

United Cup

Wednesday, 1 January 2025
Sydney, New South Wales, Australia

Team Great Britain

Captain Alex Ward

Billy Harris

Charles Broom

Katie Boulter

Olivia Nicholls

Press Conference

Australia - 2

Great Britain - 1

THE MODERATOR: You've reached the quarterfinals. Congratulations. Questions, please.

Q. Olivia and Charlie, were you surprised to see Alex and Olivia in the mixed doubles?

CHARLES BROOM: I mean, they have so many good doubles players. Obviously world class. I think they could have played a number of options. Yeah, I think you've got to be ready for anything.

I mean, they played great. I thought they were full of energy. The crowd helped them out as well. Yeah, it was pretty cool to play against them, and obviously pleased that we're through to the quarters.

Q. Katie, did you have a chat with Alex in between the singles and mixed doubles by any chance?

KATIE BOULTER: No.

Q. Final question is to Billy. If you could just talk through the match with Alex and how you feel you went.

BILLY HARRIS: Yeah, I started all right. I thought I played some good level tennis in there, but it just wasn't consistent enough. He's obviously top 10 for a reason.

Yeah, I played a couple of good points, but then not back it up enough. That's why the score was what it was.

Q. Katie, your comments on the way you played that singles match because it was almost faultless with your performance, and I would feel you'd have to be



pretty pleased with how that worked out.

KATIE BOULTER: Yeah, I was really happy the way that I managed to bring some of my best tennis. Even though I wasn't feeling amazing out on the court, I felt like I felt better in my first match.

You can never sleep on her. You know, she's such a good player. I know what she's capable of, and I know how good she's also going to be. She's got a great ball strike. She can come back at any moment.

For me it was just about trying to stay ahead and keep my energy up and just try and do my best to close the door. I managed to do that.

So yeah, I'm really happy with my level today.

Q. Alex, your first time as captain and you take the team to the quarterfinal stage of United Cup. Your comments, your thoughts on your team performance.

CAPTAIN ALEX WARD: Yeah, you say that I took them to the quarters. I think it's these guys who have done the work. Yeah, massive team effort. Everyone has contributed.

Billy, the set he got against Etcheverry has ended up being absolutely massive, and I think everyone here has played their part. Everyone on the bench played their part, and everyone has stepped up.

Yeah, I'm thrilled.

Q. Katie, just obviously looking ahead to playing Iga. You guys practiced I think before the tournament and everything. How much do you think that will help just getting a little bit of a look as to her ball, refresh your memory as to it, and what do you think of that match?

KATIE BOULTER: Obviously practice is going to be very different to matches. I know what a champion she is. I know she's going to bring full intensity every single ball, and I'm not going to get away with anything. So I'm going to have to play my very best tennis, if not above that.

Yeah, I'm just looking forward to a battle. I mean, I've got nothing to lose. Ultimately we have no pressure. Again, I see us as the underdogs. We have nothing to lose and



just go out and play and enjoy and enjoy the moment.

Q. Billy, I'm paraphrasing, you were talking about what makes Alex such a great player. Can you just be specific about what makes him that level, what's his unique trait would you say?

BILLY HARRIS: Yeah, I mean, he was just so consistent throughout the match, and you have to play great points to win any points against him. His speed around the court and consistency, I thought he played a good match. Yeah, in the end I couldn't keep up with it.

Q. Billy, looking for you now to look ahead against Hubi Hurkacz, what are your thoughts going into that one because he's such a quality player?

BILLY HARRIS: Yeah. I mean, I've never played him before, but obviously he's got a massive serve, so I'm going to have to try and get in -- get as many returns back in court.

Yeah, another tough match and one that I'll be ready for tomorrow.

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