



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

Women's Quarterfinal: Recap and Quotes

#5 DUKE def. #4 SOUTH CAROLINA, 4-1

ORLANDO, Fla. – The No. 4-seeded South Carolina was conquered by No. 5 Duke in the finale of the NCAA Division I Women's Championship quarterfinals. The Blue Devils defeated the Gamecock, 4-1, when No. 6 singles player Margaryta Bilokin clinched the match against Rachel Rohrabacher in a 3-6, 7-5, 6-2 contest.

The Blue Devils came in strong, snatching the doubles point with wins on Courts 1 and 3, with the No. 2 team also leading when play was stopped.

Duke kept strong when Meible Chi captured the first singles point of the match against Paige Cline in a 7-5, 6-0 win. South Carolina scored their only point of the night soon after, when ITA No. 4 Ingrid Martins conquered the ITA No. 11 Maria Mateas 6-2, 6-1, at the top spot.

Duke quickly came back on court No 4, when Kaitlyn McCarthy secured the team's third point against Megan Davies. With the No. 3 and 5 flights locked in tight third sets, it fell upon Duke freshman Bilokin to seal the victory.

The Blue Devils were the only lower-seeded team to advance on women's quarterfinal day. They were also the only team to win the doubles point and go on to win the overall match.

This is the 26th meeting in program history between the Blue Devils and the Gamecocks. Duke now has an 18-7 win streak against South Carolina, not losing a match against them since 1996.

QUOTES

Duke freshman Margaryta Bilokin

On facing an energetic and vocal South Carolina team:

“We try to be louder. [Laughs.] I think that was very important, the support from my team. All of us keep supporting and encouraging each other from the very first point in doubles to the very last point in singles.”

On how she closed out her match:

“I was looking at the scoreboard a little bit. I wasn’t supposed to, but I was, and I saw the other matches were in the third set. So I knew it might be up to me, and I did my best to try to stay in there.”

Duke Head Coach Jamie Ashworth

On where the No. 6 singles match turned:

“The middle of the second set. One of the things that we told Margaret was, ‘Stop feeling sorry for yourself. Go out there and play and compete like you can.’ We told her, ‘You have one of the best forehands on the team, you’ve got to go out there and use it.’ She did a great job there.”

On preparing for South Carolina’s energy

“It was something we talked about for a couple of days. We basically had the opportunity to play their same team last year at National Team Indoors. I told them after the doubles that once we got on top, their emotional level dropped. I told them we had to do the same in singles. You can kind of take the air out of them a little bit by doing that. We got off to a good start and had those momentum switches in doubles.”

On the importance of the doubles point:

“For us, it’s been huge all year. We made some switches with our doubles and we weren’t happy with it, we came down here to the National Campus and switched our doubles teams around and we’ve played good doubles since then. It’s something we rely on and we count on.”

On playing Georgia tomorrow

“Just happy to have the opportunity to play. They had a long match like we did. As I’ve told them before, after each match we’ve played, we’re now one of four who have a chance. Now we want to do everything we can to take advantage of the opportunity, no matter who it is.”

South Carolina Head Coach Kevin Epley

On the match overall:

“Overall, Duke played very well. They were one of the strongest teams we played all year. It was an epic match, we fought them until the end. Credit to both team for going the distance in the battle.”