



NCAA DIVISION I MEN'S TENNIS THIRD ROUND – (8) TEXAS A&M DEF. MISSISSIPPI STATE, 4-0

Texas A&M Head Coach Steve Denton

On how important it was to have such a solid win...

"We had played them earlier in the year and we knew we had to throw that match out the window, that it was going to be a tough match here tonight. The conditions were pretty fast, I thought, and that helped us. We served well. We served well in the doubles and obviously got that doubles point. That was really crucial for us. We were able to put a couple points on the board there pretty quickly. Then of course we knew we were going to get a push from them, which could have gotten complicated. But really proud of my team, the way they worked tonight.

On roster changes heading into the quarterfinals...

"Well we've got about eight guys that can play. We've kind of rotated some guys around, so we'll just see. The conditions may be different, we may be playing at a different time. ... We've got some guys that have had a lot of matches this year. The SEC got to play a lot of tennis, and I think that's been our advantage, to get to compete against a bunch of good teams."

On the prospects of reaching the semifinals...

"I think everybody here is capable. Obviously we can't look ahead at all, but I'm really pleased with what we did tonight. We just have to build on that and try to stay here a little longer."

On the potential quarterfinal opponent...

"Both teams are really good teams; they're solid up and down the lineup, singles and doubles, so ultimately it'll come down to who wants it more and who can execute on the big points. We've played Florida a couple times this year, and they've gotten us. Maybe third time's a charm, who knows?"

Texas A&M Junior Noah Schachter

On clinching in his home state...

"I think it was cool to do it in front of my friends and family, but honestly I am the most happy to do it for the seniors. We know that this is their last ever run it was really special. I know, Val [Vacherot], Hady [Habib] and Carlos [Aguilar] all want it really bad, and we're really excited to go to Elite Eight."

On winning the second-set tiebreaker...

"I made it a point to focus on every point. I just tried to play really aggressive and have no regrets. It paid off, he is a really good player so I knew I had to play really aggressive to earn the point."

On his doubles match...

"We came out with a lot of energy in the beginning. Hady [Habib] played unbelievable, hitting big serves, and I was good at the net. We got an early break and kept rolling."

Mississippi State Head Coach Matt Roberts

On today's match and the season as a whole...

"I think there's two things to talk about. There's the tennis part of the season, and tonight, and then there's the family we built this year with this young team. I'll start with the tennis part: it was pretty fast tonight, I felt like. The conditions were quick. Texas A&M served really well, and we were struggling to hold serve in the doubles. They returned well. It just seemed fast. It was loud. They handled the moment really well and just came out firing on all three courts, so that put us in a little bit of a hole. Same in singles on the first two courts – served really well, it was very fast. But we didn't give up. If we can get that third set going there at No. 4, I have a lot of faith in my guy, being down 0-3. It's crazy to say, but we just don't give up. That's Mississippi State tennis. Hats off to A&M for playing some great tennis, some clutch tennis. I think they won probably twice as many deuce points as we did tonight, but I'm proud of my guys, proud of this team.

That's the second thing – you're trying to build a group of guys that want to travel together, want to train together and want to compete together. And if you have a group of guys that want to do all three of those things together and enjoy that, then you're winning right there. And we lost all four of those guys a couple years ago. We had to rebuild, quickly, and I wanted to find the right character, the right type of guy that would fit in with our team, and we found them. And my assistant coach Jake Jacoby's doing an amazing job of helping us recruit and finding that right type of guy that loves tennis and can love his teammates and not be selfish. And we have things moving in the right direction. We're hungry. We're ready to get back out on the clay this summer and grind some tournaments this summer and get ready for another year. Hopefully we're back here next year and hungry to do more. Really proud of these guys. Happy where we're at as a team and as a program. Big thanks to John Cohen and Mississippi State for helping us with the indoor facility and getting us what we need to do this. I'm proud to be a Bulldog. Hail State."