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Sharapova Advances at Madrid Open Semifinals

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Maria Sharapova of Russia celebrates winning a point against Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark at the end of their match at the Madrid Open tennis tournament in Madrid, Spain, May 7.

Defending champion Maria Sharapova advanced to the semifinals at the Madrid Open by defeating Caroline Wozniacki 6-1, 3-6, 6-3 on Thursday.

"She's improved her consistency tremendously," Sharapova said. "She got in really good shape at the end of last year and I think that helped her. She was able to turn many defense situations into offense."

The third-seeded Russian, who is chasing an 11th WTA title on clay, will next play either Svetlana Kuznetsova of Russia or Lucie Safarova of the Czech Republic.

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