turin, then I'm pretty happy to do it for my country, as well.

But when I'm stepping on the court, I don't think about this, to be honest (smiling). I just think about myself trying to win one match here. Yeah, did it, so very happy. Already focused on the game on Thursday.

Q. I would like to know what happened in the first set? Because it seems that you were absolutely in control, and then what happened?

ARTHUR FILS: Good question. I don't know (smiling). I don't really know. That's why I got a bit mad with myself, to be honest. Because, as you said, I had the feeling to be a bit in control of the rallies from the back of the court, but, I mean, congrats to him, because he served very good at some important point.

At 5-4, I think he did a great game, some good rallies, and he just played better than me during this game.

So I was a bit mad with my serve, but I knew if I keep going with this same level or even better, I was going to have some chances. I had chances, and I took them. So that was the most important, you know, to take the chances.

I did it, so I'm pretty happy with the way also I finished the match.

Q. You had lost only three points before on your serve when then on 5-4 you lost the serve, you lost the set, which was a little surprising, to be honest. Then what happened? You add more variety? You played some slice backhands, especially on the cross, backhand against backhand? Then what else? Your forehand was pretty explosive today.

ARTHUR FILS: Yeah.

Q. You had done only one winning point before, one winner, and then suddenly you start making winners.

ARTHUR FILS: Yeah.

Q. Is that on the head, in the mind, or is it strategy, is Goran Ivanisevic or somebody else suggesting?

ARTHUR FILS: That is a long question. (Laughter.)

Okay. To start, yeah, as you said, the break came a bit surprising, because I was kind of focused to maybe try to push him to a tiebreak, because I was feeling great on my serve, even though not a lot of first serve during the first set.

Q. (Off microphone.)

ARTHUR FILS: Yeah, so not too good.

But then, you know, I was feeling great in the game. I was feeling great the forehand, the backhand, but I think that I was playing a bit too much in the rhythm.

Rafa is unbelievable player. When he has his rhythm, he's one of the best in the world. So I tried to mix, to find a way to manage, to be a bit more aggressive and then a bit more defensive and to try to make him move. Otherwise, if I'm the one running, I'm going to lose a lot of points. So I tried to do like this.

My coach, as you said, Goran and Ivan, they tried to help me during the match, to try to tell me, okay, cover this angle, cover this angle, try to mix a bit more, try to change the serve.

And I managed to do it. I hit some great forehands. I was pretty happy with myself.

Q. Just wondering, in terms of the injuries you've had in terms of 2027, have you decided what your schedule will be? Will you play fewer tournaments perhaps, or do you want to play more to make up for what you missed?

ARTHUR FILS: The goal, I think the goal when you're on tour, is to play as less tournament as possible and to go as deep as possible in every tournament. If I go to, like Jannik, go always to the final, would be cool. Then after, don't have too much to ask about the schedule. Just say, Okay, I just try to play the biggest event of all the Masters 1000, maybe two, three 500, and then try to play good in the slam as well and finish. That's the goal. That's the main goal.

Then, when you start to lose first round a bit everywhere, you need to manage. But of course we didn't talk with the team, but the goal is to play as less as possible and to go as deep as possible because of my body. Is important to take care of it.

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