



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

Women's Quarterfinal: Recap and Quotes

#1 GEORGIA def. #8 VANDERBILT, 4-3

ORLANDO, Fla. – Top-seeded Georgia and No. 8 Vanderbilt battled it out to the very last point in a heart-pounding, four-hour match. In the first 4-3 decision of the NCAA Division I quarterfinals (men or women), the Bulldogs rallied back from a late 2-3 deficit to defeat their SEC rivals and advance to their first semifinal since 2015.

Bulldog junior Elena Christofi brought home the winning point against freshman Carolyn Campana in a tight, 6-3, 6-7, 6-3 contest at No. 5 singles.

The Commodores started off the match strong by securing the doubles point with two consecutive wins at No. 1 and No. 2. As soon as singles began, Georgia brought the heat, as it quickly grabbed their first point on Court 1, where ITA No. 2 Katarina Jokic defeated Georgia Drummy, 6-3, 6-2.

The rest of the match went back and forth. Vanderbilt reclaimed the lead via Fernanda Contreras at No. 2, but Georgia grabbed its second point at No. 4, though Vivian Wolff's three-set victory. Vanderbilt followed suit shortly after with Christina Rosca's 7-5, 6-4 win on Court 3.

With the Bulldogs needing wins in both remaining matches to survive, Bulldog Meg Kowalski did her job, topping Emily Smith, 6-7, 6-4, 6-1, even after she was sick four times throughout the match. With the match knotted at 3-all, Christofi was able find her attacking game to send the Bulldogs on to Saturday's semifinals.

It was the third time the Bulldogs defeated their SEC rivals on the season, and their second 4-3 victory against the Commodores.

QUOTES

Georgia junior Elena Christofi

On closing out the match:

“It was definitely a tough one, especially when it comes down to one match. There’s more pressure, everyone is looking at you, and it’s tough to play exactly your game. That’s what I tried to focus on, every time on the next ball. My coach kept telling me I need to stay aggressive. That’s all I tried to do. I think in the end in these situations, you just need to play your game and play aggressive and hopefully it’s going to go your way.”

On the significance of dropping the doubles point:

“We always say the match starts in singles, because this is the most points we can win from. You know doubles is only one point. We obviously tried to win it pretty hard, but today wasn’t our day. Tomorrow we’re going to try to come out stronger and see how it goes.”

Georgia Head Coach Jeff Wallace

On guiding Christofi through a tense final set:

“We were telling her, ‘Do not moonball.’ We were telling her to step in and play to win, play aggressive. And she did it just enough.”

On his team’s doubles play:

“Back in February our doubles was not that great. At the Team Indoors, we won that tournament but we lost four straight doubles points. So that’s something we’ve worked really hard and gotten a whole lot better in doubles, and have actually played some great doubles. Now I like where we’re at with it, but at the same time, our strength all year has been our singles.”

On Kowalksi’s gritty win at No. 6 singles:

“She’s a tough kid. She’s from Chicago, she’s a fighter. She threw up four times and found a way to get it done... amazing.”

Vanderbilt Head Coach Geoff Macdonald

On the match:

“Hats off to Georgia for competing so well tonight. We had a great year and just came up a little short tonight.”