

Angelique Kerber Crowned The 2016 Australian Open Champion.

Angelique Kerber rises to the occasion in her first ever Grand Slam final. In a thrilling match against the defending champion, Kerber comes out on top in three spectacular sets.

Herzogenaurach, Germany – It was her first Grand Slam final, but one was all it took for Angelique Kerber to claim her maiden Grand Slam title. In a nerve-racking encounter with the world's no.1, Kerber kept her cool and won the 2016 Australian Open 6-4 3-6 6-4 at the expense of the defending champion.

The title wasn't handed to Kerber on a silver platter. In the first round, she faced match point against Doi, but fought back hard to turn the score around in her favour. Further down the draw, she faced two-time Australian Open champion Azarenka, whom she took down in straight sets. After beating Konta in the semis, the championship was tantalizingly close.

Before stepping into the jam-packed Rod Laver Arena on Saturday, the 28-year-old German joked it was her national duty to defend Steffi Graf's career Grand Slam record. A record her opponent was one title away from breaking. But the no.7 seeded Kerber was far from joking around on court. From the very first serve, Kerber unleashed her full arsenal of shots, preventing her opponent from ever really getting into her game.

With only three unforced errors, Kerber needed just under forty minutes to take the first set. Her opponent managed to even the score in the second set, but in the third and deciding set, it was the German who pushed through towards victory in a spectacular display of world-class tennis. At 5-4 up and her opponent to serve, Kerber cashed in her first match point as she watched a volley from her opponent go wide.

An over-the-moon Kerber commented after the match: "My whole life I've been working really hard and now I can say I'm a Grand Slam champion. These two weeks have been the best two weeks of my career. I had goose bumps when I was playing."

Andrea Swick, Head of Tennis for adidas Global Sports Marketing comments: "We set out to create noise in Melbourne with our team and that's exactly what we did. We are absolutely thrilled for Angelique and happy to see her win in Melbourne. We have been working together with Angelique for many years and we are proud to have accompanied her during her journey to win her first Grand Slam."

The day after her victory, the newly-crowned 2016 Australian Open champion took a dive in the Yarra River, making good on a promise she made should she take home the title. A small price to pay for your first Grand Slam trophy.

By winning in Melbourne, Kerber is now the world's no.2.

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