

**August 1, 2008**



**D. SAFINA/S.** Kuznetsova

6-2, 3-6, 6-2

An interview with:

## **DINARA SAFINA**

THE MODERATOR: Questions.

**Q. When the crowd was cheering for you, does it help you to come back?**

DINARA SAFINA: Well, I think they were cheering for both. But I think they just wanted to have some more tennis. So even I was 2-0 down, they just wanted that match stays a little bit longer.

I think they just help me to pump myself and give all what I have for them.

**Q. What changed after that first set?**

DINARA SAFINA: Well, I think first set she was just playing very good tennis. I still didn't speak with my coaches about maybe I was doing something wrong - not wrong, but maybe not enough. But then she was a break up, 2-Love. There she gave some I would say free points that made me to come back.

After that, the match started to be close for both. I would say today, I mean, the luck was on my side.

**Q. Did the warning for the unsportsmanlike conduct have any impact on you? You only lost three points after that.**

DINARA SAFINA: Well, it's a fair one. First of all, I almost hit her head, and I almost hit the people. So if I would hit somebody on the stands, I would be suspended.

But I was just very angry with, I don't know, like I'm trying my best, but still like something is missing. And I wanted just to explore my emotions. Okay, I went a little bit too much. That was too risky.

**Q. Did that allow to you calm down?**

DINARA SAFINA: Well, I know that I cannot do more because second warning is penalty point. But actually after that I started to play better, so there was no need to maybe express more my emotions.

**Q. Can you talk about your dropshot. You seem to be one of the few people who consistently does it.**

DINARA SAFINA: Well, actually in the third set I overdo them because then she was already reading my dropshots when I would hit them. So that was actually a little bit wrong play.

Well, I like to vary my game, to play fast and sometimes use the touch. So that's what I'm working because I know many players would not maybe expect when I have easy shot that I might use a dropshot because I also can hit the ball. So I just try to make them think.

**Q. Why do you think so few women include that shot on a regular basis?**

DINARA SAFINA: They don't include?

**Q. Yes.**

DINARA SAFINA: Well, I don't know. You have to ask them.

**Q. Considering how well you've been playing for the last two months, when you enter a tournament, has your mindset changed at all as to your chances of winning and how you approach each opponent? Has your confidence level changed at all?**

DINARA SAFINA: Well, I just go on the

court and I take every opponent hundred percent serious. As I always say, there is no easy opponents because everyone gonna give their hundred percent to beat me. I respect them all. I try to go on the court and give my hundred percent and let's see who's gonna be stronger that day.

**FastScripts by ASAP Sports**