

SOUTH CAROLINA QUOTES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

South Carolina vs. Tennessee



Head coach Beverly Smith

Opening statement

"I just finished talking to the team about how this is the spot we want to be. We want to be in the top four seeds where we are playing for the first time today. That's a team goal for us. I thought our kids came out and we certainly had opportunities to score. I think, realistically, we gave up too many bases, and that was probably the difference in the ballgame for us today. This time of year you have got to have that timely hit to be able to win it. I was proud of the way we got out there and competed, and certainly congratulations to Tennessee on a good ballgame."

On the seniors this season...

"I think Ansley Ard is playing like you want your seniors to play right now. She has come in clutch for us with big hits. Jordan Bizzell's the same way. She was instrumental for us yesterday. Whether it's a double off the wall or hit by a pitch, she has been on base for us. That is certainly how you want your seniors to be playing, like seniors and with everyone on their coattail too. So I am really proud of the effort we are getting from our seniors and their leadership."

On how difficult it was to see Matty Moss come out of the bullpen

"Looking at them last night, Moss wasn't a lot different than Paige Lowary in terms of you just need to be on time with her speed. You just need a little time to catch up to it. It was similar for us in terms of approach and facing Lowary yesterday with Missouri. You are just trying to be on time for the speed. She certainly came in and did a great job shutting us down."

P – Nickie Blue – Jr.

On pitching through the Tennessee lineup...

"I think Tennessee comes up with seven lefties and only two righties, so that is something we haven't seen a lot. The SEC is the best hitting and pitching conference all around, so there wasn't much difference. You just have to go after every batter and see each pitch differently. The last pitch you throw isn't going to dictate what they next pitch will be. I think you just have to see each pitch and focus on it."

OF – Ansley Ard – Sr.

On Tennessee bringing in Matty Moss in relief...

"I think she is a good pitcher. She came right at us. I think as our bats went through, we started making adjustments and just trying to attack that first pitch."

On the season to this point

"It has been an amazing season. We have some awesome players and we brought in some awesome freshmen. I am excited for postseason, and I think we will do really well. I can't wait to start."