

# **2016 NCAA® DIVISION I WOMEN'S SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP**

Regional Finals · #1 South Carolina vs. #2 UNC

Stone Stadium · Columbia, S.C.

Friday, November 25, 2016

## **POSTGAME QUOTES**

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

#### *Opening Statement*

"What a great game tonight. We knew it would be. (It was a) fantastic environment for college women's soccer – unbelievable. I just want to thank this team for what they've done all season and the fans that have come out to support. It's been an amazing experience. An opportunity tonight for one of us to go to the Final Four – congratulations to North Carolina on their season and finding a way tonight to do that. Huge congratulations to them. As I told the team, at the end of the day, there's nothing to hang their heads about. We battled, and the ball just didn't go our way tonight, and it went North Carolina's. Sometimes that's how it happens. It could have gone either way. Again, congratulations to UNC."

#### *On if North Carolina did anything to catch them off guard*

"No, I think they gave us what we expected. They're good at what they do. They did a good job to get balls in wide areas and get 2-v-1's in certain areas of the field. I thought we adjusted well and handled it well and put them under pressure at times better after the first 15 minutes. Again, this a great team. I thought both teams played well and had chances. We took advantage of things they gave us. They took away other things. That's just a sign of two good teams going at it. Like we said, it could have gone either way."

#### *On Sophie Groff's penalty kick*

"I don't know how much I watched. Like we said all year, every time, we don't say, 'Hey, you take the kick.' Players on the field have to make that decision and step up to the line and say, 'I'm going to put this team on my shoulders today.' Sophie has done that over and over; so have Chelsea (Drennan) and Lindsey (Lane). So many of them have been put in that situation. When you talk about seniors and their career, you put your trust in them. The keeper did a tremendous job to read it and made a great save. At the end of the day, she came up with the play. To move on at this point in a tournament, you need that. You need big plays to help you move on. Credit to great goal keeping. Sophie placed it, but maybe didn't hit it hard enough, and it was read a little bit. But again, she's done that over and over and scored goals. Credit her to step up to the line in that situation and put our team in that situation to try to tie it."

### **SAVANNAH MCCASKILL, JUNIOR, FORWARD**

#### *On if she thought ball went in that was saved off the line in the first half by North Carolina*

"At first, yeah. I think she actually managed to keep it off the line. I think part of the ball was over the line. Props to her for holding onto the ball and not being pushed back into the goal. We had several opportunities that could have gone our way. That one could have gone our way, or Kaleigh's (Kurtz) goal that hit the crossbar. We had a PK, so we had our chances. At the end of the day, we have to be proud of what we did and what we did this season. It may suck right now, but we have a lot to hang our hat on and be proud of. Thanks to everyone that worked their butts off tonight. At the end of the day, we have to be proud of what we did."

### **ANNA CONKLIN, JUNIOR, DEFENDER**

#### *On how special this season was*

"It's been amazing. We take so much pride in everything that we do. We say before every game that we're a wall, keep it tonight and do everything we can to keep it out of the back. I think that was what led us through every game. It was more than just a game. It was a battle. It was a team. It was a family. We all were working together to reach our ultimate goal, which was make it to the (College Cup). I think that's what we did to get to this point. At any moment, we could have had that game."

# **2016 NCAA® DIVISION I WOMEN'S SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP**

Elite Eight · #1 South Carolina vs. #2 UNC

Stone Stadium · Columbia, S.C.

Saturday, November 20, 2016

## **POSTGAME QUOTES**

### **NORTH CAROLINA HEAD COACH ANSON DORRANCE**

#### *Opening Statement*

"We're absolutely thrilled to be advancing to the Final Four. I certainly tip my hat to South Carolina, Shelley Smith and their staff. In all honesty, our game is sometimes not fair. It should have been a tie, at worst, for South Carolina. They were outstanding. They created all kinds of chances, and they deserve not to go out in this fashion. One of their seniors came up to me after the game, and I could just see her heart broken. I just really feel for them because they worked so hard on a great season for their team. I am certainly very proud of my kids, these two [Madison Schultz and Lindsey Harris] here especially. Lindsey, for a great save on a penalty kick and playing great for us all season. Madison Schultz has found the magic touch. She has five game winners in the last eight games. It's absolutely unbelievable. She's a freshman. I asked her if she had two more in her, and she assured me that she did. It was a tremendous, hard-fought game. I don't want to pretend it was an attractive game, because it certainly was not. From our perspective, it was like 90 minutes of sheer panic, and then obviously a wonderful goal from Madison. I certainly want to credit South Carolina and their excellent staff on a tremendous year. We've been in their shoes where we didn't really deserve to go out and we did. So I really feel for those coaches and fine players."

#### *On the fans and culture that South Carolina has created*

"I think it is fantastic. In fact, I am jealous of it. The other thing that I like is the construction of that stadium and the intimacy of it is something we have always lacked. We play in the middle of a track. There is nothing personal about our environment, but I loved everything about this stadium. It is very intimate. The fans are right there and I could hear what the fans were saying. That's a very powerful quality in a home stadium. We are building a stadium. We break ground on it in May of next year, and we should be in it by the fall of 2018. If we can create anything as intimate as this, I think the stadium construction will be a great success. The fans here were tremendous. The crowd was massive. I think what Shelley and her team has done to attract the people that come to their games and support them is tremendous."

### **LINDSEY HARRIS, REDSHIRT SENIOR, GOALKEEPER**

#### *On what was going through her head during the PK*

"South Carolina has advanced in their last two games on PKs. So when that got called, I thought this is not how I want to end my senior season. When she stepped up, I was surprisingly calm. I thought I would be freaking out. She stepped up and had in my mind that I wanted to go right. I decided before she kicked it that I wanted to go right. Luckily, I dove right, and the ball was there. I made the save, and I was really excited."

### **MADISON SCHULTZ, FRESHMAN, FORWARD**

#### *On what she saw when she scored*

"I think the confusion wasn't anything with offsides, but they thought that I had perhaps handballed it. Our initial move is just to defend the ball and just bulldoze our way up top. So I was able to get hit with it, and Annie [Kingman] played me a ball to my left. Truly, I was probably just crossing it, wasn't shooting it and mishit it. On my last goal, I had chipped the keeper, so I think my tendency now is to chip more than to strike through the ball. So it went in, and everyone kind of looked and I looked at them. No one really celebrated until after the fact, but in these type of games, we're just happy to get any type of result to move on for another week with the team."