



NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S TENNIS THIRD ROUND -- (6) NC STATE DEF. USC, 4-1

NC State Head Coach Simon Earnshaw

On competing in the Round of 16

In 2019 we made it to the Sweet 16 and that was the first year they didn't have all 16 teams at one site, so I think in many ways COVID was a positive that we got this opportunity for everyone to be in one place. We felt coming out of that 2019 season that we had a great chance, we had a lot of momentum with the program, but it's been two long years, and those two years have come down to 24 hours and one day. We got a little tight, that's for sure. I think the moment got the better of us for a while there but we kept going and kept playing and I think we have the belief that we can do this now. Second time [in the Round of 16] we're a lot more comfortable and generally the more times you keep putting yourself in a situation the more chances you're going to get by.

On importance of winning the doubles point

Doubles is a big strength of ours. I think we're solid for the first time all season at all three doubles spots. We've had those two doubles teams together, particularly at No. 1. That's their third year together; they were here in 2019 made the Elite 8 individually. We have a brand of doubles that we play, it's really about execution and today we executed well. One of our challenges actually is that we win the doubles point so often that we have no momentum from it because everyone kind of expected it. We had a bit of momentum today going into singles but the doubles is huge for us. It gives us the confidence to play from the lead and I think you play a lot freer when you're in the lead.

On team leaders Anna Rogers and Adriana Reami

Anna and Adriana were here with our program before we were even ranked in the Top 50. I recruited Anna during my first year at NC State. We were 3-25 in the ACC the year prior to me being here. Very fortunate to have them and it's amazing to see how they've grown. They've seen the full journey of our program.

USC Head Coach Alison Swain

On her overall thoughts on the match

"NC State obviously played really well, particularly in the doubles. They came out on fire and played some of their best. I thought our team pushed back really hard in singles. We played really determined tennis and really smart tennis. We played to our strengths. I'm really proud of the fight our team put out there.

Dani (Willson) and Summer (Dvorak) getting into third sets, and Salma (Ewing) closing out her match, and the other girls really staying on court. I thought we played great singles.”

On reaching the Round of 16 for the second NCAA Tournament in a row

“Particularly this season, it was a process. There were ups and downs, and in the end, it’s not how you start, but it’s how you finish. Our team really came together and found that extra gear of how to compete with a ton of heart at the end of the season, and I think that’s a testament to what the foundation of our program is, aims to be and strives to be. It’s always hard for a season to end, but we’re looking forward to building on that foundation next year.”

On USC being the only all-female staff in the Round of 16

“Personally that means a lot to me. Representation is hugely important. Having such skilled, knowledgeable and excellent coaching staff and having it be all-female is a great example for all the women out here competing and for all the women who excel at their sport and hope to go into coaching in the future.”