



NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S TENNIS THIRD ROUND – DUKE DEF. (9) UCF, 4-3

Duke Head Coach Jamie Ashworth

On tonight's match...

"We knew it was going to be a physical match. We knew they were going to come out with a lot of energy. At the start of the doubles they came out and really got on top of us quick. I told our team after the doubles, "Look, we survived that first wave there, and we're going to feel the same thing in the singles." And I thought we did a good job getting two quick matches and getting up 3-0. It was a great crowd. It was a home crowd, but it was a great crowd. It was a fun atmosphere to play in. With everything that's gone on this year we haven't been able to be a part of a lot of crowd-involved matches, and so it's a treat for everyone to get that. We haven't had a crowd at home this year. It's our second tough match in front of a tough crowd – Baylor last weekend and then here. I think that actually prepared us for tonight."

On sophomore Chloe Beck clinching victory ...

"Chloe's a rock and Chloe's one of the people we've leaned on all year. She came through there in the end and fought off cramping a couple times, down on the court cramping. She said to me, "I'm just going to go for it and see what happens," and she was able to do that. Really after the first five games of the first set, she really dominated the match. She was down 4-1 in the first set and did really good job of just playing her game and not letting the moment get too big. She's a sophomore but her first NCAA Tournament; she didn't get a chance to play last year. She definitely took advantage of that opportunity."

On the team's season so far ...

"I think you throw the rankings out a little bit. We didn't play a complete season like we normally would. A lot of teams didn't. I said all along, if we can play with a lot of fight and a lot of character, I would put this team up against anybody. We battled some injuries during the year, some crazy injuries, so this team's been fighting to have this opportunity all year. I'm really happy and proud that they came through. It's been a fun group and a fun atmosphere to play in, and they did a great job with it."

On Duke vs. UNC in the quarterfinals...

"I think we have to take the two days off and recover and be able to give it our best. We played them once earlier; we're familiar with them, they're familiar with us. We're six miles away from each other and we're coming down here to play. We'll give it everything we can. We really have nothing to lose."

UCF Head Coach Bryan Koniecko

On the match today...

Obviously hurts for the team, for Rebeka [Stolmar], Ksenia [Kuznetsova] and Sara [Culbertson], it's never easy to send off seniors on a loss like that, but the team fought. That's been our motto, that's why we've gotten to this point, they fought hard, obviously didn't work out in G's [Evgeniya Levashova] favor today, she's got a lot of things to continue to improve on and I'm just excited about the group coming back. We've got two good players in Nadja [Bay Christians] and Marie [Mattel] that are sitting on the bench and probably deserve every shot to play, probably could've won their matches as well if they got their opportunity so I hope they realize that, we need them for the future. So I'm excited and I'm confident we can get back to this level and then some. The seniors did a good job to get this program where it is and now it's time for the new seniors to elevate this program to what it's supposed to be.

And lastly I just want to thank the fans that came out that gave us an extra boost at home. It was definitely what we needed. We can sense the energy in the beginning in doubles to get out to those leads and unfortunately a couple things didn't go our way on big points but that's tennis at this stage, it's a difference of four or five tennis points to win these matches. It didn't go our way but we'll keep trying to figure out how to get this place better.

On the historic season...

That's what I told the team. It's hard to think about all of this stuff now we'll have time to celebrate it and enjoy it. Obviously now you just think about losing and that's what competitors do but what I told the team they can leave the locker room with their head up high. Top 10 in the country, to go undefeated against Florida teams this season, just a lot of monumental things that happened to this program. Rebeka, Ksenia and Sara elevated it and left this place at a pretty good spot so it's the job of the new seniors to continue this trend.