

August 13, 2009



**Western & Southern
Financial Group®**

MASTERS & WOMEN'S OPEN

D. SAFINA/S. Peng

6-3, 6-4

An interview with:

DINARA SAFINA

THE MODERATOR: Questions, please.

Q. Were you happy with how you were hitting the ball today?

DINARA SAFINA: Definitely much better than the first-round match. Yeah, I had a good practice yesterday, and today I was feeling much better.

Slowly I'm getting in my shape.

Q. It was hard to hear, but I know Pete asked about your hand. Does it feel better now?

DINARA SAFINA: No, yeah, definitely it better in that way without tape. Of course it's much easier because nothing is holding me. Even I don't feel the tape, but still you have something in the hand. Today I already played without tape, and it's good.

Q. Does it still hurt when you play?

DINARA SAFINA: No, no. No, I don't feel it.

Q. Today we were talking to Kim, and we said who has really made a difference in their game since you've been gone. She talked about you and how in all aspects from your style to your physique you're totally different. How would you say you've changed since she's been retired?

DINARA SAFINA: Well, definitely, you know, I been working very hard. You know, I

would say since I'm working with this coach I changed a lot. You know, he's the person that I trust, you know, and I had to do some changes.

I mean, to say honestly I been overweight, so he said, Dinars, you need to lose weight. So we find doctor to help me like a dietician, so I have a dietician now.

Another thing I needed to improve was the physical, so I been working with the fitness coach at that time. Now I don't work with him anymore. Still I think he did an amazing job with me. I made such a big jump, you know. So we're always looking for something to get me better.

I trust this person, and I know that he doesn't stop from improving me and he's always looking for the best for me. That's important.

Q. What are your thoughts about the match tomorrow?

DINARA SAFINA: Well, you know, last time I played it was before she retired. I think even she retired that year when I played her. Yeah.

So I mean, she's a great player. I think for sure she plays exactly how she did. You know, I'm looking forward. It's a great match before the US Open.

Because she's a great player, you never know how you can play her. So and I want to challenge her and to see in which shape I am and whose gonna be stronger tomorrow.

Q. Did you have a chance to see her play here?

DINARA SAFINA: Not really, because she played late last night. Today she was playing in the midday, and I was in the room and they were not showing it on the TV. Because I was in the room resting and thinking about my match now not about my next opponent.

Q. Is it surprising to see someone who has hasn't played in two years, to see her playing so well here?

DINARA SAFINA: For me, not. You

ASAP sports

...when all is said, we're done.®

visit our archives at asapsports.com

D. Safina - 08.13.09.doc

cannot lose your talent. You cannot lose anything. It is there. If you are the great player, doesn't matter. Give now to Sampras a racquet and he will play exactly the same. Yeah, maybe she will be a little bit slower, but she's still young.

These players, I believe they don't lose anything.

FastScripts by ASAP Sports