



2019 NCAA Championships May 16-25 • Orlando, Fla. • USTA National Campus

Individual Tournament: Day 1 • May 20, 2019

PLAYER QUOTES

Women

Michaela Gordon (Stanford, sophomore)

def. # 5 Makenna Jones (North Carolina), 6-2, 6-1

On the quick turnaround after winning an NCAA team championship Sunday night:

It was definitely a really cool experience last night, and just coming from that, winning a championship, into a whole new tournament... I definitely tried to shift my mindset into a new individual tournament where I'll be playing singles and doubles. And I tried to just take care of my body during the entire team tournament, just so I'd be prepared for individuals.

On what led to the convincing victory:

Today my serve really worked well for me, and my forehand. I stayed really level throughout the match with my game, and I felt like I didn't make too many errors today, so that helped me a lot.

#7 Alexa Graham (North Carolina, junior)

def. Ellie Douglas (TCU), 6-2, 5-7, 7-5

On the transition from team competition to individuals:

It's a little weird to be out there and not cheering on my teammates, but you have to adjust and you've got to do what you've got to do.

On staying motivated when the match tightened up:

The team environment has trained me to, no matter what the score is, to keep fighting and working, because usually there's nine other girls depending on me.

Kelly Chen (Duke, sophomore)

def. Jessica Failla (Pepperdine), 6-2, 6-4

On what worked for her today:

I think just being aggressive, honestly. She's a girl who gets everything back and places the ball very well. I had to come in and keep in mind to finish points. I think that's what helped overall.

On whether she's recovered from the full-body cramps that sent her to the hospital after Friday's quarterfinal:

Mentally, I don't think so. Physically, I'm OK. I just took another ice bath, we'll see.

On how she was able to win two singles matches (in the team semis on Saturday and today) since her trip to the hospital:

During the semifinals, it was a big match for us. It was for the team. For the individuals, I'm trying to give it all I have here. We'll see how much I have left in the tank.

Anna Turati (Texas, junior)

def. #8 Sophie Whittle (Gonzaga), 6-2, 7-6

On whether the Texas' men's championship win amped up her energy:

Yeah, I think we've always helped each other. Whenever one team would win, it'd pump up the other team because we push each other. Of course, it gives us confidence. They work hard but we work hard too, back in Texas. We know if they can do it, we can do it too. We're going to give our best here and try and win another NCAA title for the individuals. We're very proud of them and they're an amazing team.

On how she stayed focused battling out the tiebreaker:

I talked to my coach before the match and what I had to do was be aggressive, but it didn't really work out. I really want to win every match, so that makes me tight and in important moments, I just want to get the points rather than playing aggressive. I'm going to try to be more aggressive in the next match. I want to play better tennis. I don't have to be hard on myself though, I just have to keep trying to get the results I want.

Sara Daavetilla (North Carolina, junior)
def. #3 Kate Fahey (Michigan), 6-3, 4-6, 6-4

On staying focused throughout the match:

I was just focused on taking it one point at a time. Obviously with the heat out here, there's a lot of distractions and I was just trying to stay focused on my court.

On UNC's team loss motivating her today:

It was a hard loss for us. We had a great season and I'm so proud of the girls. But we had a day off yesterday and that kickstarted me for individuals and got me ready to play.

Men

#1 Nuno Borges (Mississippi State senior)
def. Alexis Galarneau (North Carolina State), 6-4, 6-2

On what was working for him today:

I don't think I played a great match but I found some great things in the second set, especially. I just stayed tough throughout the way and tried not to give him too many free points. First round is hard to get things going from the start. I think he felt it too. I took advantage of it in the first set and I played a great second set. And yeah, I was able to take the match in two sets.

#3 Alex Rybakov (TCU, senior)
def. Andrew Fenty (Michigan), 6-3, 6-2

On the keys to today's win:

I just had to stay solid on my serve and try to get into his return game [Andrew Fenty, Michigan] he had a really big serve. I was just trying to weather the storm. He had some really good matches but he gave me a couple free points.

On his transition from team play to the individual tournament:

It's a lot different. I love playing for the team, but to get out here and still be representing TCU, I feel like I'm still playing for the team. I'm still repping TCU, even though I'm playing individually.

#8 Oliver Crawford (Florida, sophomore)

def. Govind Nanda (UCLA), 7-6, 6-3

On how he closed out the match after surrendering a double-break advantage at 4-0:

I played a few tough points, he made a couple of errors and I was able to play downhill when I had the opportunity. I managed to sneak out a break and hold serve at the end, at 5-3.

On what it would mean to win the NCAA singles title in Florida:

It would be awesome. That's something you dream about, coming to school and winning an NCAA title... more in the team event, but winning the individuals would be awesome as well. I'm looking forward to the rest of the week.