



NCAA DIVISION I MEN'S TENNIS SEMIFINALS -- (1) FLORIDA DEF. (4) TEXAS, 4-0

Florida Head Coach Bryan Shelton

On how his team was able to achieve such an emphatic win...

"I think it was just a great team effort. All night long, I felt like we were just really composed and we played the big points really well tonight. I think that there was a lot of belief in our team and in the doubles play. I felt like on the big points, we were able to keep our composure and see the ball and make the plays we needed to make. And I think getting that doubles point gave us a lot of confidence as well. And then going into the singles, which has been our strength all season long, especially with our depth, I think our whole team felt like we had a good chance to to really secure a win tonight. Up and down the line, I didn't think anyone really let anything get away, one through six. So I think that's what makes us such a good team, is that we're so deep and we have that belief in one another."

On the significance of making the NCAA final for the first time in program history...

"We try to stay in the moment all the time, because we know that the opposition's always tough every day. It seems like all year long we've just played one great team after another. And so it's important to be able to stay locked in to what's right in front of you. And now to get past Texas finally and make it into the finals is pretty special. We certainly realize that. But like Andy said, we're not done yet. We've put in a lot of work and we have so much support. We have the best fanbase in the country and they're showing up to support us here in Orlando and at this great USTA National Campus. And so we think that we have an opportunity tomorrow to do something really special. And I know our guys will, once they finally get to bed tonight, they'll wake up tomorrow and they're going to come with everything they've got."

On his son's [Ben Shelton] performance tonight and in the tournament...

"It's pretty neat being the father and coach, you know. I wear both of those hats with him. But the dad is certainly proud, and just proud that he's part of this thing. He's part of this team, he respects the other players, he respects the game, he loves the game. And to see him out there enjoying himself and expressing his talent, his God-given talent as a dad, that makes me feel really good. As a coach. I have to go back and look at the video. I'm sure there's one or two things that I could probably pick apart (laughs). No, I'm really proud of him. He's doing great and he's just fit in so well with these guys. And these guys have really taken him under their wing, Andy [Andrade] especially treats them like a little brother and he lets them know who's boss. But at the same time, he treats him with love. And I feel like that's the same thing with everyone on our team. And that depth certainly helps. He was the catalyst again tonight. But Andy was the clincher. You know, everyone had a role to play."

Florida Senior Andy Andrade

On the impact of the crowd...

"It's a very big thing for the players, for the team, just seeing the crowd. And especially when you win a big point, just seeing they're pretty much just going crazy when you win a big point. So seeing the reaction just makes you feel good. It's always good to just have support. And the fact that we're a Florida team, so the fact that we have more of a crowd, I would say, than the other team helps us a lot. And that just gives us confidence too. The extra support, the extra little boost just helps us a lot."

Texas Head Coach Bruce Berque

On his thoughts of the match and the season...

"I think Florida played really well. I think they're really good and they played extremely well. So I have to give most of the credit to them. I think our guys were ready and I just finished telling them. I thought they fought extremely hard right down to the very end. I mean, Elliot [Spizzirri] was fighting and kind of got his nose out in front in that second set and had a chance to win it split sets. Micah [Braswell] was up. Evin [McDonald] was, you know, up in the third. We got beat pretty decisively at a couple other spots, but we had good shots at three of those singles matches and the doubles was tight. So I was pretty proud of the way they were fighting all the way to the end in those matches. I love the way we started with our energy and I love the way we finished with our energy. But in the end, Florida was a very good team and played extremely well tonight. And I give the credit to them

As far as the whole season. Yeah, I'm definitely going to enjoy looking back at a lot of the memories we've had. And it's very difficult to get to the round of 16 of the NCAA tournament, much less the quarters or the final four. Very few people, coaches and players, you know, can lay claim to that. So I think these guys should be super proud of what they did, especially with such relative inexperience on the team. We didn't have one guy in our lineup that has played in NCAA singles match heading into this tournament. So and the run was fantastic. And, you know, they should feel really proud. I know they're going to be disappointed now, but when they look back, they should all be very proud."

On his belief that his team could win...

"They gave me plenty of reason to believe that we could, you know, take it one step further, because that's what we've been doing all year. That's what they've been doing all year. So for sure, I woke up this morning thinking we had a chance to win, but of course, I knew that it was going to be super tough. I knew every match we played in the NCAA tournament, especially these last two or three, was going to be super tough. I know how good Florida is. I'm sure they were eager to get some revenge on us from beating them earlier in the year and from beating them in the in this round two years ago. But I'd be idiotic to think that this team didn't have a chance against anyone they've played. So I definitely thought we had a chance. I was hoping there's a little more magic. But we'll have to wait for next year's team to see the next version of magic that we can produce one."

On if he believes his team overachieved this year...

"I think it's impossible to overachieve if you think about it just literally because you can't achieve something more than what you're capable of. So I guess some people might consider that we achieved more than

they thought we could. But I definitely can say, and I don't take that as an insult, I take that as a compliment if people say that. I guess my point is literally it's not possible to overachieve because then clearly you were capable of doing it if you did it. But I don't take that as an insult. I take it as a compliment to our group that they were able to make the most of what they had and achieved at such a high level. And that hopefully will really keep them excited for the coming years. And nothing's a given. Just because we did it this year doesn't mean that we're going to have to work for it every bit as hard as we did next year as we did this year. But I take it as a compliment when people say we overachieved even though I don't agree with it, it just means that these guys did a great job this year.”

Texas Sophomore Eliot Spizzirri

On how this young team stepped up this season...

Yeah, I mean, losing Christian [Sigsgaard] and Yuya [Ito] we knew that a bunch of guys are going to have to step up this year, and I think that's exactly what happened. We had a bunch of young guys that played huge, played really well, in some big matches. As coach said, we were inexperienced. We had one player in our lineup that played an NCAA tournament before this one. So I'm just super proud of every guy on the team on and off the court. It was really impressive what we did this year. Obviously pretty disappointed right now but I couldn't be happier with the way we carried ourselves out there and how we fought all season.