

Venus Williams (Tuesday, July 30)

Q: “Venus, how’d it feel to have [the match] slip away from you after a decent start?”

A: “Yeah, it was a strong start. But honestly all credit to her, she came up with shots every time I had a break point or a game point — it was a winner or a drop shot, so definitely credit to her.”

Q: “Venus, [Mattek-Sands] wasn’t making too many unforced errors in the second and third set. I was wondering, from your side, did she pull in her margins at all? Or was she just playing better, attacking the serve better, what was it?”

A: “I think she had a magic racquet that couldn’t miss. Because I definitely would put pressure on her with shots where I would expect a short ball, it was more like she hit a winner. So I think it was just she played freely, had nothing to lose. It will definitely be tough to keep that level up in the next rounds when she has less pressure on her, when she’s playing someone who she should win against. The pressure is different then.”

Q: “Is variety the strength of her game, throwing in the slice backhands and the drop shots — the stuff she has with the doubles expertise?”

A: “Yeah, like I said, it was one of those days where she couldn’t miss. There were no double faults, there were no errors on big points, there was nothing like that. You don’t expect that kind of play when someone hasn’t played a match all year. So it was really just magical tennis from her.”

Q: “How were the fans in San Jose?”

A: “Amazing [smiles]. They were right there behind me, it was great to have that support. I was sad that I couldn’t [win] for them today, I really did try, just ran into a red hot opponent today.”