

# Roland Garros

Wednesday, 31 May 2023

Paris, France

## Elise Mertens

### Press Conference

E. MERTENS/C. Osorio

6-3, 7-6

THE MODERATOR: We're going to start in French, please.

#### Q. It wasn't an easy match.

ELISE MERTENS: Well, she's a tough player because she gets everything back into the court, but I'm happy that I won in two sets. I think that the tiebreaker was -- I think I was up 4-3, but I served well. I'm happy that I could find the winners to win.

But it was a tough match. I played better than during my first round. It was already better.

#### Q. Even if it was tough, you've beaten that clay court specialist, Osorio, so it gives you a lot of confidence?

ELISE MERTENS: Yes, of course, she's a very good player. I think she did a great match today, and she's had quite a few good results in Madrid and Rome, but I think I played better than during my first match.

During the second set, the momentum switched a little bit, and I managed to attack her second serve. I didn't manage to do it all the time, but I did it more often.

#### Q. Was a serve better or, rather, the missing serve better? How can you explain that?

ELISE MERTENS: I think I served better than before. The first and the second serves were better. I didn't do a lot of double faults, as in my first round.

But the clay is a bit slow, so it's always difficult to turn it into an advantage, but it was the same thing for both of us.

Her second serve was not really quick, so I could attack it. I've done it several times. Maybe I could have done it more often, but that's the way things went.

#### Q. When you take a look at your season, do you think there's still this big win missing in order for you



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#### to get back on track?

ELISE MERTENS: I did the third, fourth round and also reached the semis in Monterrey, but I need to win against these top players in order to get to the quarterfinals or even more. I went to the fourth round last year. I want to do the same thing, so I need to win against these top-10 players.

#### Q. (Off microphone.)

ELISE MERTENS: I think I play a solid game. Maybe I can do better at getting at the net and volleying, and I need to play a little bit more freely.

#### Q. When you are talking about beating the top-10 players, because on Friday that's something you are going to have to do because you're going to play against Pegula, the World No. 3. How can you beat her?

ELISE MERTENS: Well, she's a very solid player. She gets all the balls into play. She doesn't make any unforced errors.

Just like today, maybe I can do a little bit more. I can attack the ball and get into the court and do something myself, create something myself at the beginning of the match, in two or three sets. It's something that I can do on a regular basis in order for me to win against these players.

#### Q. So how do you feel in this Grand Slam on this clay? What's your take? What are your thoughts about the slam?

ELISE MERTENS: Well, you know, it's Roland Garros. It's the French Open, so it's an event you only get once a year, so I'm trying to do well and perform well at Grand Slams.

Last year I did make it to the fourth round, and I want to stay in the top 30, so I need to have the same results or even more. But, no pressure.

And I'm really happy that there were many fans with me today, and it really made a difference during the tiebreaker because they gave us a lot of energy. They gave me a lot of energy.

I've won in straight sets, and I'm happy because I still

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