



WTA 500

Friday, April 3, 2026

Iva Jovic def. Anna Kalinskaya

6-3, 6-4

Quarterfinal Round

An Interview With Iva Jovic

THE MODERATOR: Iva, congratulations. You're through to the semis. Just your thoughts on the match.

IVA JOVIC: I thought it was a good match. Some twists and turns in both sets, but I think when it mattered most, I hunkered down and played good level. So happy to be through.

Q. I know you got asked about it on TC, but just talk about the challenge of facing Jesse. As you've said, she's somebody you've looked up to, but what kind of challenge is she?

IVA JOVIC: I think she's obviously one of the best players in the world right now and consistently for the past years. She's very solid, doesn't give away a lot, places her serve very well. So you really have to beat her. She's not going to have one of those days where, oh, maybe I'm not playing so well.

And she's showed this week that even if she goes down or if you're having a hot start, she's going to come back and she's going to make you really work for it, and no one has been able to shut the door on her yet.

So it's not enough to kind of get up, get ahead and she's going to go away. You really have to go out there and beat her. So it will be tough.

Q. Your decision to go out and practice afterward, I know you do that. Can you talk about that, like where you get the energy still after a match to go out and hit the practice court right away?

IVA JOVIC: Honestly, it's just habit at this point. I've been doing it throughout the juniors, with my coach, same coach throughout my entire career. It's just what we do.

Unless I play a three-and-a-half hour match, we always go out and practice, and anything I could have done better that day and something that I'm going to specifically need for the next round. Just sharpen it up.

Q. Iva, congratulations.

IVA JOVIC: Thank you.

Q. It's your debut here, and you've made it all the way to the semifinals, and I wondered if you can talk about anything you've learned this week.

IVA JOVIC: I think I learned a lot about just mental strength. I mean, obviously I've been winning every match in straight sets, but it hasn't necessarily been the cleanest tennis all throughout. But I think I've done a really good job of just riding the wave and being okay being uncomfortable sometimes.

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WTA 500

Some of these girls can play really big and play some great shots, and I've played a lot of big hitters this week, and I've just been okay with the ups and downs and being uncomfortable, and I've embraced that a bit.

Q. Well done today. So last year Charleston was the first clay court tournament to use electronic line calling system, and now it's been a full year with multiple clay court tournaments using it, and I've noticed throughout the weekend that players often will inspect some of the marks, not just with you, but any other players playing this week. I'm curious how much do you trust it specifically on a clay court where it's a little bit more noticeable where the mark is compared to a harder surface?

IVA JOVIC: I mean, you have to trust the machines, right? You can't complain about the technology. But coming from the ITFs, I'm still so used to just going and showing the mark. So I find myself a lot of times like calling my own line calls, and my coach gets so mad at me if I let a ball go and then, oh, out, and then it drops in. I'm like, oh, my God.

And, yeah, sometimes you look at the mark and you're like, all right, if a ref looked at it, they would call that out, but then the electronic says it's in. But it's the same for everyone, right? So gotta deal with it.

Q. And I guess relating back to Jesse, I know you played in Dubai a month ago. How much value do you put into just learning from that match given now that it's a new surface, it's a new climate and things like that?

IVA JOVIC: Yeah, I think it was a good learning experience in Dubai. I think she obviously played very well and ended up winning the tournament there. And I think I could have played better in some moments in that match.

And I think it'll favor me a little bit more to be on the clay against. She's one on the strongest hard court players in the world, so I think this will be a little better for my tactically, and I'll just try to make those improvements and adjustments from the match in Dubai.

Q. Similar to what Diane was asking you, but off the court, what's your experience been like? I think you've probably been told a lot about Charleston before coming here. So has it surprised you in any way, and what's it like being out there, especially at a women's only tournament and kind of having the center court, like you're the sort of rock star vibes out there?

IVA JOVIC: Yeah, it's amazing. I love that it's an all women's tournament. I love everything that this tournament is doing for women's sports, being just women, equal prize money, so many people showing up throughout the entire week, not just that it's quarterfinals today, first round, qualis, through to the finals, so many people have been watching.

So it's a great look for women's tennis, and I hope more tournaments can step up the way that Charleston has, and I think the people are really nice, the southern charm.

The restaurants are phenomenal here. I went to Halls Chophouse the other night. It was really good. And I have to go to Sorelle's -- I think that's what it's called. I hear that's really nice.

So the food is amazing. The people are nice. Can't ask for much more.

Q. Obviously we are biased in tennis. We think we do the women's sports really well. But are you a fan of any other women's sports? Do you follow any other sports, and if so, talk about your interests in that.

IVA JOVIC: Yeah. I follow figure skating quite a bit. I loved watching Alysia Liu at the Olympics. That was really inspiring. I love Eileen Gu as well.

And I like to watch gymnastics a lot. All the tumbling, I think, is really cool.

So, yeah, I'm a fan of a lot of women's sports, and I think women should definitely support other women who are doing things like that.

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WTA 500

Q. Have you met Alysa yet?

IVA JOVIC: No, I haven't. That would be a really cool thing to do.

Q. Let's make that happen.

IVA JOVIC: Hopefully she sees this some way, somehow.

End of Interview

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