



NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S TENNIS QUARTERFINALS -- (2) TEXAS DEF. (7) FLORIDA STATE, 4-0

Texas Head Coach Howard Joffe

On how it feels to make the semifinals...

"It feels fantastic for our team and for our program, to be back in the Final Four. It's a bit of uncharted territory for a good decade, and then some. That is excellent. I'm delighted for the players. They're very, very hard-working. They're lovely people. That they have achieved something like this, which is a very, very hard thing to do, I couldn't be more pleased."

On Peyton Stearns' performance...

"I happened to be coaching on Miss Labraña's side, which was the complete other side. I don't doubt her tennis, certainly not at the moment. She's such an excellent tennis player, and I think if you'd ask Peyton, she'd tell you that the best version of herself wasn't really there against Ohio State a couple days back. Certainly today, the player she played, the young lady from Italy on Florida State, is an excellent player, and to win by that score, it's just suggestive that Peyton brought her adult self today."

On the team's momentum heading into the next round...

"I would say that the program is on a collision course with excellence, for sure. When you talk about this team this year, we're winners of 28 out of 29 ... We've got excellent players. We've got a young team. You'd like to think the force is pretty unstoppable, but I think our players understand that the only thing that really matters is what version of themselves shows up to play in the game. Looking back on the season and how great you are and how many three-point plays you made, and what you might do in the future, none of it's interesting. The only thing that really is going to matter is how our three doubles teams and six singles players show up with their tennis and of course as people."

N.C. State, they're an outstanding team, loaded with experience and excellence. I like our team. We're very talented. They're growing up fast, and I anticipate a very, very difficult and tough match, but I do like our team."

Texas Senior Fernanda Labraña

On herself and the team playing strong from start to finish...

It was because last match we didn't perform well, so we talked about it. Coach gave us some tips that might help us play better, and I think we were able to play better today. We were in a good rhythm. And then obviously in singles, since I was playing very good in doubles, I was just smacking balls in the first set. It got a little tight, but I handled it very well and I could clinch it for my team.

On the team's senior leadership...

Coach Joffe is always telling us to be leaders of the team, especially us, that we're seniors, Anna and I. Obviously we have two more seniors, so we have more experience in this tournament, even though it's like the third time we're playing it. For everyone else, it's the first time. I guess we are just showing them our experience and just fighting out there, and just keep everyone comfortable.

Florida State Head Coach Jennifer Hyde

On today's match...

"Doubles was critical," There were a couple of big points, if we can snag those, there were two deuce points that would have made a significant difference in that match. We came out on the other side of it today sometimes that happens. We were close.

"We ran out of time a little bit," said Hyde. "We had a pretty good push there in the second sets with 3, 4, 5 and 6. There is all fight and no fold in this team. They knew for us to win today it was probably going to be a full three sets across the board. Credit to Texas. They did a really good job jumping out to those early leads and it is tough playing from behind in the Elite Eight.

"We hung in there and we fought. We talked about leaving it all out there and there is no question in my mind this team left it out there today as they did all season up to the last ball that was struck. I couldn't have asked anymore of these young ladies."

On the season...

"I am just so proud of this group and the season they created for themselves and for our program during some of the most troubling times in our history. It was through sheer commitment to this program, to one another to this team to wanting to take advantage of being a part of this great group, knowing we could succeed. I am grateful for their maturity and how they led this program.

Today is a rough day but there are so many things to be so proud of. To put ourselves on this stage, as we have consistently the last few years. Florida State tennis is a program to be reckoned with."