

# Roland Garros

Friday, 9 October 2020

Paris, France

## Stefanos Tsitsipas

Press Conference

N. DJOKOVIC/S. Tsitsipas

6-3, 6-2, 5-7, 4-6, 6-1

THE MODERATOR: Questions, please.

**Q. I know you've just come from the court, very disappointing defeat, but you took it five sets. Can you give us an overview of how you're feeling right now.**

STEFANOS TSITSIPAS: Well, I feel, I can say, happy and at the same time sad. Could have been a better result for me today. Novak showed once again what an incredible athlete and his ability on the courts.

Was difficult, for sure, playing him. I think one of the most difficult opponents I've faced in my entire life. I have huge respect for that.

He gave me a really difficult time on the court. Unfortunately towards the end of the match an injury that I had during my match in Rome came back. It was difficult to close the match in a fighting way, in a fighting spirit.

But I tried my best despite all of this. I'm happy that I came back from two sets to love down and tried to stay in the match as long as possible.

**Q. How do you feel about the etiquette of being called already the best player on tour to defend breakpoints? Is this some kind of a special quality? How do you feel about that?**

STEFANOS TSITSIPAS: What does that mean? I don't understand. Can you repeat it, please.

**Q. You're seen as a player who is the best in defending breakpoints. Look at how many points you managed to defend tonight against Novak. I'm interested in your opinion of this etiquette.**

STEFANOS TSITSIPAS: Am I? Is it a stat or something?

**Q. No, no, no.**



**ROLAND-GARROS**

STEFANOS TSITSIPAS: Well, you know, yeah, he puts a lot of pressure on the return. It's not easy. I think there are a lot of things that I have to work on.

For sure he has reached almost perfection, Novak, in his game style, the way he plays, which is unbelievable to see honestly. That inspires me a lot to go out and work and try to reach that perfectionism, that ability to have everything on the court.

His serve was good today. I wasn't creating much damage on the return. I could have done much more. Was very passive on my returns. And my service games, I seemed to struggle throughout the entire match. I didn't have many games where love or easy games that I managed to win. That shows a lot of good qualities from Novak, of course, his fighting abilities on the court.

**Q. You know your tennis history, so you know for Novak it's taken him quite a bit of time to get where he is. Can you take some positives out of a really difficult loss, just the fact that you played so well, took a big step, are learning to play against these great players?**

STEFANOS TSITSIPAS: Yes, there are many things that I can take. Again, I had an amazing comeback. I wish I could have figured certain things earlier which, I don't know, I felt like it was a total demolition, the fact that I tried those things in practice and tried to implement them in the match. It was something new. I wish I wouldn't have tried these things and tried to stay to my ordinary and basic way of feeling the ball and also trying to dictate the game.

I think that was a huge mistake today, that I tried this for two sets in a row, then came back to my old way of doing things. Yeah, as you saw, it was a good comeback, and I think I played great tennis after that, except the fifth set, which I believe my body was not ready. Physically I wasn't really there present.

**Q. You are a very passionate player. Everyone saw that out on the court today. Why does winning or losing mean so much to you?**

STEFANOS TSITSIPAS: It's a very good question actually. I was thinking about it the other day.

Well, let's take it this way. If I wouldn't win, if I wouldn't be winning, I wouldn't be part of what I am now. I wouldn't be part of the Mouratoglou Tennis Academy. I

wouldn't be, let's call it, a celebrity in my country. No one would know me. It's all because of winning, of succeeding, managing to find ways to win matches.

I wouldn't make money from tennis. I don't know what I would be doing, but tennis wouldn't be part of my life. Winning has provided a lot. Of course, good ways and bad ways. There are some deficits.

Yeah, without winning I wouldn't have my sponsors. Without winning I wouldn't be traveling all around the world. Losing kind of keeps you in the same place, in the same spot, which is why I hate losing. Of course, I think everyone hates losing. It's weird if you don't hate losing.

But I guess a loss is a very good lesson where life puts a stop at what you're doing. You can reflect on that. You can grow. You can get better. You can take that loss and turn it around, use it as a life lesson to move forward, to become a stronger person.

**Q. I remember your press conference after the Australian Open semifinal last year. You seemed kind of shell-shocked by how things had gone. I wonder what do you think are the biggest improvements you've made from then to now?**

STEFANOS TSITSIPAS: Well, I think back at the Australian Open I was still a kid, and now I'm turning more into an adult. My thinking has changed. I've matured. I've been through a lot of things. I have grown from the people around me, my relationships, people in general. They have contributed a lot to that.

I have, of course, more experience in my pocket than before. I've played matches. I've experienced different things. I know when something is good or not, and I can, I think, dictate that earlier. So a lot of experience, a lot of physical improvement I think.

Also the ability to read the game a bit better. Also, for sure, 100%, be more relaxed on the court. I saw myself in videos two, three years ago, and I've matured a lot in a way that I'm more calm and more observant on the court.

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