



NCAA DIVISION I MEN'S & WOMEN'S INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

PLAYER QUOTES – WEDNESDAY, MAY 26

[3] Emma Navarro, Virginia (d. Paris Corley, LSU, 6-2, 6-1)

“Yeah, it feels really good. I was I was happy with today's performance. Like I said yesterday, my first two rounds weren't my best, kind of getting out the kinks and nerves, but definitely played better these past two rounds. But I'm super excited for tomorrow.

“I've been working a lot on my forehand this past season and really developing it and using a lot of variety on it. I hit my backhand pretty flat so the contrast that with the heavy forehand, that's kind of been my game plan these last few days. And I think that's worked pretty well. And just like just fighting, sticking in points, being tough, mental toughness, definitely a big factor out here.”

Janice Tjen, Oregon (d. [6] Anna Rogers, NC State, 6-2, 6-3)

“It is very special for me because when I first came here, I was just focusing on each match, just thinking it's going to be a good experience for me. So I'm just going to enjoy it like and do my best.”

[6] Sam Riffice, Florida (d. [4] Valentin Vacherot, Texas A&M, 6-3, 6-0)

“It's amazing. I love playing here. I love what the USTA does with the NCAAs, they're so hospitable. And I have all my family here, all my friends. So I couldn't think of a better place to play in the NCAAs for me.”

“I think over the course of the week I've improved my serve and my returns. So I've started off the games a lot better at those two fronts. And then I'm able to execute a little more, play my game and move forward.”

[1] Sara Daavettila, North Carolina (d. Christina Rosca, Vanderbilt, 6-2, 6-4)

“I think just like zoning in when I get focused and I'm playing my game that's when I'm at my best, that's when I'm at my most confident. So I think just when I'm when I'm really focused and I'm playing the way I'm supposed to play and it's been it's been working for me so far.

“I just feel so loved. I mean, my teammates, one of them came back. They went back to Chapel Hill after the team event and they came back here to watch me. So I'm so lucky. And it just goes to show like the team culture at North Carolina and how supportive everyone is. And I couldn't be more grateful to have them all here.

[2] Daniel Rodrigues, South Carolina (d. Aleksandar Kovacevic, Illinois, 6-1, 6-3)

"I played aggressive today, more aggressive than I played any other match because I knew I had to. [Kovacevic] is very strong, he hits the ball very flat and is very dangerous coming to the net. So, I knew that I had to be very aggressive and push him back, because, if not I would be down in the point every single time. I know that the guy who is the toughest is going to win, and I'm just trying to be the toughest guy on the court since day one."

Adrian Boitan, Baylor (d. William Blumberg, North Carolina, 6-4, 6-1)

"The first round was the toughest match, to be honest, because we finished the match like 1, 2 a.m., I don't even know. We went to bed like 4 a.m. I was so tired and the next day I had a match. That was pretty hard but I got through it and now I'm just trying to play every point and give myself an opportunity."

[1] Liam Draxl, Kentucky (d. [8] Gabriel Decamps, UCF, 7-6(6), 6-1)

"I'm pumped to be through to the Final Four. I've been having so much fun this week playing these great matches against great opponents. I've been really enjoying myself, so I'm just soaking it all in and fighting as hard as I can every match."

[2] Estela Perez-Somarriba, Miami (FL), (d. [7] Abigail Forbes, UCLA, 6-7(5), 7-5, 6-3)

"I think that, obviously, losing the first set was a tough one and my head wasn't in the right spot during the beginning of the second set. I was making a lot of mistakes. I think that they were the right kind of mistakes, even though the movement could be better and the acceleration could be better. I was trying to dictate. I think that, at 5-0, I decided to commit more to my shots and those mistakes that I was making before, they were going in. So, I think I was just trusting myself a lot, [as well as] my fitness. I was just telling myself that I had enough to win this match, all the time, and it paid off. And Paige was telling me that she wanted to see me one more changeover, over [and over] again. That gave me strength. [Forbes] made changes throughout the match; I made changes, as well. I just think that it came down to fitness and toughness, honestly."

"If you would have told me when I was a freshman that I was going to be in this spot three times in my career, I would sign for that. It's an honor. Great players have gone through college. I think that this basically shows that with the right work and with the right mindset, and if you remain coachable over the years and you work hard and you are always hungry and humble, good things happen. I think that staying in my lane has always helped me a lot, [as has] understanding that I'm playing for a bigger purpose here."