

**August 17, 2011**



An interview with:

## **VICTORIA AZARENKA**

THE MODERATOR: Just so you know, Victoria had to withdraw with a right hand strain. She'll be replaced in the draw by lucky loser Pauline Parmentier.

Questions for Victoria.

**Q. When did you decide?**

VICTORIA AZARENKA: About 45 minutes ago.

**Q. Is it more to be prepared for the US Open or just you can't go right now?**

VICTORIA AZARENKA: No, I mean, it's both ways. It's impossible to play for me. I was waiting until the last moment to be 100% sure that I cannot compete.

I mean, yeah, it's important also prior to the US Open. It just doesn't make any sense to make it worse.

**Q. Was it hurting when you were practicing before?**

VICTORIA AZARENKA: Yeah.

**Q. Obviously.**

VICTORIA AZARENKA: Yeah, exactly. Seriously, guys, you made me walk up here all the way to just ask me one question?

**Q. Has this been hurting you before for the last few weeks or anything?**

VICTORIA AZARENKA: Started in Toronto in my match against Serena. Not weeks, but recently.

**Q. What kind of rehab will you do over the next couple days preparing for the Open?**

VICTORIA AZARENKA: I cannot really tell you in terms of medical because I have no idea. I trust my physio on that.

That's it. We will definitely do all the things possible, you know, for me to be ready for the Open.

**Q. Isn't a hamstring usually a six-week recovery or anything?**

VICTORIA AZARENKA: Hamstring?

THE MODERATOR: Hand.

**Q. Oh, I thought you said hamstring. What is it exactly that's hurting you?**

VICTORIA AZARENKA: My right hand.

**Q. Something that's bothered you before?**

VICTORIA AZARENKA: It bothered me before Toronto a little bit. It went away, and unfortunately in the match, as I said, it came back.

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