

South Carolina Head Coach Shelly Smith

Opening Statement...

I am glad to be here to talk about another win. This has been an amazing season and to be home playing in front of these fans is just tremendous. We are so glad that we could come through with a win today. Obviously we broke history with Friday night's win, and it was amazing to get a little bit more of the season. These players play like they don't want the season to end and they put everything into it in every game. They played with a lot of heart again. We went in focused on doing that job against a very good Rutgers team, and we came out on top. I am really proud of the effort today, and I am looking forward to playing next week.

On reaching the Sweet 16...

I don't think it has hit us. We just have to keep playing. We dreamed of getting this far. We knew we were capable of making a run in the NCAA's; we had all the confidence in the world. Sometimes games don't go the way they should; there is bad luck and bad bounces here and there, and we have just been on the lucky end of things. We have played very well for 90 minutes for pretty much every game we have played this year. We had to weather a patch in that game when Rutgers started to come at us, and I think that just shows the heart of this team. We deserved to win and we deserved to move on, and we could not be more thrilled.

On home field advantage...

All year we have been so strong at home. We have been good on the road, as well. You have to be where we are. When we are at home, we have that much more confidence. With the crowd behind us, when things are not going right, you know you have the support there, you can turn it around a lot easier than when you are on the road. The crowds have been tremendous, and we are so thrilled at the support from the community. These players are playing for each other, but they are also playing for this university and this state. They know everyone is cheering for them, and that just makes them that much more motivated.

On the physicality of the game...

Rutgers is a physical team because in the Big East there is a lot of physical play. We face that as well in the SEC, but we did not let it take us out of the game. A lot of times in the past we have played a physical group that has knocked us down, and we stopped playing by trying to get rid of the ball and lose a little bit of what we do well. I think today we handled it well. We challenged, we tackled hard, we won a lot of our 50-50 battles, and that is what you need to do. At this level, the best team is the one that is going to be able to handle physical play, but also control the game. It is not going to get any easier, we know that, but today was our next step towards our next match.

South Carolina Goalkeeper Mollie Patton

On the final sequence of the game...

Rutgers somehow got down on a corner kick, and their goalie even came up. I don't know who even got the ball, and she headed it. I really just reacted pretty quickly and got the ball. I hadn't really been tested all half, and to be tested in the last 20 seconds, I was just

happy to be quick and grab it, and I wanted to get the ball out of bounds as quick as possible.

On having two postseason shutouts...

It is really exciting. Last NCAA, three goals were score on me, and I just wanted to come out strong at the end of the season this year. To get two shutouts means a lot to the defense and me. We have been playing really well, and they tested us, and I am just happy that I came up big a few times in this game.

On reaching the Sweet 16...

It is an awesome feeling. I dreamed of this when I was little, and now to say that I am in the Sweet 16 is crazy. It still really has not hit me yet.

South Carolina Forward Brooke Jacobs

On only scoring one goal...

We wanted to come out [in the second half] and score some more, but we put confidence in our defense. With Mollie we knew if we just kept playing hard, a one goal lead could get us the win.

On reaching the Sweet 16...

It is an awesome feeling to be in the Sweet 16. We have always dreamed of this. We just want to keep going with it and see how far we can make it.

On scoring the game's goal...

Christine Watts and Maria Petroni both played great balls with a give-and-go, and I knew I was close to the goal, and I turned and I saw an open goal, so I just took a shot. I thought it was a little wide when it hit the post, but luckily it went in the goal. It was close, though.

Rutgers

Rutgers Head Coach: Glenn Crooks

Opening statement...

First of all, I would like to recognize the two players that are here (Erin Guthrie and Jen Anzivino), and our other seniors that played today in Becky Wise and Kristie Lang. During their four-year tenure at Rutgers University, it is the most successful four-year run in the history of the program. I am so proud of them and sorry that it ended for them today. I want to congratulate South Carolina. It was an excellent college soccer match, and this was a pretty typical high-level game. They got the opportunity and finished, and we were not able to.

On after the goal by South Carolina was scored did they feel any pressure...

I don't think that it put any more pressure on us. It increased the urgency a little bit, and I thought that the way that we came out in the second half was the way that we needed to play. We did put a lot of pressure on them, but they are a very good side. They were organized in the back. They were very good in the air. The one thing that I thought we could have done better was to keep the ball a little more. It would have maybe allowed us to get behind them a little bit more. I don't think there was added pressure. We have been down before, and it is not something that is foreign to us. Generally we are in the lead of a match, but we know how to come back from a deficit.

#1 Erin Guthrie

On what happened on the goal scored by South Carolina forward Brooke Jacobs...

Well, I tried to forget about it. From what I remember, on the left side of the field there was a girl about 25 yards out. Their forwards did a great job of making runs inside the box and looking to combine. It looked like (Christine Watts) was going to shoot, but she actually played in about six yards out to (Jacobs). She turned and hit it to my lower right, and it hit the post and went in.

#14 Jenifer Anzivino

On this being a successful season for Rutgers...

I would definitely rate it as a successful season. I think that we overcame so much as a team. We had so many players that were hurt; we lost six starters. Not one person ever looked for an excuse. We never made any of those reasons as an excuse. We always fought hard, and we always wanted to win. That was our mentality, and it stinks coming up short today. I think that we gave everything that we had.