



NCAA DIVISION I MEN'S TENNIS THIRD ROUND – (4) TEXAS DEF. (13) SOUTH CAROLINA, 4-3

Texas Head Coach Bruce Berque

On the keys to victory today...

“The key to victory was I’d say the same key we’ve had all year, which is the resiliency and grit and no-quit. I know it’s a cliché, but we’ve been in this situation so many times. I think this is probably our seventh or eighth 4-3 match that came down to the wire, and we’ve lost one of them. So it’s been pretty incredible. These guys are confident when they get in that situation, with their backs against the wall, that they still have a chance. That was the absolute key. I still don’t know how we exactly did it down 3-0, but just for now I’m grateful. I’m proud of the guys that got it done.”

On the performance by Eliot Spizzirri at No. 1 singles...

“That was awesome, especially being down 3-0 in the third set. Eliot, this is his first NCAA Tournament, so he’s basically a freshman. Huge win for him, he played great tennis. He’s really getting better and better as the year goes on. He’s coming into his own and understanding a little bit better how he needs to play against some of these top guys.”

On what advancing means to the team...

“It’s huge. Just to get here to the Sweet 16 is not easy. There are a lot of fantastic teams that didn’t make it here, so we don’t take anything for granted. We had to fight and scrap to earn our way to the Round of 16, and to take it one step further is an absolute thrill. We’ve got a couple days to regroup and go for it again to see if we can take it one step further.”

On the next round matchup...

“I just heard USC won the match, I know they’re really good. They’re a great team. They’re coming into their own now and they’re getting a little more healthy; I know they had some injury problems earlier in the year. We expect an absolute battle. We played them earlier in the year at the National Indoors and won a 4-3 match, similar to this one, but we know it’s going to be every bit as tough if not tougher.”

Texas Sophomore Evin McDonald

On clinching the match...

It's amazing, it's exhilarating. It just makes me feel so happy, because we're just such a young team. I feel like everyone keeps counting us out. At this point I can say we're probably the 'clutchest' team, because we're 10-1 in 4-3 (matches) and we just gotta keep it going. We gotta use this as momentum and just go on to the next one.

On what goes through his head when he knows he's the last match...

"You just gotta put everything else aside, and you just gotta lock in and focus. Really, it's just whoever's more mentally tough in all aspects ends up winning that match."

On added pressure to defend the national title from 2019...

"I wouldn't say that much, just because our team's totally different, and we're super young. But I don't know. We're using everything for motivation, honestly. How young we are. What everyone's been saying about us, so we're just trying to keep it going."

South Carolina Head Coach Josh Goffi

On today's match...

"I'm extremely proud of our guys for what they brought today. We got into a winning position and, as a coach, that's all you can ask for. We're young, and these kind of reps are good. Texas had eight 4-3 wins this season, and it showed. They beat us in those tough moments; we didn't lose to them in them. That's what we want in our Gamecock brand, and we're going to learn from this and come back next year, continuing to build our program."