

Billie Jean King Cup

Friday, 10 November 2023

Team Slovenia

Kaja Juvan

Press Conference



K. JUVAN/A. Danilina

6-1, 6-0

Team Slovenia - 1

Team Kazakhstan - 0

THE MODERATOR: English questions.

Q. Congratulations. Such an emphatic win today. Can you just describe how happy you are with your tennis at the moment?

KAJA JUVAN: Yeah, I mean, I'm really happy. I think I played a pretty solid match.

I mean, at this point, every game, every set, everything counts. So I think this was sort of like the best possible scenario for us. So I'm just really happy for the team and hopefully we'll keep it going.

Q. You said every set, every game counts. When you're on court, are you thinking about that? How do you kind of approach a match like this one different to other matches you play obviously throughout the season?

KAJA JUVAN: Yeah, I mean, obviously we have a good chance here to get to the semifinals. I was pretty stressed, because I already played her and I felt like I'm capable of winning, but you never know in these sort of competitions. You shouldn't underestimate anybody anywhere.

So I tried to go to the match, like, 100%, trying to fight for every point, and I think since the moment that it started to go my way, I really tried to stay there every point. Yeah, not give her any games that were, like, unnecessary to give (smiling).

Q. We obviously don't quite know yet whether you're through or not, but it's looking good. Could you just talk about what it would mean to send Slovenia through to the semifinals? It would be your country's

best result ever in this competition. How much would that mean to you to be such a big part of that?

KAJA JUVAN: Yeah, I think since we started, since I started to play the Federation Cup, the Billie Jean King Cup, it's been a really, really long journey from the second Euro/African Group, and I think we started with Tamara at the same time. So I think just the whole process of, like, slowly climbing up was really important and also special for both of us.

So, I mean, even that we're here, it's pretty unbelievable. It's the best 12 teams in the world. Then I don't think any of us sort of dreamed of the semifinal. We were just trying to prepare ourselves. Both me and Tamara, we faced some difficulties in the last period with injuries and illness.

I think since the moment we came here, we're sort of working on improving our level. You know, I try to say that the result is the consequence of what we're doing, and I think that our team has one of the best connections, or at least that's how I feel.

We are cheering for each other all the time no matter what. Hopefully we get some more positive rewards (smiling).

Q. Just away from the Billie Jean King Cup, just looking to the big picture, I know it's been a tough 12 months for you personally, but looking ahead to next year, like, what are some of your ambitions and goals for your season next year?

KAJA JUVAN: Yeah, I mean, this year was a little bit tough. I'm trying to sort of survive it as peacefully as possible, trying to connect a little bit the thoughts between the personal life and the tennis life.

I think some rest is for sure necessary, because I haven't stopped at all in a while now. So apart from that, I mean, I always sort of feel like I do have the level to play with these girls. I think every time that I have good matches and good level, I can feel like I belong, like, to maybe higher ranking than what it is.

But, you know, like girls, they are pretty consistent

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throughout the year. They play a lot of tournaments. Unfortunately I haven't been able to play more than 20 tournaments in any season in the past, except juniors, so this will be one of the goals, to try to make a little bit a good system, to feel a little bit more calm on the court, off the court. I think you need some time.

I have had some changes in the team the last few years, and hopefully now it's going to stay because I trust in them. I like how they work. I think once everything settles, I don't see a reason why it wouldn't work, but, you know, you never know (smiling).

So I'm going to try to take it a little bit slowly, not try to think too much in the future because it can get a little bit overwhelming, and try to, you know, become a better version of myself hopefully this year, the end of the year, and next year.

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