



**NCAA DIVISION I MEN'S TENNIS THIRD ROUND – (1) FLORIDA DEF.
(8) TEXAS A&M, 4-1**

Florida Head Coach Bryan Shelton

On what he told his team after dropping the doubles point...

"We said before the match, 'This is a point they have to win, this is a point we'd like to win. Let's go get it. Play freely and go after it.' After getting down in one doubles, we were down a break early. I was proud of our guys for fighting back. Gave ourselves a chance to win that doubles point. Got to match point. Unfortunately it didn't bounce our way but we've been resilient all year. We've lost a doubles points throughout the season. We lost the doubles point last time we played Texas A&M at the SEC tournament and we turned that match around and won it so back to business, business as usual."

On the performance of team captains Duarte Vale and Sam Riffice...

Huge. We felt like these guys are at their best at one, two, and three, Texas A&M. They're really, really tough. Three seniors that have been through all the wars so those are three tough spots for us to try to get. For our two captains to come out the way they did tonight. They just refused to let us lose tonight. Once we lost the doubles points they put it on their shoulders said, 'Hey, count on me. I'm going to get it done tonight.'"

Florida Senior Duarte Vale

On clinching the victory...

"I don't know when you're playing for your teammates, sometimes, for me, I can just go deeper. When I'm in holes, losing that first set which was a tough one and losing the doubles point, I look around and find inspiration in my teammates and coaches and it makes me look harder and try to keep digging and find a higher level and tonight I was able to find it."

On his energy during the match...

"I've worked a lot on my fitness. At school we practice really hard so I feel like we're all battled-tested and ready to go all day. I naturally have a lot of energy and always doing stuff so I'm usually like that on the court. Maybe not executing as well but the energy is usually there but yeah, just a great team around us, from the strength coach and nutritionist and athletic trainers that get us ready to play to be able to compete like that."

Texas A&M Head Coach Steve Denton

On the match today...

"What an unbelievable doubles point, I mean one of the most unreal doubles points I have ever seen. You know they have a ball right on top of the net that looks like it's over there and then Bjorn [Thomson] reflexes at ball back and then we are alive. Then all of a sudden they come back and win the doubles. Give Florida a lot of credit, they are really good team and they reestablished momentum in the match by winning a lot of first sets. They were just a little better than us tonight, but we were still in there fighting. What a great tennis match for our guys, they were just a little bit better. I wish them the best going forward in the tournament."