

# United Cup

Friday, 29 December 2023

Perth, Western Australia, Australia

## Australia

### Alex de Minaur

#### Press Conference

C. NORRIE/A. de Minaur

6-4, 2-6, 7-6

Team Great Britain - 1

Team Australia - 0

THE MODERATOR: Just give us your thoughts on the match and the atmosphere here.

ALEX de MINAUR: Yeah, look, it's a tough opening match. It was a tough battle out there. Probably felt like I had a lot of chances, especially in that third set. But, hey, it's one of those matches that it didn't go my way. I think Cameron played better than I did in the important moments, and, you know, he snagged the win today.

THE MODERATOR: Questions.

**Q. On that match point, was it a matter of pressure just got to you with the double fault?**

ALEX de MINAUR: I have played a lot of matches in my career, and yeah, I think I've played a lot of matches when I've been down and with a lot more pressure than that one.

I don't think it was the reason why I double-faulted.

**Q. (Question off microphone.)**

ALEX de MINAUR: Yeah, I think it's no secret I had a horrible first game and it ended up costing me in the set. Yeah, I didn't feel my best out there, comfortable. Again, it's the first match of a new season. It's been a quick turnaround, and I wasn't as sharp as I could have been.

But I'm happy I was able to turn that around, play some good stuff throughout that match. Yeah, it didn't go my way, but it happens.

**Q. (Question off microphone.)**

ALEX de MINAUR: Yeah, of course. I mean, if I'm trying to be positive and looking at a positive mindset, then last



year I was in the same situation and I lost in two sets and I ended up having a pretty good year.

This year I lost to Cam again, but 7-6 in the third. So hopefully that means I'm going to have an even better year this year.

**Q. (Question off microphone.)**

ALEX de MINAUR: Yeah, look, I think it's the start of the year. You don't want to base your whole year on one match. You can start well. You can start all right. Sometimes it's a little bit of rust. The last couple of years I probably haven't started my best, and ultimately my focus is the Australian Open.

Obviously I want to perform here and play well for my country, and I'll do my best to bounce back and be ready for the next one.

**Q. (Question off microphone.)**

ALEX de MINAUR: Yeah, I felt fine. I felt good. I don't think it was a matter of physicality today. I think it was more about the ball on my racquet, how I felt, how I played in certain moments.

You know, a couple of unlucky things that kind of didn't go my way, and then maybe some tactical decisions that I could have done a little bit better.

**Q. On that point, and I understand it was the first match of the season, et cetera, but if there was one part of that match or a specific point you'd like to take back, was there one? Would you say there's one?**

ALEX de MINAUR: Well, look, obviously I think the start wasn't ideal that first game. But it is what it is.

I still had chances in the third set. Felt like I was the better player out there, had the chances on his serve. Maybe play a tad more aggressive and just go after in those big points, and kind of take a little bit more of a chance. I felt like I maybe let him have it on his racquet, and, you know, he performed under pressure.

**Q. What was Lleyton saying during the match?**

ALEX de MINAUR: Just to keep trusting myself, keep staying positive. You know, I think he knew I wasn't bringing my best level, and it was just about fighting and



staying positive and telling myself that I was going to find it at some stage or the other.

Yeah, I managed to do that, and I managed to turn it around and give myself a lot of chances to win that match.

**Q. (Question off microphone.)**

ALEX de MINAUR: Yeah, look, now it's about bouncing back. Kind of water off a duck's back. Move on. Yeah, I've got that match to look forward to, and, you know, hopefully I can come out and bring a high level and perform for my country in front of this crowd in Perth.

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