

**28 February 2012**



**J. DEL POTRO/A. Dolgopolov**

6-3, 7-6

An interview with:

## **JUAN MARTIN DEL POTRO**

THE MODERATOR: Questions, please.

**Q. How tough was that match against a player who slices and does all sorts of strange things?**

JUAN MARTIN DEL POTRO: Yeah, it was really, really tough. We never played two same points in the match. Sometimes we had long rally; sometimes very short points; serve and volley; dropshots; and slices. I think all the shots what a tennis player can make he made today.

But I'm glad to beat this kind of guys on the first round. He's top 15, I think, so he's really dangerous for the first round.

But I go through, and that's important.

**Q. How difficult was it for you to make the jump of just coming into the tournament when you won in Marseilles?**

JUAN MARTIN DEL POTRO: Last week was fantastic for me. I am getting confidence every match, every day. But I adjust arrived this morning, so it's tough to jump to the court on the same day.

But I'm ready to play this tournament. I really like to play here in Dubai for first time. The city is amazing, the tournament, the crowd is so nice, so I'm enjoying a lot.

**Q. You're improving dramatically. You were 2009 US Open champion; quarterfinals of Australian; final of Rotterdam; winning last week in Marseilles. What have you got to do to get higher, top 5?**

JUAN MARTIN DEL POTRO: Well, I'm working for that, but the top guys I think are playing much better than me. They are still in the top positions, but I'm getting closer. Very slowly I'm doing step by step, and the best thing is I

think I'm still improving my physical, my tennis, and my serves. That's important in getting closer as soon I can.

**Q. And you've got Andrey Golubev of Kazakhstan. How are you going to play him?**

JUAN MARTIN DEL POTRO: Well, I'll try to play more aggressive than today because I'm a little tired obviously. Now I have the night to sleep well, and I will be ready for tomorrow.

**Q. Physically, how do you feel? Jo-Wilfried came in earlier, the man you beat in the semis in Marseilles, and he seemingly was fatigued. It must be quite challenging to go from France, traveling, everything?**

JUAN MARTIN DEL POTRO: Yeah, well we have different physical, Jo and me. I finish late on Sunday and we arrive also this morning.

But anyway, he's playing here; I'm playing here; Llodra was playing before me. We are professionals. We are working, so I hope to be ready by tomorrow and I'm more calm, more focused than today.

**Q. You seem to be playing a lot of tournaments in a row, doing a lot traveling. What is the thought behind this? Are you trying to push in the rankings, or what's the thought behind your scheduling?**

JUAN MARTIN DEL POTRO: No, because I never played these kind of tournaments. I always play in United States, Memphis, Delray Beach.

I think this year have a good experience in this tournament. They invite me to play and I say, Yes, of course.

I think I do a good choice because I already made two finals, and now I go through the first round here. I think I'm also improving my game indoors carpet. I never won a title there until last week, so means very important things for the future.

**Q. Do you feel your level - I'm sure you get this question a lot; I'm sorry. Right now you just won. Do you keep thinking, I want to be like 2009, or how are you approaching this?**

JUAN MARTIN DEL POTRO: No, no. If

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*J Del Potro - 28 02 12.doc*

I don't see videos of 2009, I don't remember how I play there. (Smiling.)

But after my injury, I come back with like a new life or new tennis game, because I was 500 and all the players still playing, still working for one year, and I was completely stop at home.

But I'm top 10 at this moment, getting closer every day, and I think I'm playing well.

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