



Halep - Pennetta 6-3, 7-5, si Simona merge în sferturile turneului de la Miami., unde o va intilni pe americanca Sloane Stephens (22 de ani , locul 45 WTA).

Succes Simona !

Flavia Pennetta had beaten Simona Halep in all three of their previous meetings, but Halep finally got the better of the Italian this time. A WTA Rising Star is up next.

[Simona Halep](#) regrouped from a hefty second set deficit to close [Flavia Pennetta](#) out in straight sets and snap up the eighth and final berth in the quarterfinals of the [Miami Open](#)

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Halep had lost all three of her previous meetings with Pennetta, and the last two weren't even that long ago - they came in the summer of 2013, when Halep was making her initial push towards the top.

But the No.3-seeded Halep was just too tough on the big points this time, getting the lone break of the first set to get a one set lead and then pulling off an inspired comeback - she won 10 points in a row at one point - to come back from 5-2 down in the second set and close the match out, 6-3, 7-5.

"It was a very tough match. She's a great player," Halep said. "In the second set I was down 5-2, and I was playing badly, so I knew I just had to cool down and start playing more aggressively and hit the ball deeper. I did that when I went back on court. I tried everything and finally I was able to win."

Halep was asked how she managed to put her history against the Italian behind her for this one.

"I remember one match against her at the [US Open](#) , when she beat me in the fourth round," Halep said. "It was a tough match there. I was very disappointed when I lost that match. She hits very strong, and it's difficult for me to play her. But there I was more behind the court; now I'm more aggressive.

"I have more confidence now. I believe much more in my chances now."

Halep's win over Pennetta was her 23rd WTA-level match win of the year, which ties her for most on the tour with WTA Rising Star [Karolina Pliskova](#) , who [also made it through to the quarterfinals here](#) .

Awaiting Halep in her quarterfinal match is another WTA Rising Star, [Sloane Stephens](#) , who outdid [Belinda Bencic](#) earlier in the day, rallying from 5-3 down in the second set to prevail, 6-4, 7-6(5).

"I thought both of us played really well off the ground," Stephens commented. "She's a really great player, so it was going to be tough for me, but I thought overall we both played a really great match.

"The second set was a little bumpy back and forth, but I was able to find my way back."

[Halep and Stephens are tied in their head-to-head series, 2-2](#) .

** WTA