

Serena Moves Into Third Round of French Open  
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By Craig Gabriel

PARIS: What a start it has been to this year's French Open. The weather has been miserable and it has resulted in the schedule of play being so far behind that organizers have been trying to play catch-up.

Spring in Paris is supposed to be lovely for the French Open but so far it's been like summer at Wimbledon ... wet!

But Serena Williams was fortunate enough to get her first match out of the way and she has been fortunate enough not to have felt the disruption so many other players have experienced. Serena knew that her second round match was to be scheduled for Wednesday, and that it was.

Conditions were overcast at times but certainly quite cool and breezy in the early part of the day so it didn't make for a comfortable environment in which to play. However when Serena went onto Court Philippe Chatrier, the main show court, the conditions had settled down quite a bit. She took on the French player Mathilde Johansson in the second round, a player she hadn't come across before.

"It's different, because especially if they're younger then they want to win," said Serena. "Everyone seems to want to want to beat me. I try to feel them out in the warm up and go from there,"

Serena started out very smartly and took the first set 6-2 but the French player fought hard in the second set and Serena rallied back from a service break down to win the set and match 7-5.

Serena has quite a Grand Slam record; she has never lost a first round at a Slam event and taking this French Open into consideration that record is at 34. She says she hasn't played her best tennis yet. It's not something you do anyway at this point in a Grand Slam event. You need to build up to it.

In the mean time she has been spending her time indoors, trying to keep her focus on the job at hand which is to win the French Open.

"I always stay inside. I'm a real recluse. Like I've always done that in a Grand Slam," said Serena. "Like for two weeks I'll just stay so focused. I'm actually trying to get out more. Like I'm trying to go to dinner. I'll stay in my house for, you know, two, three weeks. So I'm complete opposite. I actually need to learn how to say, Okay, on my off day I can go to dinner or lunch.

"I just watch so many now I buy a lot of programs on iTunes, so I've been watching just downloaded the Jeffersons, so I have a lot you know Season 5. I have a lot to watch.

"I have been watching Keeping it up with the Kardashians. Favorite reality show. It's a great show. I finished that, though."