

# **2017 NCAA® DIVISION I WOMEN'S SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP**

Third Round · Santa Clara vs. South Carolina  
Stone Stadium · Columbia, S.C.  
Sunday, November 19, 2017

## **POSTGAME QUOTES**

### **SOUTH CAROLINA HEAD COACH SHELLEY SMITH**

“Again, we’re very thankful to be sitting here after a win and moving on. I’m very proud of this team and their effort today against an extremely good Santa Clara team. Congratulations to them on their season and making it here. I know how it feels to go all the way across the country to play. It’s their second game in two days and they battled and gave us everything they had. We’re proud of how our players responded and found a way to win today.”

### *On Mikayla Krzeczowski*

“A goalkeeper is crucial to advancing through a season, let alone an NCAA tournament at this level. It keeps them solid. Like Savannah said, the minute Mikayla came to campus we’ve relied on her to be a rock in the goal for us. That’s what she’s done. She’ll tell you her experience last year definitely helped this year. She’s grown, it’s a credit to her. All players can grow from year to year, and she’s done that and been a great leader in the back.”

### *On facing Florida next:*

“Well, we know Florida well and they know us well. I think both teams will be prepared. It’s getting yourself ready to play on game day. Our job is to recover and to continue to train and be sharp. We need to be rested and healthy as we prepare to go into that game on Friday.”

### *On the second half:*

“We were lucky to have a score in the first half of the game. We always hope for that. We try. It doesn’t matter when that goal comes, last time we played Florida it came in the last 10 minutes. You just have to battle and know that you have to take your chances and create. It’s always nice to score early, for sure. We can’t always expect that. No matter what it is, you’ve got to play and battle. Not everything is going to go our way and we have to control what we can control. Whatever calls or fouls end up happening, we’ve got to play through and find a way to win. And these guys have done that.”

### **SOPHOMORE GOALKEEPER MIKAYLA KRZECZOWSKI**

#### *On the defense:*

“They did a good job cleaning the lines and making sure they were getting the ball high and wide. They tracked markers and created opportunities for our offense to come and attack, so they did a great job today.”

#### *On mindset going into the second half:*

“It’s always beneficial to be a goal up, but our job is to keep the ball out of the net and that’s always the mindset.”

**SENIOR FORWARD SAVANNAH MCCASKILL**

*On being back in the quarterfinals as a senior:*

“It’s a great testament to this team and how hard we’ve worked to get here. We’re just keeping the mentality of one game at a time. That’s what’s gotten us to where we are. It’s super exciting to spend Thanksgiving with the team, my second family. Being able to keep playing is amazing.”

*On the first goal:*

“Tatumn played a great ball in and I did what we talked about all season, making sure you headed across the goal. I just happened to be there and get the ball across. It was a great ball in by Tatumn and Meaghan to create that goal and get that opportunity.”

*On Mikayla Krzeczowski:*

“She came in from her first game as a freshman and absolutely put it up. Ever since then she’s been very consistent in the goal for us. We can always depend on her, whether it’s a breakaway that gets thrown back or coming back big for crosses or anything like that. Just having her behind our back line to clean up anything that gets through has been a great thing for us. Our back line does an amazing job as well to be able to limit her touches and limit the job that she has to do every single game. Just a combination of all of that has made us able to win those close games.”

*On being heavily defended:*

“That’s something I’ve been facing all season, so I just keep my head in the game and try not to get frustrated with whatever they try to throw at me. I drag her out and that means someone else is always open. So, if they try to utilize one player to play on me the entire time, that most likely means that someone else is open in the attack. The rest of our offense has been able to find those gaps and find a way to get in behind whenever I drag players out. It’s just a combination of me keeping my head and not having them get to me and everyone else finding the gaps off of me has really created chances all year.”

