

**August 12, 2009**



## Western & Southern Financial Group®

**MASTERS & WOMEN'S OPEN**

**E. DEMENTIEVA**/Y. Wickmayer

6-3, 6-4

An interview with:

**ELENA DEMENTIEVA**

THE MODERATOR: Questions, please.

**Q. You had a pretty straightforward match today. Was there anything that worked well for you or that you need to work on for your game?**

ELENA DEMENTIEVA: Well, it was the first match for me. You know, I was really excited to play against her. We never played before, so it was our first meeting.

I think it was actually, you know, a tough first-round match for me. She was playing very well and just think she has really lots of talent. I did expect a tough match against her. I was watching her, and she beat Francesca Schiavone in the first round.

So, yeah, I'm satisfied with the result today.

**Q. I know you played last week, but it's been a few weeks since Wimbledon. How long did it take you to recover?**

ELENA DEMENTIEVA: You know, I'm very surprised, because people think that it was such a drama for me. I just really take this match as a great experience. I was very happy the way I was playing. I know I had a lot of chances and I was leading the whole way.

But overall, even the match point, I feel it was a great performance for me. I'm really trying to take very positive things from this match and remember it as one of the best in my career.

**Q. So it didn't take long at all?**

ELENA DEMENTIEVA: Well, actually, maybe I'm not ready to watch it again. I took my DVD from Wimbledon, but I never really had a desire to go and watch one more time. I'm sure I will do in the future.

**Q. What about Kim's return here? What do you think about that?**

ELENA DEMENTIEVA: You know, we did expect her to come to Stanford. I was like, oh, maybe it's just a rumor. She's not coming back. It was very nice to see her back.

I was watching her on practice with Svetlana Kuznetsova, and I was really surprised how well she was playing. Her first round against Marion and today's match, it's unbelievable.

You know, well, she is a great champion. Even after two years' break, she's here and ready to play.

**Q. What would you say to those people that say that her return is great for the women's game because the women's game needed a boost or savior?**

ELENA DEMENTIEVA: Well, I think she's still pretty young, you know. Even with two years' break, she's -- how old is she?

**Q. 26.**

ELENA DEMENTIEVA: I mean, she has plenty of time. She has like five years to play. Actually, I'm not surprised to see her back. I did expect her to come back, because she's a very athletic person.

For her, it's not been a problem, you know, physical condition. So as long as she feels like she wants to play and she needs the game, I mean, here she is. She's ready to play and ready to compete. We can see she really enjoys it.

**Q. Did you think the women's game needed her to come back? Needed someone or something like that?**

ELENA DEMENTIEVA: I'm sure that all the tennis fans are very happy to see her back, because she's one of the nicest girls on the tour and great champion. I think it's a great example for people.

**Q. How important is your play in Cincinnati this week in getting you prepared and focused for the US Open?**

ELENA DEMENTIEVA: Well, this is a great challenge for all of us, you know, Cincinnati and Toronto, two big tournaments in a row. Just a great preparation for the US Open, because all the top 10, top 20 players are here. Every match is important. Just trying to play as well as I can to get my confidence for the big one.

**Q. It doesn't make you feel old that Kim comes back after having a baby and she's 26?**

ELENA DEMENTIEVA: (Laughing) No, actually.

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