

# Miami Open presented by Itaú

Saturday, March 23, 2019

## Naomi Osaka

Press Conference



HSIEH SU-WEI/N. Osaka

4-6, 7-6, 6-3

THE MODERATOR: Questions, please.

**Q. In your last match you talked about feeling too ahead of yourself, thinking about winning sooner than necessary. What do you think went wrong in the third set?**

NAOMI OSAKA: No, I don't think -- maybe I did subconsciously. I was up 30-Love on my serve. But, no, I just think I got too emotional, which is something I did last match, too. I'm not really sure why this is happening, but it's kind of unusual for me I think a little bit.

But, yeah, I think in that moment I got ahead of myself, but all the other times it was pretty fine. Like, I knew it was going to be a tough match playing her.

**Q. You talked about her unpredictability. Did you find that to be the case here?**

NAOMI OSAKA: Yeah, she was hitting down the line on balls I was sure she would go cross-court. Yeah, I definitely thought she was being unpredictable.

**Q. What is it about her game that enables her to get players to slowly unravel? Is it that it's tough to keep your focus that long?**

NAOMI OSAKA: Well, I can't really talk for everyone else. But for me, like, you go into the match knowing that. I wouldn't really say it was her. I would just say I was kind of immature today. I was thinking too much, like everything was on my racquet. Honestly, she has the ability to make winners, too, whenever she wants.

I think that was, like, one of the main problems.

**Q. You mentioned having emotions. Do you think those come from match situations or from off court? Do you have any idea where those feelings are bubbling from?**

NAOMI OSAKA: I mean, of course I want to win every match I play. I feel like I've dealt with the stress of people asking me do I have pressure because I have the No. 1 next to my name. I thought I was doing fine with that, but I guess I'm not. I think more about winning now compared to the matches before where I didn't necessarily think that was the case.

Off-court stuff, I'm pretty fine I feel like.

**Q. Is she the toughest out in tennis, people know what they expect from her, should be able to hit through her? How nerve-wracking is that?**

NAOMI OSAKA: Did you say 'toughest out'?

**Q. Yes, like in baseball.**

NAOMI OSAKA: I don't watch baseball. Like toughest player?

**Q. The one who is the most difficult to overcome even though maybe you think you should be able to.**

NAOMI OSAKA: You're saying like underestimate sort of?

**Q. Yes.**

NAOMI OSAKA: No, I don't think so. I don't think I ever underestimated her because all the times I played her was three sets. In Australia, honestly she should have won but I found a way to win it. I don't necessarily think I underestimate her.

I think maybe today I overestimated myself maybe in a way.

**Q. You had an incredible streak of winning matches when you won the first set.**

NAOMI OSAKA: I know, it's depressing. I know that record. I was thinking about it right after I lost.

**Q. 63 straight. Was there anything different about today that made whatever was working the past 63 times not work today or is it bound to happen eventually?**

NAOMI OSAKA: I mean, I think eventually I was going to lose after I won the first set. But I feel like today I got ahead of myself. I feel like there were some times when I was returning her serve in the second set, I felt myself relax a bit because I thought that I could be able to serve it out anyways.

So I think there's just moments like that that I have to, like, figure out how to not -- just not -- wait. How do I say? Just focus more, fight for every point, not think that I can just turn it on and off.

**Q. What is your next tournament?**

NAOMI OSAKA: Stuttgart.

(Naomi's answers to questions in Japanese.)

NAOMI OSAKA: Yeah, I mean, I thought my serve was working well for a while. I thought I was able to mix it up quite well. She's a bit unusual because it's tough to know which side she likes to return more on. Like, sometimes I would think it's the forehand side, but then she would just start leaning more on the ball. I think just figuring that out as the match went on, it was a little bit tough for me. I think she was returning well. It was hard for me because I count on my serve a lot.

Yeah, I mean, I think there's a difference between having confidence and sort of getting ahead of yourself. For me, I think I just thought, like, the last time I played her, she was up two breaks or something, 4-1, I don't remember if that was one or two breaks. I was just thinking, like, I was in a bigger hole last time, so I should be able to dig myself out of the hole this time. I completely forgot that she also learned things from that match, too. It wasn't just me that was playing there. Yeah, I just think it wasn't that I had a big head, but I think I wasn't really thinking about all of the things that was happening.

Yeah, I mean, I think I've been working on my serve a lot these last two tournaments. And definitely it's improved from Indian Wells to here. I'm not sure, I don't think the percentage was that great today. I was slowly starting to count on it again like I used to. So that's a big plus for me. Yeah, I've been working a lot on my second serve. I think I need to continue practicing it because she was stepping in a lot and being very aggressive. That's not something I want people to do, for sure. Yeah, honestly I haven't really talked to Jay that much. I was sort of depressed after this match, so... I guess I'll talk to him now.

Yeah, I mean, for me, I think it's interesting whenever you change coaches because there's always an adjustment time. This is the second tournament I've been with Jermaine. I think that I played pretty good today actually, if I get over the fact that I lost. I think I played a lot of good rallies. Of course, there were some shots that I tried to hit a winner on to early. I just do that sometimes. It's nothing to be negative about. Yeah, I think definitely we have a lot of ideas that we need to swap, so we really need to talk about that.