

# Omnium Banque Nationale

Friday, 13 August 2021

Montreal, Quebec, Canada

## Aryna Sabalenka

### Press Conference



A. SABALENKA/V. Azarenka

6-2, 6-4

THE MODERATOR: Questions, please.

**Q. Walk us through the singles match today and how you performed.**

ARYNA SABALENKA: Well, yeah, I'm really happy with this. Was tough match. She play really well. The second set was a little tricky. I'm really happy that I came back in the end of the set and won it actually.

So, yeah, it was tough one, but really happy with the level today.

**Q. You talked about it being a little bit tricky. What was tricky about the match? How did you rally to come back and win four in a row?**

ARYNA SABALENKA: Because the first game in the second set was a little tricky because I missed a lot of I would say easy balls. After that game emotionally she was up and she was just going for the shots. So for me was tricky.

I'm really happy that I was keep playing, keep moving, keep trying. In the end I finish with a win. So, yeah, really happy with this.

**Q. Your state of mind about losing the doubles match, are you very disappointed? Would you have liked to go all the way to the finals, as well?**

ARYNA SABALENKA: Of course, I would like to go all the way. Everyone have a bad days. So this is one of those days. Whatever happen, it's already in the past. I just want to focus on my singles.

**Q. Back to your first match against Sloane Stephens. You were down 1-4 in the third set. Ever since that moment you won 29 games out of 39. When you start on a roll like this, what happens? It seems like you're unstoppable.**

ARYNA SABALENKA: Well, it was really tough match, I mean, the first match. On the match, somehow I found my game. It's better late than never. That's how we say on Russian (laughter).

After that match, I just didn't want the same situation happen. I was, like, on both matches really focused from the beginning till the end. I knew that, like, even if I am down with the score, I still can come back in the match.

These kind of thoughts help me to be a little bit more free on the court.

**Q. Were you scared against Stephens of losing? Do you get to the point where you're scared of losing?**

ARYNA SABALENKA: Well, maybe on the beginning of the third set. I think that's why I was down 1-4. As far as I stop thinking about losing, I start to play tennis.

So, yeah, maybe on the beginning of the third set I wasn't scared, but I just didn't really want to lose this match because I knew that I need all these matches before US Open. For me, these two tournaments are really important. I just wanted to play a lot of matches. I just didn't want to lose it in the first match.

**Q. What can you tell us about your next match against Pliskova, which you just played her at Wimbledon? How can you get the best of her this time?**

ARYNA SABALENKA: Well, I would say in Wimbledon I had a lot of opportunities on her serve. I just didn't use it. I would say I put a lot of pressure on myself. I wasn't free there.

I would say that tomorrow I have to, first of all, serve well. Secondly, I just have to use all these opportunities on her serve.

**Q. It's been almost a year since most tournaments have been played without linesmen. Is this something you prefer? Would you like it to stay that way?**

ARYNA SABALENKA: I don't know. Sometimes I like to have these challenges. Sometimes, I don't know, I would



say it's more natural. But with all these calls, for me I a hundred percent know there wasn't mistakes. I don't know. Both ways are fine for me.

I think maybe with this Hawk-Eye maybe it's better because you know there is no mistakes - hopefully (smiling).

**Q. Playing so many singles and doubles matches, it must be tiring. Are you thinking to focus on singles going forward?**

ARYNA SABALENKA: Well, actually that's what I did on the beginning of the season. I didn't play doubles for long. I stopped playing doubles. This tournament I just wanted to play more matches, so that's why we signed with Elise.

Yeah, actually, that's what I'm doing, focusing on the singles. I just stopped playing doubles. Maybe I will play doubles, like, for few tournaments but not like every tournament.

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