



2019 NCAA Championships

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

Men's Semifinal: Recap and Quotes

#4 WAKE FOREST def. #9 NORTH CAROLINA, 4-3

ORLANDO, Fla. – Wake Forest’s vaunted singles lineup, led by ITA No. 11 Borna Gojo, powered the defending NCAA champions into Sunday’s semifinal. In the only three-setter of the match, Gojo outlasted ITA No. 19 Will Blumberg, 4-6, 6-2, 6-3, to keep Demon Deacons’ repeat bid alive.

There was little drama on Courts 2 through 5, as none of the winners dropped more than four games in a single set. With all eyes on the No. 1 singles matchup, the lead men did disappoint.

Gojo earned his first match point on the return, on a deuce point at 5-2, but Blumberg got the better of a short rally to force his opponent to serve it out.

The North Carolina junior saved two more match points at 5-3, setting up a momentous deuce point that would either end the match or bring the Tar Heels back on serve. On match point No. 4, Gojo summoned a big second serve that Blumberg could only send into the net.

Wake Forest swept the Top 3 singles matches, with Petros Chrysochos and Bar Botzer as reliable as ever at the No. 2 and No. 3 spot. The Demon Deacons fourth point came on Court 6, where Siddhant Banthia extended his record to 22-7 across the bottom two singles spots.

Wake Forest won their first-ever NCAA team title last year, when the Winston-Salem, N.C., school hosted the NCAA Championships. Top singles players Gojo and Chrysochos met in the individual final, with Chrysochos taking the title.

QUOTES

Wake Forest junior Borna Gojo

On clinching the last two matches for his team at the NCAA Championships:

I don't think the clinch is that special, because there's three more guys that won for us. It's always a team effort. Plus, two matches happened that I lost the first set, so I had to battle back. Again, my teammates are the ones who put me in the position and our team to win. I'm grateful for the great team I have. I'm happy I was able to win it and give us the opportunity tomorrow for the championship.

On the match against UNC's Blumberg, who he now holds a 3-0 record against this season:

It's always been a tough match, it's always three sets. I know he's a great player. It's always about giving it my all out there and that's what I did today. Sometimes it turns your side, sometimes it doesn't. But I'm happy it was my side today. I was really happy 20 minutes ago but now I'm thinking about Texas.

On the championship match against Texas:

We haven't had time to discuss it yet. They're obviously a great team if they're in the finals. Again, it's going to take a team effort tomorrow. These are the moments we work for all year. This is why we're here. We're going to enjoy it tomorrow, definitely.

Wake Forest Head Coach Tony Bresky

On the championship match against Texas:

Obviously Texas is having a great tournament, a great season. We haven't played them this year. The only time we saw them was at National Indoors. I know they have a bunch of really good players. Like Borna [Gojo] said, I think we really enjoyed that win for a solid 15 minutes and it's back to business: ice baths, dinner and rest, and do some scouting and get some notes. Same warm-up tomorrow, same thing we always do. Like I said, I obviously don't know as much about them as I did North Carolina and Virginia. But, we'll be ready to battle for sure.

North Carolina Head Coach Sam Paul

On the effort from senior Will Blumberg at No. 1 singles:

He's always done that, his whole career. I just want to say congratulations to Wake Forest, they played a great match. And Borna [Gojo], who stepped up there at the end, he didn't miss a first serve, he played really well and a great third set. Congratulations to them and best of luck in the final tomorrow.

On the season coming to an end:

Our guys were pretty upset. I just love my team. The sad thing is this is the last time Bo Boyden can play team tennis. He's in the individual tournament here, but he's been one of the best players we've ever had. He represented our university... great academically, great leader, tremendous work ethic. So I feel bad for him, that he won't have this opportunity again, but he's had an incredible career. The sad thing is it has to end sometime, right?

What a ride we've had the last two weeks. To have to play Georgia in the regional, that's not an easy thing to do. Then go across the country and play USC at USC, and then come here and upset the No. 1 seed in Ohio State. Lot of positives. Credit to Wake Forest, they played a great match today.

As the men and women competed side-by-side

It's great. Carolina tennis had a great year. I didn't know the score until they said that Stanford had won over the speaker. Both teams get along great. It's been a really good tournament for both of us.