## **BNP Paribas Open**

Wednesday, October 13, 2021

### Jelena Ostapenko

**Press Conference** 

J. OSTAPENKO/S. Rogers

6-4, 4-6, 6-3

THE MODERATOR: Can you walk us through your match today.

JELENA OSTAPENKO: Yeah, it was little bit up and down I played today. But I think I started the match really well and then couldn't finish the first set that quick. It was a little bit up and down.

But I'm really glad I won the match. In deciding moment, like when I was losing 3-1 in the third set, I started to play so much better, raise the level up and just won the match.

THE MODERATOR: Questions, please.

## Q. You had breakpoints in the third set, it was a tough comeback. What did you think made the difference?

JELENA OSTAPENKO: I think at that moment I just started to play really well, like much better. I raised my level. I think from 1-3 down, Love-40, I played like a top player. Before I was rushing too much, making some unforced errors not in the right moments.

Yeah, like when I spoke with my coach and my mom, they told me that I was playing so much better when I was down. If I play like that when I'm up or the score is just like the same - how you say - even, then it will make such a big difference.

Yeah, I'm really glad that I won the match.

## Q. You were getting fired up in the third set, c'mons. How much did you feel that helped as well?

JELENA OSTAPENKO: I was just trying to kind of motivate myself and to fight for every point. With those c'mons, I think I was getting back into the game. I felt like it was a little bit late when we played. Like maybe I was not used to it.

Yeah, I felt like I need to - how you say - fire myself up,



yeah, have some emotions and that will help me. I think that did help me.

### Q. You started the match well, 5-1 up in 20 minutes. What shifted in the match to make it closer?

JELENA OSTAPENKO: I think from 5-1 I just stepped a little bit back and I was not that aggressive, and also maybe missed some balls, kind of gave her the opportunity to play.

If I just was playing the same like until 5-1, I think I could close the set a little bit easier than 6-4. Yeah, I felt like I was rushing a little bit too much and making some, like, stupid errors.

Then, of course, I close it at 6-4. Also in the second set I had so many opportunities to close it in two sets. I felt like I was rushing, just doing some wrong things, choosing some wrong shots maybe.

The third set, like from 3-1 down, Love-40, I think I played really, really well. I did maybe just a couple of mistakes.

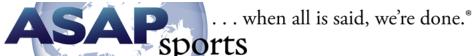
## Q. You play Vika next. What do you make of the matchup?

JELENA OSTAPENKO: I mean, she's a great player. She's such a champion, a great fighter I think. Both of us are great fighters. It's going to be an interesting match.

Of course, I just have to play my game. I'm more focused on my game. Of course, she's very consistent. It's going to be hard. But if I play my game and choose the right shots, I will be consistent, I think it will be very interesting match.

# Q. What does it mean to make the semifinals of Indian Wells? Your first WTA 1000 semifinal since Miami three years ago.

JELENA OSTAPENKO: I mean, it's really great because especially after I couldn't play US Open, I was really sad about it because I was in such a great form before. I think it's another great opportunity because it's a big tournament.



Yeah, I just enjoy it. It's last couple of tournaments this season. I'm just going to try to enjoy it as much as possible.

But I honestly feel like I can continue the season much longer, but there are not many tournaments left. Most of the players are very tired, but I don't feel like that. I'm kind of feeling very fresh.

## Q. Sounds weird to say, I don't know how long you weren't able to practice, do you think that rest is helping you? Not rest, but...

JELENA OSTAPENKO: It sounds funny but I didn't feel anything. I was, like, doing bike in my room, trying to exercise as much as I can. I mean, obviously I was so bored it was really hard mentally to be in the room for 10 days. I feel like I used it as the right time.

I played in Luxembourg final. I practiced obviously three, four days before the tournament. Played the final. I think my head was maybe fresh and rested, yeah. Maybe it even helped. It's a pity it didn't happen at big tournament like US Open.

### Q. Other than biking, what kept you sane?

JELENA OSTAPENKO: I was doing the Bosu, this balance thing, then some weights, elastic bands, I don't know, sit-ups, whatever I could do. The room was so small so there was not that much room. I was doing bike at least one hour each day. It was boring, but there was not much that I could do in my room.

#### Q. Anything not fitness related? Reading? Movies?

JELENA OSTAPENKO: Honestly, it was funny because I didn't watch any movies at all during that time. No, it sounds funny, but I was looking online shopping stuff. I didn't buy much. Every day I was sitting and looking nice stuff. At the end of the day I didn't buy anything. Just spending my time.

### Q. Who is your favorite player to watch?

JELENA OSTAPENKO: You mean now or before also?

#### Q. Now and before. Up to you.

JELENA OSTAPENKO: Now it's hard to say because I'm playing myself. I'm not really watching anyone specific.

Before, of course, Serena. I loved the way she played. I mean, she's still playing now. Yeah, she was like my idol I

think. She was the one I was looking up. She was playing very aggressive. It was very nice and entertaining to watch her. She has, like, a lot of emotions when she plays.

## Q. You're a powerful player. When you see the other kind of players who play with slice, touch, feel, do you enjoy watching that or let's just go for it?

JELENA OSTAPENKO: I mean, it depends. I don't know, it's hard to say. There is some nice and interesting matches to watch when players are playing very different, like, as you said, slices, I don't know, some dropshots, changing the pace and stuff.

But probably the closer to me is aggressive tennis.

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. . . when all is said, we're done.