

**August 17, 2011**



An interview with:

## **SERENA WILLIAMS**

THE MODERATOR: Before we begin, Serena had to withdraw with a right big toe injury aggravation. Go ahead with questions.

**Q. Is this related to the injury that you suffered in German with the glass in your foot at all?**

SERENA WILLIAMS: It is, but not nearly as extreme. It's just a bit of an aggravation because I think I've been pounding it a lot and playing a lot.

**Q. Did you feel that at any point in the match yesterday?**

SERENA WILLIAMS: I felt it a little bit and I thought, you know, because I felt it before and I thought, Okay, this is normal.

But I don't think this is a good time for me to take a big chance. I just don't think that would be smart.

**Q. Are you disappointed given how you've been playing lately?**

SERENA WILLIAMS: Yes and no. I'm definitely disappointed, but at the same time, I have a lot to look forward to.

If anything, this might be a blessing in disguise. I might get some more rest and prepare for the rest of the year.

**Q. Will this withdrawal play on your chances at the US Open?**

SERENA WILLIAMS: I don't know. If anything, it'll make 'em better maybe because I have more opportunity to rest up and get 200% healthy, which could be a very dangerous thing.

**Q. Did you try to practice this morning and that's when it became obvious that you needed to do this? Can you take us through just how you came to withdraw?**

SERENA WILLIAMS: Yeah, I woke up this morning not feeling excellent, and then, you know, went to the gym to see how it felt before I hit practice.

That definitely didn't sit well. There is a little swelling, so I thought, you know, it would be a wise decision. Talked to my dad and I called Venus. She advised that I do what's best for me, which would be to take care of my body.

**Q. Hypothetically, if yesterday's match did go to a third set, do you think you would have continued to play?**

SERENA WILLIAMS: I would have continued to play, yeah. I definitely would have continued to play. Always.

**Q. What's the plan now? Will you rest for a while or continue to practice? What will you do?**

SERENA WILLIAMS: Yeah, definitely think rest is what I should do. Doctor's orders. So I'll probably take a few days off and then resume and keep going for everything.

**Q. I've heard that one of your friends, Kim Kardashian is getting married this weekend. Are you planning on attending that?**

SERENA WILLIAMS: I hadn't -- I mean, now that I have time I probably will. I hadn't thought about it, so...

**Q. Would you like to explain exactly how you feel injury-wise?**

SERENA WILLIAMS: Did you miss the beginning?

**Q. Yeah. I'm recording.**

SERENA WILLIAMS: Oh, I have a reaggravated a little bit on my toe. It's not as bad

as it was before. It's just a lot match play. I've been playing a lot of the matches, more than I have in a long time.

And also training as well. It got a little aggravated. Instead of making it worse, I've decided it will be in my best health not to go on.

**Q. With everything you've been through with this injury does that flare-up scare you at all?**

SERENA WILLIAMS: No, not at all. What scares me if I keep going and not listening to my body. Right now I'm really in tune and really in touch with that. We have a great relationship.

**Q. You and your body?**

SERENA WILLIAMS: Uh-huh.

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