

18 February 2010



S. PEER/L. Na

7-5, 3-0 (retired)

An interview with:

SHAHAR PEER

Q. It must be a fantastic feeling to be into the semifinal?

SHAHAR PEER: Yeah. I mean, it's been a while since I've been in a big tournament in a semifinal or finals. I don't remember when was the last time. But, you know, I'm beating so many good players. It's really good, and I'm so happy by the way I'm playing. I think I'm playing very, very good, and everything is coming together. So I just hope to keep going.

Q. Got off to a perfect start, didn't you? Breaking in the first game.

SHAHAR PEER: Yeah. I mean, I did start very well. And I kept it quite a while, the break, but then she broke me back. But somehow I found a way to keep my momentum. I already was a set point down. But I'm really happy I could manage to win this set because it was very important.

Q. You lost that break with a double fault. Were you a little bit nervous at that stage?

SHAHAR PEER: I don't remember, actually. Usually I remember quite good, but this time, no. I remember I was finishing the set with an ace, that's what I remember.

Q. Yeah. You didn't seem to be hitting quite as hard as you were yesterday. Was that intentional?

SHAHAR PEER: I was trying to change the pace, and trying to do the right tactic. She's hitting the ball quite good, and she's striking the

ball good. And I think what I was doing was very good and it was bothering her, so that's the main thing.

Q. I mean, she got treatment at the end of the first set. Were you surprised? Did you see anything wrong with her before the match?

SHAHAR PEER: Not at all. I didn't see.

Q. What about when the second set started? Did you see a difference in her then?

SHAHAR PEER: No. Personally, I think it was very close, three games. Even though I won and I broke two times, I think I played very well. But, obviously, when we came to the 3-love she tried not to move too much and try to play winners. So I saw something was wrong, and I really hope she's going to get better. Because, you know, a win is a win, but you never like to win when the other player is hurt. And I'm hoping she's going to get better.

Q. You don't know who you're going to play tomorrow, but it could be Venus. What are your thoughts on that?

SHAHAR PEER: You never know, because she lost to her two times in a row the last times. But every player is so good here. I've been winning a lot of matches and beating very, very good players. So it's already the semifinal.

Every match is going to be tough. I'm going to give everything. I think I'm in a good momentum, and I'm going to have to keep it up.

Q. If it isn't Venus, it's a player you probably don't know as well. Will that be present a challenge for you?

SHAHAR PEER: I never played Anastasia before, so I don't really know what to expect.

Like I said, I just have to focus on myself, my tennis, and what I want to do and how I want to play, and the rest will take care of itself.

Q. You may also have to play on Centre Court. Will that be a distraction after you've had a side court for yourself?

SHAHAR PEER: Yeah, I'm the only player that hasn't played on Centre Court. But whatever will be, will be. I'm not controlling it. I'm doing what I've been told, and wherever I need to play, I'll play on.

Q. Would you see that as a disadvantage that you haven't played on the Centre Court?

SHAHAR PEER: Advantage?

Q. Disadvantage?

SHAHAR PEER: I guess not, because I'm winning. But, you know, like I said, I'm doing what I've been told. I'm not involved in the schedule. I'm just getting the schedule after when my coach is telling me when I'm playing on which court, and I'm getting ready for the match.

Q. Wherever they need you, you'll be there?

SHAHAR PEER: Yes, that is right.

Q. You manage to look at the newspapers at all while you've been here or keeping track of what's going on around?

SHAHAR PEER: Not at all.

Q. The publishing about how well you've been doing, have you seen anything about that?

SHAHAR PEER: No, I haven't seen once even the newspaper. I mean, nothing. I haven't seen.

Q. Is that intentional or you just haven't had the time?

SHAHAR PEER: No, I mean, we didn't ask it for our room, so we just didn't. I don't know. I don't really look at the newspaper when I'm away. Only when I'm in Israel, I'm looking in the Hebrew newspaper, but not when I'm away.

Q. Just concentrate on the tennis?

SHAHAR PEER: Yeah.

Q. On behalf of the tournament, are you aware of the worldwide interest in your run here? You've had a fantastic run. Are you aware of it?

SHAHAR PEER: Actually, not. Not at all. The only place I saw was in the WTA website, and I'm not -- I don't like to look on the Israeli websites whenever I'm in tournaments, not only here. So I never look in the other

website actually whenever I'm not playing, playing. So I'm not aware of it.

But whatever I get, if it's nice or I really appreciate it, so.

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