



NCAA DIVISION I MEN'S TENNIS THIRD ROUND – (3) TENNESSEE DEF. (11) GEORGIA, 4-1

Tennessee Head Coach Chris Woodruff

On how it feels to knock off an SEC rival en route to the Final Four ...

"It feels good. Manny [Diaz] and I, we go way back and this is really where he does his best work. And I told the team that this is going to be a different Georgia team than when we played them there. You don't win five or six national titles like he has without getting your guys good and relaxed, and I thought they did a great job of coming out in the doubles and getting out on top of us and swinging ... This is a rival. It's going to be like today. There are ebbs and flows. We're just happy to advance and [be] moving on."

On losing the doubles point ...

"I was a little bit disappointed, but I told them that was probably the best thing that could happen. We'd been winning the doubles point, and it was windy ... I think they really forced us to dig in. I thought we did a good job. We came out there, we got three first sets, which isn't perfect, but it gets us in the match. Across the board we had guys hang in there, and no one went away, and we actually kind of flipped that match in the middle."

On what he thought was the turning point in the match ...

"Honestly I thought Luca did a really good job. He kind of exited the first set on a little bit of a downer. [Blake] Croyder reeled off a couple games in a row, and I kind of went over to one of our coaches and said, 'Let's switch. You take Giles,' and I went over and started working with Martim [Prada], and I thought really Luca, because I really couldn't see what was going on everywhere else, I think he went up 3-0 right away, and that kind of started to get everybody going – at least me. I got a little more confident. He went up 3-0, and before you know it ... if Luca goes down a set, down a break, we had talked about it, Luca and I. Croyder's dangerous. He gives you 4-5 points, but he goes on a streak, and you gotta protect. ... I thought Luca did a good job kind of flipping that."

"I was telling somebody, it didn't occur to me that we were actually going to win ... I was so ... coaching Martim there that it didn't occur to me really until Luca got up 40-love, I was like, 'Wow, we have a real chance.' That's kind of where I am right now ... I think all of us will look back eventually whenever day that is and it'll hit me, but right now I'm automatically thinking about if we can watch some film on these next opponents, and just try to go back and get some rest and really start locking in."

Tennessee Graduate Student Luca Wiedenmann

On his mindset when matches are on the line ...

“Now being a fifth-year, I’ve been in these situations a few times. It’s unique every single time, but you just have to trust your shots and you have to play your game in the big moments. I think I’ve learned to do that after all these years, and I have a few things in mind that I can do under pressure, and I always try to go back to those.”

On how special the extra year of eligibility because of COVID has been ...

“After last year got cancelled, it was obviously very tough and no one really knew what was going to happen. It was really a very simple decision for me to come back, because I knew that there was more that we could do, and I think that shows here. This team and these coaches, we just work on the process. We don’t really look at the results too much, but they will come if you focus on the process, and I think that’s what we’ve done in the last year.”

Georgia Head Coach Manny Diaz

On the match today...

“It is a tough loss. All the credit to Tennessee. I think we felt good after doubles. [Tennessee] just made more balls and just played better in singles. It’s a disappointing loss, but I’m proud of our guys for the tenacity and for what they’ve done this year with so many challenges. This one in particular stings a little bit more, because I feel we put ourselves in a position to win, and we just didn’t get the job done. All the credit to Tennessee, because they did.”