

**Seamaster 2018 ITTF World Tour Platinum
Japan Open
6-10 June 2018**

Flash Quotes

**Day 3
10 June 2018**

WANG Manyu (CHN) after defeating LIU Shiwen (CHN) 4-2 in the WS ½:

"I think becoming world number 1 is a recognition to my hard work in the last year. However I will still play as though I'm a young inexperienced player and i will keep fighting.

Of course, I hope my teammate will make the finals."

Mima ITO (JPN) after defeating CHEN Xingtong (CHN) 4-3 in the WS ½:

"When I was 0-3 down, I just emptied my thoughts and focused on playing to come back from 0-3 down. I would like to thank all the fans who came today, their support has given me a lot of motivation and power, and i will do my best to enjoy my match against Wang Manyu tonight."

Timo BOLL (GER) after the walkover against ZHANG Jike (CHN) in the MS ½:

"I'm very sorry that I had to give up the match. I had yesterday my game against Kenta Matsudaira 1 stitch in my neck and i already had a bad injury that during the Olympics. It is a very dangerous injury so i have to take care and hopefully its not too bad. Anyways, I'm sorry to the spectators. i would love to play Zhang Jike after such a long period but unfortunately its not possible. Sorry and I hope to be back as soon as possible."

Tomokazu HARIMOTO (JPN) after defeating LEE Sangsu (KOR) 4-2 in the MS ½:

"I never thought about making it this far, so i am extremely happy now. Last time we played I beat him 4-0 at the China Open, but I will play him as though I am playing him for the first time."

JEOUNG Youngsik/LEE Sangsu (KOR) after defeating LIANG Jingkun/ZHOU Kai (CHN) 3-1 to become Men's Doubles Champion:

LEE: "Today's match was really difficult, so we are very happy to win."

JEOUNG: "Of course I am also very happy to win, and Lee Sangsu played really well today, both his singles and doubles matches."

Mima ITO (JPN) after defeating WANG Manyu (CHN) 4-2 to become Women's Singles Champion:

"I am very happy to be the Women's Singles Champion in my home country in front of such an amazing crowd. Wang Manyu is definitely not an easy opponent and the crowd's support here really helped. In particular when I was falling behind, they helped me to rebuild my focus and confidence."

Tomokazu HARIMOTO (JPN) after defeating ZHANG Jike (CHN) 4-3 to become Men's Singles Champion:

"Beating two Olympic champions in two days is unbelievable, and to do it in front of so many screaming fans. Two years ago, I had my big breakthrough winning the under-21 event, I am so happy that my next big breakthrough is also in Japan, thank you to all my fans that have supported me on this journey. I will now get back to training to ensure that I keep on developing as a player and keep on winning major titles like this to make my country proud."

**Day 2
9 June 2018**

Tomokazu HARIMOTO (JPN) after defeating MA Long (CHN) 4-2 in the MS 1/4:

"This is a dream come true, MA Long is my idol, so beating him here in my home country is amazing. After leading 3-0 and then MA Long coming back, I had to relax myself and just play one point at a time as I got very nervous. I am so relieved that I could finish out the match. This is a new stepping stone for me to achieve my goal of becoming Olympic champion at Tokyo 2020."

MA Long (CHN) after losing to Tomokazu HARIMOTO (JPN) 2-4 in the MS ¼:

“In these 3 years through his hard work he has improved a lot and has developed a lot while playing all the world's top players. I didn't play very ideally today, making a lot of unnecessary mistakes and allowing my opponent to maintain the lead.”

LIANG Jingkun after partnering with CHEN Xingtong to defeat YOSHIMURA Maharu/ISHIKAWA Kasumi to become the mixed doubles champion:

“CHEN Xingtong is a very good doubles player and assisted me a lot. This was the first time we have played together, and it was a lot of fun. I am very happy to win this title here in Japan against very strong opponents.”

CHEN Xingtong: “It was different playing with Jingkin instead of Gaoyuan, but both are amazing players and good to play with. It is great that I was able to win my second World Tour title in two weeks, I am very proud!”

Timo BOLL (GER) after beating Kenta MASUDAIRA (JPN) 4-1 in the MS ¼:

“The first set I had a bad feeling for his serve and I was under of the spin, so I struggled a bit. After that I could read it better and the game changed a little bit and I was able to get on top. I started to get some pain in my neck which is a bit worrying, but hopefully be ok tomorrow.”

MU Zi (CHN) after beating Hina HAYATA (JPN) 4-2 in the R16:

“I didn't really change my tactics when I was 1-2 down. At the beginning when I started I could not catch the rhythm, so I had to get myself to stay focused and get used to her playing style as this is the 1st time we have played.

Before our match I did try to understand her playing style, but didn't go into too much details as the main point is to be able to adapt appropriately to the actual match situation.”

ZHANG Jike after beating LIANG Jingkun 4-3 in the MS R16:

“I am quite tired after playing 3 event in a row. Regardless of the results, the most important thing for me is there is something I can learn from, and that is the value. I am playing the matches one at a time, and as long as there's a match there's something i can learn, to get used to the competition atmosphere and do my best.

I haven't had such a strong competition in a long time. I was a bit passive at the beginning, but after getting used to it there were much better rallies, and I was more mentally stable.”

LEE Sangsu (KOR) after beating LIAO Cheng-Ting (TPE) 4-3 in the MS R16:

“At the start of the match I tried to be aggressive but it was not working for me, I felt like I did not have any feeling. After that I decided to just play safe and get the ball on the table. I didn't play well today, so I am glad that I could win. I play many matches today, so now I will go and rest, eat and then train a little to get my feeling back.”

Day 1

8 June 2018

CHUANG Chih-Yuan (TPE) after defeating Simon GAUZY (FRA) 4-2 in the MS R16:

“Simon is higher than me and his performance is always high level and I have not played well this year. Personally and mentally it is hard for me as I have a lack of confidence. Today I tried to concentrate on every ball. I had some good rallies which gave me Confidence and I had a clear head which helped me a lot. I am Glad that I have started to win again.”

YOSHIMURA Maharu/ISHIKAWA Kasumi (JPN) after defeating JANG Woojin/JEON Jihee (KOR) 3-1 in XD QF:

YOSHIMURA/ISHIKAWA:

“This is the first time playing in japan after winning the world tournament so it's a very nice feeling.”

“We have kept on playing and practicing together so we are still playing well together. We hope to have a good finish in this event.”

SZOCS Bernadette (ROU) after defeating DOO Hoi Kem (HKG) 4-2 in WS R32

SZOCS Bernadette:

“The first 2 games I wanted to finish the ball too quickly, which was a mistake. She is also a very strong player. I knew if I am not on top of the table and attack then no chance. Had to play harder and harder. Tactic was very important as not easy to win without. After I started to get into the game, I had nothing to lose. If I lost I would learn from it, but I won so now I get ready for the next match.”

BOLL Timo (GER) after defeating TANAKA Yuta (JPN) 4-0 in MS R32

BOLL Timo:

“I did not play well at all in this match, I am surprised I won 4-0. My concentration and moving was very bad. In the head I was not feeling so positive, so I am surprised that I was able to win the close games. It has been a busy few months, so I need to have a rest. Now I will try and clear my head and get ready for my next match against Mathias Karlsson..”

Qualification Day 2

7 June 2018

JEOUNG Youngsik (KOR) after defeating YU Ziyang (CHN) 4-3 in WS Preliminary Rd. 3

JEOUNG Youngsik:

"I was up 2-0 and was having no problem, then changed his service. then he changed his service which made it tough for me. I was so nervous in the last game. My head exploded when I was able to win the match I am so happy this is amazing. I will now fight in the main draw."

EERLAND Britt (NED) after defeating LEE Zion (KOR) 4-3 in WS Preliminary Rd. 3

EERLAND Britt

"I saw her play before, and I saw that she has this big forehand. A similar style than mine with lots of spin to spin shots, but in the match it was actually much faster than I expected. When she was 2-0 up, she tried to delay the game a bit, so I was a bit angry. This angriness made me move faster. It then gave me more confidence to change my game a bit more. She had problems with this, couldn't play her forehand anymore. In the end I just told myself "you have to play your game, I don't know how, but you have to put the ball on the table".

SZOCS Bernadette (ROU) after defeating OJIO Haruna (JPN) 4-2 in WS Preliminary Rd. 3

SZOCS Bernadette:

"She is a really good player and will have a good future. I put 1 million balls on the table but she always got them back. I knew I had to concentrate as it would be difficult. She played better than expected."

"She played like she had nothing to lose. I normally like to play defenders but she was very strong so it was tough. If she is playing this event it means she has a good level in Japan. I am proud as I didn't play my best and I could still win. She just got everything back, she is amazing."

ZHANG Jike (CHN) after defeating LIN Jun-Yu (TPE) 4-1 in MS Preliminary Rd. 3

ZHANG Jike:

"Our rallies were not very long, but I think I controlled it quite well. I've heard many things of my opponent, that despite being a young 17 year old, he has defeated other Chinese players in the

past. So I definitely prepared well against his more threatening qualities, such as his backhand and service.”

SOO Wai Yam Minnie (HKG) after defeating LIU Yu-Hsin (TPE) 4-1 in WS Preliminary Rd 2.

SOO Wai Yam Minnie:

“I did well overall because my condition was not very good, I feel very tired as after the World Championships I have had no rest, and played another 3 events in a row. For this reason I am satisfied with my performance and I am now looking forward to the next match so I can make the main draw.”

BALAZOVA Barbora (SVK) after defeating AN Soyeon (KOR) 4-3 in WS Preliminary Rd. 2

BALAZOVA Barbora:

“I didn’t play so well. I was nervous and could not find my rhythm during the match. When I was losing I told myself I should relax and just focus on my balls and not worry about winning or losing. It worked out and I managed to keep my focus. At the end I felt she was more nervous than me, so I was confident that I was going to win the match.”

GU Yuting (CHN) after defeating FENG Yalan (CHN) 4-2 in WS Preliminary Rd. 2

GU Yuting:

“I was playing very conservatively at the beginning which was why I was lagging behind. When I was 1-2 down, I told myself not to rush and to slow down, and to play more openly. It’s definitely more tough playing against a teammate, as we know each other better and she is stronger than many other players.”

Qualification Day 1

6 June 2018

EKHOLM Matilda (SWE) after defeating HUANG Yu-Wen (TPE) 4-0 in WS Preliminary Rd. 2

EKHOLM Matilda:

"I have only seen her on video and I know she has good touch but she did not like my game as she could not read my spin so she got stressed. This was the key to me winning so easily."

"In the next round I play Mu Zi. I have played her twice and they were tight matches, which I had my chances in."

"I had a 2 weeks vacation since the World Championship, and this is my first international tournament back. I still feel in good shape so hoping for another strong tournament here."

MATSUSHIMA Sora (JPN) after losing to HO Kwan Kit (HKG) 4-0 in MS Preliminary Rd. 2

MATSUSHIMA Sora:

"I was nervous playing and did not play my best. I missed a lot of chances to win some games. I will be better from this experience. My goal is to become the Olympic Champion one day. My favorite player is Ma Long, I love watching him play."

CHEN Chien-An (TPE) after defeating TOGAMI Shunsuke (JPN) 4-1 in MS Preliminary Rd. 2

Chen Chien-An (TPE)

"I am feeling so so and a little bit slow. This is tough as it is my third tournament in a row which means I have not had time for any training and to freshen up. Is it hard, but I will freshen up for my next match."

ZHANG Jike (CHN) after defeating MATSUBARA Yutaka (CHI) 4-0 in MS Preliminary Rd. 2

ZHANG Jike:

"It has only been three weeks since coming back to international competition. After a 7-8 months break, this is a really short time and I do need more practise and competitions to get back to the level I was before. Competition is the best way forward, and I believe I can only find the feeling again after each and every match played."