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**Western & Southern
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MASTERS & WOMEN'S OPEN

S. QUERREY/A. Roddick

7-6, 7-6

An interview with:

SAM QUERREY

THE MODERATOR: Questions, please.

Q. How big does that win rate in your achievements, beating Andy for the first time?

SAM QUERREY: Definitely one of my best wins ever. Probably the best for me. You know, feels pretty good.

Q. What was the difference tonight compared to Washington when you played him tough, but came out on the losing end?

SAM QUERREY: Washington, I know that tiebreaker there I missed three easy forehands. That was kind of the deal breaker there.

This tiebreaker, you know, there were a couple shots in there, too, you know.

Q. The double fault.

SAM QUERREY: The double fault. That was just nerves. I played a little sharper tiebreaker and I was hitting my backhand. I was moving it down the line, crosscourt, down the line, crosscourt; whereas in Washington I was kind of just content going crosscourt.

Q. Obviously he got frustrated and destroyed a racquet. What did you do specifically to try and capitalize on that?

SAM QUERREY: I just try to stay level-headed and keep my composure and keep doing what I was doing and not let up and try not to let that alter my game in any way. Just wanted to keep doing what I was doing.

Q. Sam, I assume this is your preferred surface. If so, could you just elaborate a bit on how it plays to your strengths, or what is it you like about it?

SAM QUERREY: Yeah. Well, I grew up in southern California, and there's no clay courts, no grass courts, so this is pretty much all I played on. With my serve, it really skids through the court. Forehand as well, you know, it gets through the court. I'm comfortable moving and playing on it.

I like playing on the other two surfaces, but this is the one that -- 90% of my matches have been on a hardcourt. I think it's just because I've played so many matches on it.

Q. And how similar is this hardcourt to what you'll have at the US Open? And part of that question also is about the ball. Does this really mimic what you'll have at the US Open?

SAM QUERREY: It's pretty close. All the tournaments throughout the summer the courts are pretty similar: they're all fast hardcourts.

The ball is not the same every week. I think we should change that on the tour. I think they should play with the same ball leading up to it. Also I think they should play with the same ball throughout the clay court season, the same ball throughout the grass court season.

For the most part the ball is the same: light ball, flies through the air. I've been hitting my serve the same speed at every tournament, so it's pretty much the same.

Q. Do you feel that maybe you were a little bit more fitter tonight?

SAM QUERREY: Yeah, I mean, I been home for -- I lost first round Montreal. He made the finals of Washington, went deep in Montreal, both humid places. He comes here's and it's humid. He played ten or eleven matches in the last two weeks, so he's tired. So it's tough with the schedule for a guy like him, because he's kind of forced to play Washington, then he's got to play

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Washington, Montreal, Cincinnati, three big tournaments in a row.

You know, he went deep in the previous two, so it's tough for him to come out a third week and really go out there and just keep it going.

So I think that was to my advantage a little bit. That kind of happened to me in Montreal. I had played Newport, World Team Tennis, L.A., Indy, D.C., and then I got to Montreal and I was winded, I was tired out there.

So I think he was feeling a little bit of that out there. You know, so now he's got two weeks. He's gonna be a favorite at the Open, I think. He's playing well. I think he's not happy he lost, but he's got two weeks now where he can rest and really get ready for the Open.

Q. Your thoughts on playing Lleyton next?

SAM QUERREY: Are you Australian?

Q. No kiwi.

SAM QUERREY: That will be a tough one. I played him in Indian Wells a couple years and lost 6-3, 6-4. You know, makes you play a lot of balls. He's got a good serve, good out-wide serve. That's gonna be tough. I don't know what he's ranked right now.

Q. 42.

SAM QUERREY: 42. Wow, okay. You know, but he's a lot better than that. He's one of those guys, you know, Hewitt and Safin, they're gonna be those two guys at the Open that are not seeded. You definitely don't want to play those guys first round.

Q. With Hewitt, the hip injury is well chronicled, so that's why the ranking is down.

SAM QUERREY: Right.

Q. About tonight's match, did you make a conscious decision to try to get him to move a lot more and try and take advantage of the fact that he might not be as physically fresh as you?

SAM QUERREY: No. It was more on my backhand side. In Washington I was going crosscourt, crosscourt, crosscourt, crosscourt. If I hit it up the line I was going for a winner.

Tonight I was trying to do more crosscourt up the line, crosscourt up the line, and give myself more opportunities to hit more forehands. Because, you know, I feel like if I can go forehand

to forehand, for me that's better than going backhand to backhand.

Q. When first turned pro, in your mind, did you expect to have victories like this sooner? Has this been longer coming than you might have anticipated?

SAM QUERREY: I mean, not really. I have not really thought about it like that. I've had three or four top 10 wins before this. I never really -- I don't know the answer to that question.

Q. Are you looking forward to playing singles and doubles tomorrow?

SAM QUERREY: Yeah, no, I'm looking forward to both. John and I are playing well. We're gonna play at the Open together. Hopefully he's all right to play. I know I'll be good to go.

Q. Speaking about fan support, do you tune that out, or do you embrace that during the course of a match? They weren't against Andy, but I think it was a pro Sam Querrey crowd today.

SAM QUERREY: Yeah.

Q. I think so.

SAM QUERREY: I mean, it was pretty close. It's hard to go against Andy. He's won the US Open. He's been the top American for the last six or seven years. He's still got the best chance, I guess you would say, for going deep in the Open.

Q. I don't know if you have a fan club, but the group that I heard...

SAM QUERREY: Well, I've got the Samurais, the official group. They're not here this week.

Q. Where are they?

SAM QUERREY: A lot of them have school and jobs, so they can't really... I wish they could travel every week. They're coming to the Open. It's tough for them to travel every week. It's getting tougher and tougher, too. When we were all in high school it was pretty easy.

Q. You seem to be moving better than you were even this time last year. What have you done to make that happen?

SAM QUERREY: It's a combination of everything. I've been doing a lot running on the

track, you know, three, four times a week during the off-weeks. During a tournament can't really do it. But I'm still running too, during the tournament. Running, biking, and doing more agility movements.

I think a lot have it is just I've played a lot of matches. I played 50 -- I'm sure you know. How many matches this year?

Q. I don't know. I have to look it up.

SAM QUERREY: I played 55, 54 matches. I think that's, you know, that's fitness in itself.

Q. Have you lost weight?

SAM QUERREY: Uh-uh. I don't think.

Q. Were you happy with your serve tonight? 51% versus 65% for Roddick.

SAM QUERREY: I mean, I'd like it to be in the 60s. But, you know, I backed it up well afterwards. When I was making it in, I probably made a high percentage of those points.

But it's tough on the ad side out there. When I threw it up, it's right in the lights. Kind of throws me off a little bit.

Q. Is your fitness the reason you're climbing in the rankings and getting better?

SAM QUERREY: One of the reasons. I think it's a combination of everything. Won a lot of matches and I'm confident. I'm hitting my backhand a lot better and returning a lot better. I'm smarter out there on the court and making better decisions.

Q. Chances of beating tomorrow Marach and Kubot?

SAM QUERREY: In the doubles match?

Q. Have you ever played them?

SAM QUERREY: I've never played them before. I think they're seeded seven or eight, a good team, so we're gonna have trouble with that one.

But John and I are playing well. Hopefully we can serve well.

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