

Serena to Take On Big Sister In Wimbledon
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By Craig Gabriel

WIMBLEDON: Serena Williams is in the Wimbledon final for the fourth time and as you would expect she is just over the moon. This is the first time that Serena has made the final of this glorious tournament since 2004 and adding to her joy is the fact that sister Venus will be on the other side of the net.

After five years, Wimbledon will be watching sister act 3. Serena and Venus have so dominated The Championships that only twice this century has a name other than WILLIAMS been inscribed on the trophy.

"I'm definitely surprised it's been five years," said Serena. "It's definitely been a while. Unfortunately our ranking fell. We've been on the same side of the draw a few times. You know, I unfortunately lost a lot. But it's good. I mean, this is a new start for us.

"I was especially excited today. I don't know why. I guess usually I am excited to get to the Grand Slam final. But today I was really excited because I feel like it's just coming together now. Like my game is doing better, as well. Like I was serving better and moving better.

"You know, so, I was just... it's always exciting. I think anyone can say that to be in a Grand Slam final is great. I mean, everyone wants to take it to the next level."

It was almost a case of four seasons in one day on ladies semifinal day. If there had been some snow over the All England Lawn Tennis Club the four seasons would have been completed. Twice rain interrupted play while Serena was facing Zheng Jie on the Centre Court and the 24 year old Chinese player put up a spirited attack especially in the second set.

Serena started so well by breaking serve and raced to a 5-2 lead but that's when the first rain interruption happened. On returning Serena closed out the set but in the second set Zheng went up 4-2. The advantage was short lived as Serena rallied. A second interruption saw the ladies scurrying from the court as the rain fell like a shower that had been turned on full.

Serena kept things in check but still Zheng wasn't giving up. She had a set point in the second but Serena's experience managed to save it. The Chinese player said Serena's serve was overwhelming her and she was finding it difficult to penetrate with many of her returns.

They went to a tiebreak and with Zheng serving at 5-6, she double faulted and victory was Serena's 6-2, 7-6 in one hour 25 minutes. Earlier Venus defeated Elena Dementieva 6-1, 7-6 in one hour 42 minutes and the match ended when Dementieva sent a forehand into the net.

So now it's time to focus on the final and for the seventh time overall Serena and Venus will meet in a Grand Slam final. Serena had joked that on Saturday morning at breakfast before the championship match, she intends to take all of Venus's weeties.

There is a very special relationship between the sisters. Serena has often said that Venus looked out for her and took her under her wing. There is a wonderful bond between them and in shows. They are almost inseparable but that's not to say both want to win badly.

"Actually, I think we've gotten closer in the past few years," said Serena. "We talk about a lot. We talk about everything more so I think now than we've done in the past. It's just gotten easier for me personally because I just realize that I want to win. Again, this is Wimbledon. If it was the US Open, it would be the US Open. This is a Grand Slam. This is history. We both are trying to make our mark."

Going into the final Serena leads their overall head-to-head series 8-7. They have

played at Wimbledon three times and its 2-1 to Serena as well. Their most recent match was in Bangalore, India, earlier this year and Serena won a nail biter that ended 7-6 in the third.

The final promises to provide tennis fans the world over with an enthralling encounter.

“I had a very classic Grand Slam final against her at the Australian Open. It was three extremely tough sets. It was a long match. It wasn't very easy. And I think also at the US Open it was fast, but it was very high quality tennis. So I look forward to it,” said Serena.