

Serena Moves Into Last 16 of US Open - US Open
Thursday, 30 August 2007
By Craig Gabriel

NEW YORK: There was a fire in Serena Williams' eyes and in her stomach. There was determination in all she did on the court against Vera Zvonareva as the two ladies fought out a powerhouse match on Arthur Ashe Stadium. The Russian was giving it her all but to watch Serena dig deep inside herself was sensational.

She was pumping herself with almost every shot she hit. Her returns were heavy and she was screaming encouragement after almost every point she battled through. You could see how much she wanted this match and when she finally clinched it after four match points she let out a scream, a scream of relief, a scream of exaltation. She had secured her spot in the last 16, the part that begins the business end of the US Open and that is exciting.

The match lasted a minute short of two hours and ended 6-4, 7-6.

"I was upset after the match because I didn't feel that I played the greatest at all," said Serena. "I was not as frustrated as I have been in my other two rounds. I'm happy I was able to come through the match but I don't think I played well at all ... I'm happy I was able to come through.

"You just got to fight and hope to win and that's what I did. This girl was a top ten player before and I knew it was going to be a tough match ... not easy."

Almost from the time that Serena has been on the tour she has carried a book of notes on to the court that she reads on some changes of ends. It allows her to refresh her mind on what she has to do and things like that, but during this match the chair umpire asked her to put the book away. That was a first. It's never happened before.

"He told me I couldn't use my notes," said Serena. "I was like, well, it's not like I'm Harry Potter, and my dad can magically give me notes to read; it's something that I write myself. Just little things. What if I were to take a paper on the court and write something, what's the difference?"

"So I'm not one for coaching ... never have been. I just couldn't understand. I've been doing it for years. It's not like something all of a sudden. It's something that I just do."

The umpire then agreed it was not an issue and allowed Serena to keep her routine.

In the next round Serena will take on the tenth seed and Wimbledon finalist Marion Bartoli of France.