



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

Men's Quarterfinal: Recap and Quotes

#3 FLORIDA def. #6 BAYLOR, 4-0

ORLANDO, Fla. – The quarterfinal finale at the NCAA Division I Men's Tennis Championships concluded with No. 3 Florida taking the victory against No. 6 Baylor to advance on to the semifinal. The Gators swept the Bears in a 4-0 contest.

The Gators and the Bears, who had not faced each other since the 2012-13 season, started the doubles point with tight scores until Johannes Ingildsen and McClain Kessler captured a win for Florida in a 7-5 victory at No. 1. Oliver Crawford and Alfredo Perez secured the 1-0 lead after finishing their match against Will Little and Matias Soto in a 6-4 decision at the No. 2 position.

With singles underway, No. 6 McClain Kessler was the first to take home a point, with No. 5 Andy Andrade following shortly behind. The final point was grabbed by No. 2 Sam Riffice, who defeated Mateo Soto, 6-3, 6-4.

Florida, who had made it to the quarterfinals last year before succumbing to a close match against Ohio, hasn't seen the semifinals of the NCAAs since head coach Bryan Shelton took over the program in 2012.

QUOTES

Baylor Head Coach Brian Boland

On the match tonight

We give Florida a lot of credit for the way they competed and played tonight, they're an extremely talented team and they did a great job tonight coming out and executing and playing hard every point. We give Florida a lot of credit. I thought that we certainly could have competed better in certain spots but Florida was the better team tonight.

Florida Head Coach Bryan Shelton

On how the match ended

It's a great way to end the match. Just knowing we put ourselves in the strong position and knowing we've got guys playing well all over the place, it's not just one guy but it's across the board. I think it was just a great team win.

On how they're preparing for the semifinals

I think the beauty of this is there's a day of in between, so we can recover really well. I think our guys are in really good physical shape so we'll do the right things tonight, make sure we recover fully and have a good day tomorrow. We'll practice a little bit but rest up again. I feel like our tanks are full right now, this is the time. The end of the year, the postseason, we're in the Final Four, and for us it's like let's make sure our tanks are ready to go when we come out and just fire from the hips come Saturday. We're going to play a really good Texas team that also won pretty convincingly today, so I don't know that we have an advantage there. Just two really good teams trying to battle it out to the finals.

Florida senior McClain Kessler

On winning the doubles point

We knew if that if we got the doubles point, it'd be a good start for us. We knew we were playing a very tough team, me and Joe [Johannes Ingildsen], but if me and Joe play our best tennis, we feel like we're the team to beat. It's what we're telling ourselves before the match and during the match. We had a lot of fun out there.

Florida freshman Sam Riffice

On feeling like the home team

It was amazing. The crowd tonight so many Gator fans out there watching us and supporting us. We had so many friends that came out all the way from Gainesville to come support us. I felt like I was playing a home match out there. There was so much energy and excitement for us.