

Serena Moves Into Third Round of Open - US Open
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By Craig Gabriel

NEW YORK: Serena Williams is through to the third round of the 2007 US Open and she did it by defeating Maria Elena Camerin of Italy 75 62 in one hour 27 minutes.

For the second consecutive time Serena was playing a night match and the New York crowd once again created a wonderful atmosphere inside the Arthur Ashe Stadium.

Serena had opportunities to win the first set very easily but she admitted that she didn't take some opportunities to clinch it sooner. It wasn't something that really appeared to concern her as she knew she would continue to have that crowd firmly in her corner which would keep her spirits high.

"It's been great, the support is amazing," said Serena. "Seems like I always forget how loud they are, how fun the crowd is. It's just a different feeling and I really love it."

Serena felt that maybe she played a bit better in the first round but she will certainly lift her level whenever she needs to. The true mark of a champion is knowing what to do when things are not always going the way they should. Physically she fine and she is feeling good, certainly not tired and she's fit.

"In this match it should have been a different score line but that was only because I missed the wrong shots at the wrong time and sure I haven't played my best in the first two round but I have gotten through them. I just want to play a little better each round, as each match goes on," said Serena.

The exciting thing is that there is the room for improvement and she knows what has to be done. Serena has been working on her return of serve and usually that is an unbelievable shot for her as she rifles groundstrokes back across the net, often putting her opposition on the back foot.

It's often said it's not how you start a tournament but how you finish it. It's no point her playing her best tennis at the beginning when there are two weeks to go and a total of seven matches to be played. The time to start peaking is from mid-way through the second week after all you can't win a Grand Slam tournament like the US Open in the first week so it's a matter of building up.

In the next round Serena will face the Russian Vera Zvonareva who is seeded 27. She defeated her countrywoman Elena Likhovtseva 64 62. Serena and Zvonareva have faced each other on court four times and the head to head is 3-1 in Serena's favour; the only loss was the last time they played which was twelve months ago.