

Serena Cruises Into Third Round
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By Craig Gabriel

MELBOURNE: Serena Williams scored what she called a "satisfying win". The Australian Open defending champion scored a 6-3 61 win over China's Yuan Meng, someone she knew nothing about going into the match. However it didn't take her long to work things out.

"I felt like I got a lot of groundstrokes in, and I was able to get a lot of balls in play," said Serena. "I was able to practice my groundstroke game a lot. I felt like I played better groundstroke wise than I did in my first match."

Conditions on the court were a bit unsettling because of the breeze, in fact it wasn't a steady breeze but it seemed to slow up and then a couple of points later it would pick up. That's tough to get any sort of consistency and rhythm, but Serena is far more experienced in such situations and she was able to handle it better than Yuan.

She will now come up against 18 year old Victoria Azarenka of Belarus ranked 25 in the world and who had a win over the German player Sandra Kloesel. It will be a first time meeting with Azarenka who resides in Arizona.

Serena never underestimates any opponent and even though Azarenka is not a household name, she can still produce some fine tennis.

"I always say I take every match really tough," she said. "Everyone I'm playing is fighting to win as well as I am, so I'm really serious and focused on every match."

On things for sure is that the tennis fans in Australia love Serena and she will have plenty of support. It's something that she really appreciates and that's why she loves playing in Australia.

"I just love that and so it's really cool," added Serena.

During her post match media conference, Justin Gimelstob who announced his retirement at last year's US Open and who is working with television at this Australian Open wanted to know Serena's thoughts on the football.

Q. Giants or Packers?

SERENA WILLIAMS: Go Giants, because I like Eli Manning. He's a younger brother. Younger brothers rock.

Q. What about Patriots/Chargers?

SERENA WILLIAMS: Patriots. Patriots/Giants.

Q. And then?

SERENA WILLIAMS: I have to go with Eli. I have to go for the younger sibling. I am always rooting for the younger sibling. Although I love Brett Favre.

Q. Are you going to be watching the games?

SERENA WILLIAMS: Of course.