

Serena's Focus Now Shifts To Grass Courts  
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By Craig Gabriel

PARIS: Serena Williams was fighting to the very end. This is what everyone comes to expect from this great champion. More often than not the chips fall on her side but just sometimes things don't go to plan and unfortunately in the third round of the French Open it was one of those rare occasions.

Serena kept on pressing against Katarina Srebotnik of Slovenia. She wasn't going to let her opponent take this match without knowing she had been in a battle. Constantly she put the pressure on Srebotnik but she was able to overcome the attacks that Serena made. The match went one hour 30 minutes which saw Serena save two match points before hitting a cross court forehand wide. The score was 6-4, 6-4.

Serena knew this was going to be a tough match. Srebotnik has been around the tour for a while so is not inexperienced but they also played on another in Charleston in April and Serena came back from asset down to win. On that occasion, like this one, Srebotnik played an aggressive game.

"I felt like I was able to get into it, but I just felt like I missed a lot of easy shots and a lot of key points that I felt like could have turned the match around," said Serena. "I wasn't able to capitalize on a lot of that.

"I wasn't nervous. She was getting a lot of balls back, and I might have let that get into my head. I should have just made my shot. She was just making some shots I don't think she's ever made before, or she probably would be in the top 2.

"I knew it was going to be a tough match, but what can I say? She just played unbelievable today."

The champion she is, Serena made no excuses. In Rome a few weeks ago she had to withdraw because of a back injury and while she has continued to receive treatment on it, she made it very clear that it had nothing to do with this result. She said when she woke up she felt fine and had a good practice session and thought every thing was going to go fine, unfortunately that was not the case.

Her attention will now turn to the grass courts of England and one of her favourite tournaments, Wimbledon.