

2017 NCAA® DIVISION I WOMEN'S SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP

First Round · #1 South Carolina vs. Alabama State
Stone Stadium · Columbia, S.C.
Friday, November 10, 2017

POSTGAME QUOTES

ALABAMA STATE COACH JODIE SMITH

On strengths of South Carolina

"Their speed of play is something we don't play a lot. They like to get forward really quick, and it really put us under a lot of pressure. We were defending more than we were attacking because they create those types of problems."

On what it means to make the NCAA Tournament in consecutive seasons

"I think it shows we continually improve. We start playing at this level and it's really about the players doing what the coaches ask them to do."

ALABAMA STATE KEEPER GIANNA GUYOT

On making the NCAA Tournament a second-straight season

"It's great for our program to be able to come back-to-back. Coming here to play South Carolina and seeing our improvement from last year was cool."

On preparation against South Carolina

"I think we were a little more familiar with the atmosphere and the players. Just for how they play and the speed of play – we were a little bit more prepared mentally to face them this year."

ALABAMA STATE DEFENDER SHELBY UNRUH

On team's back-to-back NCAA Tournament Appearances

"As a freshman it's exciting, especially since the older girls are saying how excited they are. It's so much fun. It's just cool to play on a big stage."

SOUTH CAROLINA HEAD COACH SHELLEY SMITH

Opening statement

"We played well tonight and did what we needed to do to advance. We had several players contribute and get minutes. It was an overall good team effort. We should have had more balls go in the net. That was a little frustrating but luckily a few went in – enough to win. We created the chances, and that's what is important."

On beating Alabama State last year

“We didn’t talk about last year. Honestly, it was more about this season. We just came off a great season and our focus had to be doing the job to move on. We know the opportunities are there to advance and play at home. We want to put our best foot forward every time we step out here, no matter who we play. Coming out of the SEC tournament, we lost in the first round so it was disappointing. We knew we had to come out and play our best to advance, and that’s what they expect from each other.”

On practice the last week after losing in the SEC tournament

“Playing and practicing against yourself is fine until you really want to play somebody else. We had a great week of training. We rested the players who needed it in order to get healthier. So tonight was great to come out and play a game and do the things we’ve been working on.”

On senior midfielder Lindsey Lane’s performance

“The shots on goal, I joke with her all the time, but she’s not someone that looks to shoot. She is someone that is always setting someone else up. She’s so good in possession, she’s so good at assisting, but she needs to take on some more scoring opportunities herself and tonight it was nice to see her do that. That’s what she said after the game. She was proud of herself to hit it that many times. She really wanted to score, and I hope she has that drive going forward.”

SOUTH CAROLINA FORWARD RYAN GAREIS

On not focusing on last season’s NCAA game versus Alabama State

“Each season is new. Being a freshman I heard about that experience. I really liked how the upperclassmen treated this as a new season. We had to come out even stronger than last year.”

SOUTH CAROLINA FORWARD ELEXA BAHR

On playing a game after losing in the SEC Tournament Quarterfinals

“Anxious is an understatement. We really wanted to be back on the field. It was about a week, so we were ready to come back.”