

Serena Bows Out of Olympics
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By Craig Gabriel

BEIJING: Serena Williams started her Olympic quarterfinal match with Elena Dementieva in a solid manner. She broke the Russian early and it appeared that she was heading for victory when she lead by a set and a break but the Russian staged a rally and ended up winning 3-6, 6-4, 6-3.

Serena was playing very solid tennis in the first set. She opened up a 3-0 and then a 4-1 lead. Her serve was very effective and she was putting in a first serve of 70%. Dementieva was struggling. Serena then broke serve in the third game of the second set and soon had a 4-2 lead but Dementieva leveled the set at 4-4.

Dementieva picked up her level of play and her normally suspect serve didn't quite waver as it is prone to do. She went up 5-0 but Serena never gives in and went on a roll that won her three games in a row. At 5-3 played a solid game and eventually scored the win in two hours and five minutes.

"It turned when I didn't do what I needed to do," said Serena. "Just didn't work out. You know, I had chances to go up 4 1 or 3 1, I don't know, and I ruined it for myself pretty much.

"I was cruising. There's no reason I should have lost. So, you know, at least going into the Open, I hope I have another opportunity and things will be different. I just didn't you know, I missed some key shots that I probably shouldn't have missed. You know, that was that."

The start of the day was very nice weather wise. For a change you could see the city of Beijing and there were even some traces of sunshine. But as the day wore on clouds rolled in and they were certainly angry looking clouds that brought thunder and some flashes of lightening.

By the time the scheduled start of play came around those clouds had burst. The rain was pelting down. It was like standing under a shower that was on full. It caused the match schedule to be changed and by the time play eventually got under way the delay had amounted to three and a half hours.

But while the singles is over for Serena, she and sister Venus are still in the doubles competition but because of the inclement weather they are a round behind and still to play the second round.