



NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S TENNIS QUARTERFINALS -- (6) NC STATE DEF. (3) GEORGIA, 4-2

NC State Head Coach Simon Earnshaw

On making program history with the Final Four, yet still competing for a title...

"In Division II I made 11 semifinals in a row, and that's the last thing on my mind, is being satisfied just to reach the Final Four. We're here to win this event, and I think you can almost see that with the girls. Of course we're excited to get the win, but we sat down at the start of the year and had a fairly animated discussion at times as far as what we're trying to achieve, and this year was really no question. We really believe we have the team.

We had great momentum before COVID. My biggest stress during the layoff, equally with the ACC not being able to compete in the fall, was can we just put that back together. ... The more we play the better the chance we have, and we've played 25 matches now. It's perfect. We're a program that plays a lot. We have players that like to play a lot. We like to compete, so why not do it at the NCAA Tournament, right?"

On the team coming out aggressive ...

"A lot of people ask us, 'Does that happen by chance?' No. That's the way we try and teach these kids. You ask a lot of kids, 'What style of player are you?' The answer they're an aggressive baseliner, but let's be honest, there's only about five or six in the world in women's tennis. We've got to develop them into all-court players, and we can't play the whole court if we're not willing to cross the service line. I think particularly in windy conditions, the more you wait for the ball, the more the ball's going to move around. That's how we practice. ... It's not happening by chance. We're playing that way. ... That's our style. That's the type of players we look for. That's our mindset, and thankfully we were able to execute today."

NC State Freshman Abigail Rencheli

On if she realized she had the opportunity to clinch the match...

"I definitely did. In the moment, I was like, 'This is it. I can clinch this,' but I wasn't as nervous as I thought I would be. We've practiced every day, we've put in the work. I think it just came down to trusting everything we've been doing up to that point and just executing and staying disciplined. It worked out at the end."

On comforting her opponent at the net and what it means to beat this Georgia team to advance ...

"I was in her shoes earlier this season. I know how it felt does not feel good. She played unreal. She fought the whole match – it was a really good match. So I just thought I'd pay respect to her. I think that's a very important part of our sport that doesn't always get acknowledged, so I gave her a hug and said 'Great match.' ... They played great. It was a good match, and we came out on top, thankfully."

On regrouping and getting ready for the semifinals ...

"I think we came into this tournament wanting to win. I don't think necessarily we 100 percent believed that we could or would. Now that we're in the semis, it's definitely getting a lot more real. I'm ready to play the next round. I think we're going to go out and play our hearts out. That's the difference. ... We didn't come here to make the semis. We came here to win."

Georgia Head Coach Jeff Wallace

On today's match...

"N.C. State played a great match against us today. Doubles was close, would have been nice to get that point. Have to credit N.C. State. I thought our players fought until the very end. It's just a tough one. It's been a great year, I'm really proud of our players and our seniors. The future is bright."