

2016 NCAA® DIVISION I WOMEN'S SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP

Rd. of 16 · #1 South Carolina vs. #4 BYU

Stone Stadium · Columbia, S.C.

Saturday, November 20, 2016

POSTGAME QUOTES

SOUTH CAROLINA HEAD COACH SHELLEY SMITH

Opening Statement

"We are thrilled to be up here after a win tonight and moving on. I'm proud of this team; I feel like it's probably a broken record. They've been amazing all year; they just find a way to win games. We just definitely played one of the best teams in the country in BYU. I think that matchup this early is pretty tough. I think they deserve to go on, but tonight we were the team that found a way to win and we will roll with it. I want to congratulate BYU on such a tremendous year. They are full of talent, and, like I said, their draw was tough, and they were excellent. I'm proud of our team and how they handled such a tough opponent and found a way to win."

On playing BYU this early in the tournament

"It's a difficult process of choosing the seeds; the committee has a difficult time. I don't think that is a No. 4 seed; I think they deserve better. But, we got what we got. You're going to face top teams in the country at this point. There is only 16 teams left, so we know we are going to face top talent, and you're going to have to face a team like BYU at some point. We are thrilled to be getting by and moving and getting ready to face the next opponent."

On how beating a team like BYU prepares you going forward

"Our schedule all year has prepared us well for NCAA play. We have such a strong conference and to get through that undefeated and do what we did was tremendous. Our nonconference has set us up well for that by playing top teams and we may have a chance to play Clemson again, who we already played. We challenge ourselves in that nonconference season, and then in the conference we handled it. That's how you want to setup your schedule, so you are set up for these kinds of matches and to face the challenges. I think our team has handled that well all year, and they have a lot of confidence now moving forward. They believe in every match that we will find a way to win, and that's what they have done. They'll never give up – 90 minutes they are going to play no matter what the score is. Luckily tonight we were able to put the ball in the back of the net and found a way to win in regulation."

MIKAYLA KRZECZOWSKI, FRESHMAN, GOALKEEPER

On turning things around in the second half

"The back line did a great job staying composed and keeping them out of the back of the net the first half. The second half we just came out a little stronger and had a little of the wind on our side, so we took advantage of that and kept pounding away at them. The game was a little chippy, but we just managed to hold on."

CHELSEA DRENNAN, SENIOR, MIDFIELD

On the thought process behind the PK

"As soon as the ref signaled for the PK, I knew I wanted to take it. You kind of pick a way that you are going to go, and you just go that way, you try not to change it up. It's kind of contradicting when I scored the PK. When I scored the PK against Florida, I went to the left side because that's the side I always choose. I have been practicing them a lot, and I know I need to be able to go both ways. I saw the keeper going to the left, and it was a pretty easy slot to the right."

BYU HEAD COACH JENNIFER ROCKWOOD

Opening Statement

"I'm really proud of the way we played. It was a great college environment here tonight. Obviously, we're disappointed with the result, but I thought we played very well. We did an amazing job coming out strong, putting a lot of pressure on South Carolina. It's always hard to say goodbye to the seniors at the end of the season, but we had an amazing group of seniors this year. I've been doing this a long time - this is my 27th year coaching - and this is by far the best team that I've had. I'm really proud of the way you girls played. You played a high quality, fast-paced, exciting game, and it was a tremendous season for us."

On two great teams playing each other so early in the tournament

"You always want a game at this level to be played a little further [into the tournament], but that isn't something that is new to our program. We had to play Stanford in the second round last year as a top-10 team, so we don't have control over

that. South Carolina had an amazing season, and I think we had our best season as well. It was a great game. We came out and did what we wanted to do. The ball didn't bounce our way tonight with the effort and opportunities we had, but that's the game of soccer. We can go out knowing we are a quality program, and we wish South Carolina all the best."

MICHELE VASCONCELOS, SENIOR, MIDFIELD

On loss despite first half domination

"It was really disappointing. We wanted to get in the goal first with that dominating play. We had a bunch of chances - we just didn't put them away. South Carolina is a great team. It was a hard battle, but, yes, that was definitely our goal, to put them away early."

On momentum shift in last 10 minutes of first half

"I think second half, too, we came out with that same fiery intensity that we wanted and again didn't put it away. So that's on us. We have to finish. But, I love this team. It was a great game; it is disappointing to not get a result, but I feel like we played really hard and it just didn't fall our way."

TAYLOR ISOM, JUNIOR, DEFENSE

On loss despite first half domination

"That was exactly what we wanted to do. It was the start that we wanted, to pressure them as hard as we could. I thought we did a really great job with that. It is hard because we worked so hard and didn't get the result we wanted, but, like [Michele] said, they are a great team. I thought they pressured us well. It was a very good college game."

On momentum shift in last 10 minutes of first half

"We still believed we were going to get a goal, and we had chances towards the end. So I wouldn't say the momentum changed quite a bit. But they got a goal, and we went three in the back, so we started pushing them as hard as we could."