

ANDRE AGASSI:

Q: Is it fair to say, Andre, you were at the outset a little nervous but as the game went on you seemed to be moving a lot freer?

A: Yeah, I don't think it ever really got to a point where I was as comfortable as I would have hoped and you're never quite sure how much is hesitancy versus how it's really responding as far as strength pushing off, that sort of thing, but I got through it and played a couple of hours which makes me feel like if it pulls up good tomorrow then I will have more confidence as to what I can do on it come the start of the tournament so today was necessary.

Q: Did you surprise yourself that you played two hours out there?

A: I don't know; you try not to have too many expectations one way or another. I did the MRIs yesterday and it showed to be a tendon as opposed to a muscle, which is a good thing because a tendon is more manageable as far as micro tears or inflammation and I got the assurance that if I push myself I don't run the risk of something sort of worse happening, which certainly was a key part of my decision to play today so I just hoping I keep taking steps in the right direction and get things right.

Q: Did you feel much pain out there today?

A: Yeah, I'm aware of it, certainly aware if it, it just happened 48 hours ago, less than that, so I am aware of it, it wasn't the same, it was better than when it happened on Thursday but it was also a lot better with the knowledge that you are not doing something dramatically worse to it as you go along.

Q: Which shots in particular?

A: It's a movement issue, it's not a shot issue.

Q: Is it critical how it pulls up tomorrow or was today really a test for it?

A: I suppose every day is a test. Today is a good sign, no question, to be out there just playing for that long, but I definitely wasn't getting to the balls that I feel like I would normally get to, but part of it is a certain amount of hesitancy but it's also just gaining that confidence on it. Yeah, I wanted to pull up good tomorrow but keep moving the game plan forward.

Q: Any risk that we might not see you at the Open?

A: Listen, I have plans on playing, that's what I'm here for, and to be at my best is what I'm shooting for so I'm going to have to get there soon.

Q: Have you already or would you ask to start on Tuesday rather than Monday?

A: No. Knowing what the injury is, what I'm dealing with, an extra day upfront is not going to make the world of difference, to be quite honest. I would rather have a day on the back side, I'd rather it be a 14 day tournament. I'm not here to get through a few matches, I want to get to my best and feel like I can win and if I can't do that then there is nothing I can do.

Q: You have had hip problems before but have you had this specific one, and do you have any knowledge about how it might get better?

A: It's a different issue from the hip, it's a tendon, but when things start to tighten up it can engage problematic areas that you sort of have lived with for a number of years so I am worried about it creeping over but as of right now it's a separate issue and is manageable.

Q: Are you worried that if you overcome it might lead to an injury elsewhere?

A: I tried to keep the things I worry about down to a minimum; Lord knows I have enough on my plate at the moment to worry about so I'm just dealing with that. You always run that risk.

Q: Just on a happier note, are you excited by the prospect of playing another Grand Slam and being still in the mix come the end of it?

A: That's the plan and I will be excited if I'm still in the mix come the end of it. I'm not going to feel good until everything is on course and until everything feels good and I'm playing good matches back-to-back. It's great to be down here and to give yourself that chance but I do just want to get things right and feel at my best because that's what I'm here to do, so until I feel at my best I probably won't have the mindset to enjoy it as much as figure out how to get myself where I want to be.

Q: Is tomorrow a treatment day or a rest day?

A: Well, I think a little bit of both; I'm definitely going to go out and have a hit and all that and continue my preparation knowing that if I do feel anything on Monday I will have to push through.

Q: But will you be having any treatment?

A: Yeah, sure, I will unfortunately be having treatment probably as a way of addressing the whole tournament.

Q: Is that heat treatment?

A: What kind of treatment?

Q: Yes.

A: Well, first of all, strong heavy anti-inflammatories to start with, which helps with just any inflammation or pain that may exist, combined with making sure nothing else around the tendon tightens up where it sort of puts more workload on the problem area. I leave that to the guys that know a lot better than me but they're sort of working on the whole area just to keep things moving so that there is not one given area that takes all the stress.

Q: Is it a micro tear of the tendon?

A: Yes.

Q: Upper leg?

A: Yeah, the attachment where it attaches. There's two attachments, so the good news is it's only one of them and it's manageable. It's not something where they feel like I can't push through without worrying about sort of something worse happening.

Q: Just one small tear, is that what it is?

A: Tell me what they mean, please, when they say micro tears. Sounds terrible, doesn't it?

Q: Better than macro tear.

A: Yeah.

Q: Last night Tim Henman announced he was retiring from Davis Cup. You did that four or five years ago. How do you look back and assess that decision now?

A: It's the same way I sort of assessed it then, which is there is part of this that is good and necessary and there is part of this that's sort of real sad and regretful. Davis Cup has been some of my greatest memories in my career and the opportunity of playing with another generation of guys, a generation that really seemed to pull for another, which is a nice thing to see. I mean, I came into this sport with Connors and McEnroe and didn't quite get along so well, to me and Pete and Jim and Michael and everybody fighting for the Number 1 place in the world and fighting for Grand Slam titles and everybody sort of doing their own thing and now you see a group of guys who really seem to look out for each other, that's sort of where my regret comes in but the good part is the necessary part which is I have to be very selective, as you well know, to where I dedicate my energies and that part was something I look back on as a good decision.

Q: Would you play again, Andre, this year possibly if they asked you?

A: I'm going to be respectful to Patrick who has called me, to have conversations with him first but I will just sort of reinforce everything I've been saying for the last four or five years which is I'm not quite sure what I'm really capable of these days as far as where I put my energy and I have to be very careful about how I choose that.