



# WTA 500

**Friday, April 3, 2026**

Madison Keys def. Belinda Bencic  
4-6, 6-3, 6-2  
Quarterfinal Round

### **An Interview With Madison Keys**

**THE MODERATOR:** Madi, congratulations. Your thoughts on your win today.

**MADISON KEYS:** Pretty happy. I feel like I kind of had some opportunities in the first set, but I'm really happy that I didn't get too down on myself and was able to kind of recover quickly, and overall I think I played pretty solid second and third set.

**THE MODERATOR:** Questions.

Q. So Jesse is your new motivator now?

**MADISON KEYS:** Yeah. Just today, though.

Q. Just today. McCartney you only played once, and Yulia I don't think you've ever played, but can you talk about how you're going to prepare for either of those players?

**MADISON KEYS:** Yeah. I've practiced with McCartney quite a few times and played her in Brisbane earlier this year. Obviously a different surface, so things are a little bit different. But she's such a competitor, and I think that's honestly one of her best qualities. You just know that she's never going to give up until the match is completely over. So I always think that she's so impressive in that way.

And Yulia, I've never played her. I've only watched a little bit here and there, so definitely going to be tuning into the match tonight.

Q. You were able to make significant inroads on the return, both her first and second serve points. How would you assess your return game and its impact on the result?

**MADISON KEYS:** I think it was really important today. I think that, even with the score line being the way that it was, I even had a few more break point chances that I kind of set myself up for. And I think even though you don't always convert those points, I think they just add even more pressure. And I think it kind of also gives you a little bit of confidence going into your own serve just knowing that you're always in her service games as well.

Q. Madi, well done today. So I've noticed it's not just with you, but other players throughout the tournament in the fact that, since it's a clay court, you can really see the ball mark whether it's a close ball in or out. I'm curious, do you trust the electronic line system, specifically on clay, because I've noticed a lot of players will closely double check the marks compared to like a hard court surface.

**MADISON KEYS:** I don't really trust ELC right now. We're kind of fighting. I've actually even noticed a little bit on the hard court sometimes, the ball mark and what shows up on the screen don't always seem to align. And I think obviously clay court that's even more apparent.

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I think that's just kind of the reality of ELC is it's not going to be 100 percent perfect, but we have no one to yell at because you can't scream that the machine is wrong. (Laughs).

But I still think -- I mean I think it's more accurate than eyes and all that. So I think it's still the better choice, but no, I don't always trust it.

Q. Madi, I wanted to ask how you approach coaching on court. In frustrating moments when you're on court like in this match and you're sort of talking to yourself or at your box, are you expecting -- like how do you treat it? Are you expecting anything back in terms of strategy or is it mostly just for you to sort of like work it out yourself by talking it out?

**MADISON KEYS:** I think it's a little bit of both, honestly. I think it depends on the moment. Now that you can actually kind of converse, I think sometimes it's helpful so that your coach can kind of hear what you're feeling and what you're seeing, because I think even when they're on the court, they're not quite reading everything that you're reading the way that you are on the opposite side of the net.

So you can kind of have a little bit of a back and forth and kind of come to an agreement there, or you can give them a little piece of information that you think you see, and then maybe they can look for it and help you kind of figure that out.

And then I think other times it's -- I think sometimes we get kind of lost in our own heads, and maybe we're not seeing something super obvious, and they can just kind of give you something to focus on.

And then I think then there's also moments where maybe you're trying to do too much, and I think coaches sometimes are good about just giving you one thing to really kind of focus and hone in on, and that kind of quiets your mind.

Q. I was curious how you would assess how your relationship with clay courts have evolved over the years because obviously you've had some really great results on clay, but I would imagine you probably still prefer hard and grass and how that mentality takes you into the season each year.

**MADISON KEYS:** I have grown to not dislike clay. I think when I first started, it kind of always felt like it was slower. I think at the start of my career I kind of would try to change who I was as a tennis player. And I felt like I lost my own tennis identity throughout the clay swing, and then you get back on grass and you just kind of feel like everything is front-foot tennis.

So I think over the years I've stopped trying to make these drastic changes to how I play tennis. It's just the smaller tweaks and how can you actually use the court to help your game.

And, honestly, I think I almost like clay better than grass. Right? Crazy, I know!

End of Interview

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