



Kim Clijsters holds a baby echidna outside players' lounge

AP



Vera Zvonareva celebrates after beating Petra Kvitová on Wednesday

AP

Clijsters takes on Zvonareva as Wozniacki faces Li Na in semis

booming cannon fire had Kim Clijsters and Vera Zvonareva a little rattled during their quarterfinals. Come the Australian Open semifinals, they'll have other distractions to contend with.

Clijsters and Zvonareva meet in a rematch of the last US Open final on Thursday, after No 1-ranked Caroline Wozniacki and Li Na have played in their semifinal.

"We have No. 1 (and) 2 still in, and Li Na has been playing really well," Clijsters said after beating Poland's Agnieszka Radwanska 6-3, 7-6 (4) in a quarterfinal on Wednesday that had military jets flying overhead for the Australia Day holiday. "It's a great two semifinals and it will be tough."

Clijsters has beaten Zvonareva in six of the nine matches they have played, but only once in their past four meetings, including the US Open final last year.

Zvonareva, 26, defeated the Czech Republic's Petra Kvitová 6-2, 6-4 despite in their quarterfinal on Wednesday distractions from cannons booming as part of nearby Australia Day celebrations, and the collapse of a spectator in the stands. "I really don't think (about) what is going on around the tournament, what newspapers say, what people say," she said.

Li is on a 10-match winning streak that has included beating Clijsters in the final of the Sydney warmup event

earlier this month, and is chasing the first Grand Slam finals berth for a Chinese player.