

Serena Into Wimbledon Quarters For 7th Time
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By Craig Gabriel

WIMBLEDON: The traditional middle Sunday rest day is now behind us at Wimbledon and that means the business end of The Championships are well and truly underway. The day off is a welcome relief that follows what is a very busy first week and this year at Wimbledon it seemed like the level of intensity had stepped up five fold.

The weather, albeit a bit windy and slightly cooler than it should be at this time of the year has been pretty good. Barely any time has been lost for rain and as one well-known TV domestic authority says, "that's a good thing".

So here we are at the start of the second week. The sun was bathing the grass courts and every one of the fourth round matches was being played but in a strange scheduling twist Serena Williams nor her sister Venus were allotted to one of the two main show courts which would have been expected. Instead they played their respective singles matches out on Court Two.

It's not that Court Two is a bad court even though it has a reputation as the Graveyard of Champions, the point being is between them Serena and Venus have won six singles crowns at Wimbledon and there are a lot of people that want to see them play and Court Two is vastly smaller.

It was a decision that left a few people scratching their heads, but both girls put that behind them and played as well as they needed to.

"I'm here to play the tournament and just focus on winning my match more than anything, just trying to do well here, so that's really my main focus," said Serena. "I haven't gotten an explanation. Granted, I do think it's weird, especially having a female champ who has won this tournament four times. I've only won twice. But, hey, that's not so bad.

"For the most part I think that's a question that will be best asked to the All England Tennis Club because I think they could address that better than what I would be able to answer that question.

"I thought maybe there was a mistake. But, you know, I can't dwell on that. I have to really focus on winning. I have to focus on just doing the best that I can do whether I'm on Court 2 or Court 20."

Serena took just 69 minutes to defeat the only American left in the singles tournament without the name Williams. She defeated Bethanie Mattek 6-3, 6-3.

The situation is getting closer for a potential Serena and Venus final but Serena is not letting such thoughts enter her mind. There is still a lot of tennis to be played. As Serena said she will only think of that when they are there.

"I'm just trying to keep winning, to be honest," said Serena.