

# Davis Cup Finals

Friday, 3 December 2021

## Team Germany

## Michael Kohlmann

### Press Conference



was a tough tie. We lost 3-2. I think we were up 2-1 after the doubles.

Now, I mean, it's 14 years later, completely different. I mean, it's a different situation for myself, as well. We have, yeah, a great team I think.

Even though it's like maybe for most of the guys outside a surprise for us, but I think we were always improving every year, year by year. We were 2018 lost in the quarterfinals here in Spain. It was a tough tie. I think 2019 also quarterfinals against Great Britain in this new format.

I think we improved year by year. We think we are here by reason because we are ready for more. Hopefully we can show that tomorrow.

**Q. You spoke about the strength of this Russian team. They would have the edge maybe in the singles, but you have a strong doubles team. How do you ensure you make it to the doubles?**

MICHAEL KOHLMANN: By winning one (smiling).

I mean, we watched a little bit yesterday against Sweden. Obviously Daniil Medvedev is a great player, No. 2 in the world. Andrey Rublev, I think he's No. 5 right now. They have strong players. We know that.

On a certain day I think we can maybe get one win of them. I think Jan-Lennard Struff, he had beaten Medvedev in the past. On grass courts it's a little bit different. Whoever plays the number two is very, very motivated to get a win against Andrey. Andrey played a lot of matches so far here in Madrid.

Yeah, let's see how it goes. But we are ready to take maybe one singles.

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THE MODERATOR: Questions, please.

**Q. Could you talk about the transition from Innsbruck to Madrid, how the preparation has been.**

MICHAEL KOHLMANN: Yeah, it's a little bit different. It plays a little bit different here. Even though Innsbruck was also I think over 500 meters high, the ball is bouncing a little bit higher. It seems like the ball gets faster more fluffy than in Innsbruck.

We had now two days of practice, so I think we're in good shape. It shouldn't be a thing that makes us worse than the other teams.

I mean, obviously it's easier if you're here for 10 days, but I don't think it's a big deal for us.

**Q. Is one of the challenges after such a big win over Britain finding that motivation to go again?**

MICHAEL KOHLMANN: No. Finding a motivation, for sure not. I think it was good that we had three days off now in order to settle down again and to focus again on tomorrow.

I think we are very hungry for more. We are aware that we are playing Russia. I mean, they have four guys in the top 20 I think. Even if two guys get sick, they have still pretty good team. So we know that we are a little bit the underdog.

We were the underdog already against Serbia and also against Great Britain. I think we managed it pretty well. We are looking forward to a big tie for us tomorrow.

**Q. This is Germany's first time in the Davis Cup semifinals since 2007, when you also faced Russia. Your memories of that tie? I think you had to miss the tie because of a knee injury.**

MICHAEL KOHLMANN: Yeah, I think it's a different situation now. I mean, 2007 I was playing. I was playing first round and quarterfinals. Then I got injured and traveled with the team to Russia. Was a little bit outside. It

