

Sport time



Daniil Medvedev: «The decisive match in Davis Cup - the most important one in my career»



At the tournament in St. Petersburg, «EnglishMag» took an exclusive interview with Daniil Medvedev, the man, who had decided the outcome of the Russian victory in Davis Cup the week before:



More photos at englishmag.ru/spbopen2018

EnglishMag: Congratulations again on your victory in the Davis Cup tie! The last week was very important, you got married also, so you can even say - historical. What helped to achieve the final success in the Davis Cup?

Daniil Medvedev: First of all, this is the merit of our team, the Russian National Team, every participant, because in any case, even if someone was ready or not, no matter how - we always support each other: whether it's a loss or a victory.

Everyone knows that each of us will fight to the end, up to the very last point. In singles competitions you can give yourself a slack, and if you go somewhere tired, you can say: «Man, I can't do that - I can't fight for every point»; but, here in Davis Cup you play not so much for yourself, as for your country, for your partners, for the fans - so you can not just let go and surrender. All of us naturally felt very disappointed that we often failed to win the Davis Cup matches (since 2016 Russia couldn't win a Davis Cup tie). This time everything was different. Therefore, it is the merit of each of us, and I am very glad that I managed to bring a decisive point to the team.

EM: Yes, indeed, the historical week. Regarding the change of the format of the games, the Davis Cup is being changed (more details at davicup.com/en/news/290055.aspx) and the novelties are put forward in the youth final tournament NextGenATP Finals (lots of innovations, for example, linesmen are replaced by robots, the set is played up to 4 games, five sets maximum, a decisive point at deuce, more details at nextgenatpfinals.com/en/innovation) - Do you like this change?

DM: There are also its pros and cons,

something I like - I liked to play the tournament (NextGen ATP 2017, Medvedev won the third place, losing only to the winner, Chung) itself in this format.

Another thing, would I like to play all ATP tournaments the same way? Not a fact. But, perhaps, it would even be interesting to introduce some innovations, try them out. If it works, that's good. If it doesn't, then that's ok, too. In general, I'm for something new, but, of course, it mustn't completely change tennis, but gradually and in an interesting way.

EM: The fact that everything is automatic, without judges, is it normal?

DM: That's of course nonsense! I will, as an expressive player, not be shouting at anyone or swearing (laughs). If the machine is wrong - you can not change anything.

EM: This year, you won the first two titles in your career, but with God's help, it will be much more. What is the most memorable? Sydney or Winston-Salem?

DM: Both are remembered great. Sydney, because it's the first victory. It will, in any case, be remembered, there was a crazy final (1\6 6\4 7\5 against Australian de Minaur - Ed.) - One of the craziest matches this year. A bit strange tournament for me, to be honest. I didn't seem to be showing my best game, but managed to win, take the title, earned 250 rating points, felt that I could win at the tournaments.

And Winston-Salem was remembered for the fact that there I played at a very high level and did not give a chance to almost any opponent - and it pleased me.

EM: And what match did you like most throughout this year?

DM: There were a lot of matches, where I kind of played badly, but with a strong-will was able to pull it out, there were also those, where I played just well. Therefore, it is impossible to select one.

EM: But, talking about your whole career, which match is the most important? A win at

Wimbledon over Wawrinka last year?

DM: Now, I think, the Davis Cup! Anyway, this is not a World Group, not a final, but this is a decisive point. Generally speaking, I played well, but it was very difficult - Yegor Gerasimov played crazy tennis, and I'm very glad that I managed to defeat him.

EM: At the FIFA World Cup, were you rooting for Russia?

DM: Yes, I was watching almost every match. I am also a fan of Bayern Munich, so I supported the Germans. But just at these moments, I played the tournament, so I saw only one of their matches against the Swedes. When I found out that Germany lost to Korea ... I was not upset, but, of course, I was very much surprised with such a result.

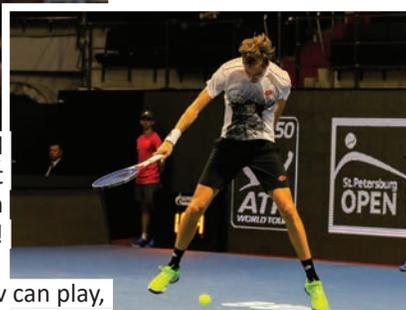
EM: It's interesting, how is your ordinary day built? What helps you to recover when playing in such a tense rhythm?

DM: There are different procedures that we use with the trainer and the team. Sometimes spa treatments and protein. In general, such decisions are made by my team. And it happens the other way round - you feel yourself that now you just need to let go and rest for three days, not thinking about anything else. Eat and do whatever you want. And it is what gives you a positive result.

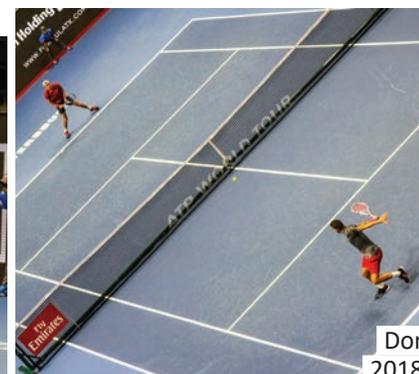
Daniil's quarter-final match against 7th ranked world player Dominic Thiem was very even and Daniil had chances to win, but just two important points decided the outcome 2/6 6/3 6/7 - Dominic went on easily to win the next matches and his first St.Petersburg Open 2018 title. Will be glad to see these both perspective players in 2019!



Mikhail Youzhny officially ended his professional career but he promised to compete in St.Petersburg Open next years!



Not only Daniil Medvedev can play, but also perform tricks



Dominic Thiem (Austria) 2018 St. Petersburg Open champion