



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

Women's Quarterfinal: Recap and Quotes

#2 NORTH CAROLINA def. #7 UCLA, 4-1

ORLANDO, Fla. – The North Carolina women joined their men's program in the national semifinals, as the Tar Heels rode four singles wins to a quarterfinal victory against UCLA. Despite dropping their first doubles point of the season, the No. 2-seeded Tar Heels extended their 23-match win streak with four unanswered singles wins.

The win was capped by Sara Daavettilla at No. 3 singles. The UNC junior held off a late charge from Ayan Broomfield to clinch for her team with a 6-2, 6-3 result. Alie Sanford (No. 6 singles) and Cameron Morra (No. 4) got the Tar Heels on the board with a pair of straight-sets wins, and junior Aelxa Graham put her team on the brink of the semifinals with a late second-set charge in her 6-2, 6-4 result over Elysia Bolton. Graham was the only player on either team to score wins in both singles and doubles.

The No. 1 singles matchup between ITA No. 5 Makenna Jones (UNC) and No. 45 Jada Hart (UCLA) went unfinished after the pair split sets.

The underdog Bruins caused a shock early by taking the doubles point, ending a Carolina streak of 34 straight doubles wins dating back to the 2018 season, according to the school. The Bruins earned it through a tiebreak at the No. 3 spot. On their second match point, Abi Altick and Taylor Johnson edged Daaavettilla and Sanford, 8-6, in the breaker.

QUOTES

North Carolina junior Alex Graham

On coming back in the second set to close out her match in straights:

“In my head I just said don’t look up at the scoreboard, just play one point at a time. Try your hardest every point and then before you know it, IU was able to crawl back into the set.”

On recovering after losing the doubles point for the first time this season:

“I guess most of us are kind of used to it, because last season we didn’t do too well in doubles. But I think it’s really just the mindset that the doubles is only one point. You still have an opportunity for six more points after.”

On the inspiration from the UNC men’s team’s upset of No. 1 Ohio State:

“We are so inspired. They did so awesome. We are so excited to be here and cheer them on, and we’re so proud of them.”

North Carolina Head Coach Brian Kalbas

On recovering after losing the doubles point for the first time this season:

“I told the team, bottom line is, really good teams are better in singles. You can’t just split the singles. We did an incredible job against a very good team, so to do that I’m real proud of our team.”

On Sara Daavettila’s clinching win at No. 3 singles

“She’s just very tough both physically and mentally. The girl [Ayan Broomfield] was trying to do a lot of things that would frustrate her. Sara just stayed committed to her game and went for the shots when it was a good, high percentage and we’re really proud of her under these tough conditions out here.”

UCLA Head Coach Stella Sampras Webster

On her assessment of the match:

“I mean, the doubles point was just as tight at the National Indoors as it was today, and today it went our way. As for the singles, they overmatched us at some of the spots and just played really solid singles. A couple of them were not great matchups for us. I have to give it to them; they came out in singles and really played disciplined tennis. We weren’t able to maintain that high level we needed to beat them. I thought our players really fought hard, prepared well.

“We didn’t get over the hump of getting some of those big points to get ahead. We were trailing the whole time in singles. Jada [Hart] did a great job starting off, Abi [Altick] was playing some great tennis; they were definitely very competitive. Ayan [Broomfield] playing [Sara] Daavettala, Daavettala is just really tough. They were just better overall.”