



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

Men's Quarterfinal: Recap and Quotes

#2 TEXAS def. #10 TCU, 4-1

ORLANDO, Fla. – No. 2 Texas moved forward in the 2019 Division I Men's Tennis Championship, defeating No. 10 TCU in a 4-1 decision at the USTA National Campus. Texas captured the doubles point before claiming three more victories in singles to advance to Saturday's semifinals.

Texas started strong by bringing home the doubles point with victories at both No. 1 and No. 2, with Harrison Scott and Christian Sigsgaard—the ITA's No. 5-ranked doubles tandem—leading the way with a 6-2 decision at the top spot. At No. 2, Colin Markes and Leonardo Telles finished the job with a 6-3 result.

Action began quickly on the singles courts, and though the Horned Frogs won at least four games in all six matches, the Longhorns took the first set on all but one court. They would secure the three required victories on Courts 2, 4 and 6.

One of the most highly anticipated matches was a battle of ITA Top-10 singles players—TCU senior Alex Rybakov and Texas junior Christian Sigsgaard—at the No. 1 spot. Rybakov, who lost to Sigsgaard in an intense, three-set match earlier in the season, turned the tables in a 6-4, 6-2 decision. Unfortunately for the Horned Frogs, it was their only point of the day against a locked-in Texas team.

Thursday's quarterfinal was the second meeting between these two teams on the year. The Big 12 rivals also faced off in April, when Texas brought home a 6-1 victory. The lineups for the NCAA tournament match were identical to that previous encounter, as neither team altered their singles or doubles lineup.

QUOTES

Texas senior Harrison Scott

On closing out his match to move on to the semifinals:

“I’m feeling amazing right now, definitely happy to get it done. TCU is a really good team, every one of their players is really talented, so I knew going in today was going to be really tough. I played [Bertus] Kruger in a long three-setter [earlier in the season]. I knew it wasn’t going to be easy, so I had to keep fighting and show a lot of energy. My team definitely helped. They were playing well and I was feeding off their energy, so I’m feeling great right now.”

On how the team has made it this far:

“I think us putting in the work every day, showing up to practice even when we’re really busy with school or have personal things going on. I think showing up every day and kind of leaving everything off the court and focusing on what we’re doing on the court is really important. Also, communication with one another and just being there for one another really helped. We get along quite well and so it’s a lot of fun to play with all these guys.”

Texas Interim Head Coach Bruce Berque

On pulling out the victory with tight singles matches:

“That’s usually the way it is in the NCAAs, you play until someone finishes and gets the four, it’s clinch-clinch. I do know that our guys were pretty great today; they were very competitive, they were focused, they were aggressive, they were locked in. They pretty much did what they’ve been doing all year, which is playing aggressively and positive and fighting for every point. Today we got the better of TCU. They’ve gotten the better of us in the past several times. It was a big win, and the guys are feeling confident, especially after beating them decisively in this score line. We had really good leadership from the seniors and they were ready and they went after it.”

Looking ahead to a semifinal against Florida or Baylor:

“They’re both really good. All the eight teams that have made it here are really good, including TCU. They’ve had a phenomenal program over the last 10 years or so. We have a lot of respect for everyone who is here. Obviously, Baylor we know better. We played them twice this year, we won the first time at home and they won the second time at the finals of the Big 12 tournament. I guess if we were to play them again, the third one will be the deciding match for the season series. Florida, we haven’t played in a couple of years. I know they’re very well coached and they have a great team. I’m sure we’ll be playing the team that plays better today.”

TCU Head Coach David Roditi

On today's match:

At the end of the day, they had a lot of seniors on that squad and juniors, and they went against our underclassmen. We didn't execute in the right moments. We had so many opportunities in doubles... we gave them some games in the doubles. Not to take any credit away. I mean, they didn't give it to us, so they deserve all the credit in the world and they're the ones advancing.

Those first sets, too many of those first sets got away from us. We had break points on many courts and we didn't convert on any of them and it came back to cost us. We just put ourselves too far, in too deep of a hole, for us to climb back. We almost did, we were fighting and fighting, but it just wasn't enough.

You know, I'm happy for those guys, I'm proud of what all the coaches have put together as a team at UT. This team has been building for four years. I want to congratulate all the coaches that put together an unbelievable lineup out there. I wish them the best of the luck and congratulations to Texas. I hope they represent the Big 12 well. We're the best conference in tennis, at least one of the best. I wish them the best of luck.

And thanks to the fans who came out to support us all the way from Fort Worth. I love seeing purple out there. These guys are just die-hards and put their lives on hold to come watch us, and we really appreciate all they do for us.

On the end of the season:

It's bittersweet. It's bitter because we lost and I feel like this team could have won it all, if we had played the right ways at the right times. It's sweet because it was a great season and there's a lot to be proud of. There were so many unknowns about our team at the beginning of the year. I couldn't be more proud of the way our freshmen came through, the way our seniors led and everybody in between.

There's a lot to be proud of, our whole coaching staff, everybody. One thing that I'm really proud about is our team went through the whole season, including coaches, without a point penalty. Not one guy broke down, not one guy showed disrespect to the program or disrespect to the school. That's amazing. I don't know if it'll ever happen again. It takes a lot of discipline.