



NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S TENNIS QUARTERFINALS -- (5) PEPPERDINE DEF. (4) UCLA, 4-3

Pepperdine Head Coach Per Nilsson

On how it feels to make the semifinals...

"It feels really good, this team deserves it. Obviously a lot of talent on the team but I've made them work hard so it's rewarding to have them feel something special like this and we're not done yet."

On what was going through his head during a long, close match like that...

"We're just looking for points out there. College tennis is really fun for the crowd because there are so many momentum swings in close matches and this one had that. We were down in the doubles and we were able to get that and I thought 'oh this is going to be really fun,' and then an hour later it's looking very bleak. And then you're just trying to find points out there and it didn't look great but out of nowhere we got two and that's what I was hoping for because I knew Shi [Shiori Fukuda] had chances in the first set and if she could just dig in a little bit and get the second that she would have a chance. It just happened so fast and then when Shi was the last one we all had confidence in her. She looked really calm and that helped but it was fun and it could've gone either way.

On the team's confidence going into the semifinals...

"I think our team is able to compete with anyone. We've shown that in the past and we've shown that this year. A lot of times we get in our own way, especially in the beginning of the year, and that's something we've talked about a lot. If we just take care of business, focus on the things that we can control, we're a good team and that's what we're going to have to do against whoever we play next."

Pepperdine Graduate Student Shiori Fukuda

On what was going through her mind knowing she was the last match...

I was just trying to focus on my match because I knew that whole match was going to come down to me so I was just trying to focus on the match, on myself, and just win no matter how I played.

UCLA Head Coach Stella Sampras Webster

On today's match...

“It was a tough day, very windy, so conditions weren’t great, but our girls fought their butts off, both teams did, and today it was Pepperdine’s day. They were able to come back and win some of those, the big doubles point at No. 1 doubles, saving match points, they were able to execute and get the win there.

Going into singles, I’m really proud of the team. They fought hard and put themselves in a position where they had a chance to win it even after losing the doubles point. It just didn’t go our way unfortunately.”