



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

### **Men's Quarterfinal: Results, Recap and Quotes**

**#9 NORTH CAROLINA def. #1 OHIO STATE, 4-2**

#### **Singles results:**

No. 1: JJ Wolf (OSU) def. Will Blumberg (UNC), 7-5, 6-4

No. 2: Benjamin Sigouin (UNC) def. John McNally (OSU), 3-6, 6-3, 6-4

No. 3: Kyle Seelig (OSU) def. Josh Peck (UNC), 6-3, 6-4

No. 4: Brian Cernoch (UNC) def. Martin Joyce (OSU), 6-2, 6-0

No. 5: Blaine Boyden (UNC) def. Alex Kobelt (OSU), 6-1, 6-3

No. 6: Hunter Tubert (OSU) vs. Simon Soendergaard (UNC), 6-4, 4-6, 5-6, unfinished

#### **Doubles results:**

No. 1: Martin Joyce/JJ Wolf (OSU) def. Will Blumberg/Blaine Boyden (UNC), 6-1

No. 2: Brian Cernoch/Benjamin Sigouin (UNC) def. Alex Kobelt/Kyle Seelig (OSU), 6-2

No. 3: Mac Kiger/Simon Soendergaard (UNC) def. John McNally/Hunter Tubert (OSU), 6-2

## MATCH RECAP

**ORLANDO, Fla.** – The North Carolina Tar Heels scored the shock of the tournament on Thursday, using a hot start to fuel a 4-2 upset of top-seeded Ohio State and reach the NCAA semifinals. After winning the doubles point, UNC quickly took a commanding 3-0 lead, courtesy of singles victories from senior captain Blaine Boyden (No. 5) and freshman Brian Cernoch (No. 4).

But the Buckeyes took the first set in each of the four remaining matches, and closed to 3-2 with a pair of straight-sets wins of their own. Junior JJ Wolf extended his stellar record at the top spot, while Kyle Seelig fended off a late rally to earn a gritty point at No. 3.

That set the stage for a pair of three-set thrillers at No. 2 and No. 6, with the Buckeyes needing both to save their season. Even before either match got to set three, Ohio State held a break advantage in both before a pair of Carolina comebacks put their season on the brink.

UNC sophomore Benjamin Sigouin's resurgence continued in set three, as he jumped out to a 3-0 lead, but John McNally, the second-year man from Ohio State managed to find his game and take a lead in the set. While the No. 6 singles match seesawed both ways, Sigouin scratched out a 5-4 advantage just before his teammate edged in front by the same score on Court 6.

With the Tar Heels four points away from the upset on either of the two courts, it was Sigouin who finished the job, sending the Heels into the Final Four.

## **QUOTES**

### **UNC sophomore Benjamin Sigouin**

#### ***On the closing moments of the match:***

It was tense. I caught myself looking at the scoreboard a bit over there [on Court 6], but I always believe in Simon [Soendergaard] and he was doing a great job over there, so I just had to take care of my own court. McNally is a great player and Ohio State is a great team. We brought our best today and I'm so proud of the boys.

#### ***On what it feels like knowing it could come down to his racquet:***

There's a lot of things going on in a dual match like this in the Elite 8. There's a lot of people here, which is fantastic. You've just got to stay focused. I was down a set and a break and I told myself, 'This is the moment, you've got to step up now, this is what you play for.' This is why I go to UNC—for these moments.

### **UNC senior Blaine Boyden**

#### ***On the drama of watching the last two matches:***

It's stressful, but a thing we spoke about before the tournament started is we were going to play a tournament with no regrets; we were going to leave everything on the court. So I had full confidence in those guys that they were going to leave it out there and the points went our way and we were lucky to get the win.

#### ***On the crowd support (including a visit from former UNC basketball player Luke Maye), with both the men's and women's teams in Orlando have received:***

The support is incredible and that's something we really enjoy as a Carolina tennis family. We have people from all over that come from all over to support us. It's crazy. The text messages you get from alumni that you've never even really met before, the people greeting you after and before matches. It's something extremely special and something you can really only experience at Carolina.

## UNC Head Coach Sam Paul

### *On playing Wake Forest in Saturday's semifinals:*

We're looking forward to playing anybody in the semifinals or national championship, but we know Wake well and they know us so we're looking forward to a great match.

### *On whether Ohio played their best match*

You'd have to ask Coach Tucker that question. They've obviously had a tremendous season and we feel bad for them, you hate to lose anytime of the year but they've had a great year and they have a great program. Again, we're happy to be moving on.

## Ohio State Head Coach Ty Tucker

### *On the match against North Carolina:*

"Obviously we knew it was going to be tough, coming and playing a great team like North Carolina. They lost in the semifinals of the National Indoors and we won the National Indoors. We got outside against them and we got punched in the mouth early and we found ourselves down 3-0 in the first hour, hour and fifteen minutes.

We lost five or six deuce points at No. 2 and No. 3 doubles... that left a mark. When got out there in singles, No. 4 and No. 5 were too good for us. As college tennis goes, we find ourselves back in it in 20 or 30 minutes and all of the sudden we have great momentum going. McNally is up a sudden break, JJ's got the set, we've got the first four sets and that's what you're looking for when you're down a doubles point.

Hats off to Carolina, they stepped up in a big moment and came through. I saw everything today that you hoped you wouldn't see—a set at 4-0 with a point to go up 5-0, a set and a break on No. 2. It's just college tennis. You've got to be tough and you've got to be smart and we were good enough to sneak it out today. We didn't bring our 'A' game but we were good enough to sneak it out and just found ourselves in too big of a hole."