

South Carolina Head Coach Shelly Smith

Opening Statement

Obviously we are standing up here very upset and disappointed but we are very proud of what we have accomplished this season. It's hard to kind of reflect on that, it's more of a shock the way that game ended and how well we played, and the opportunities that were there to finish the game off, that's how close this competition is at this time in the season. I'm most proud of the heart and determination this group has shown and they did that again tonight. Through the disappointment we are all really proud of our efforts and just wish it didn't end.

On the end of the game

I've heard about games like that. I haven't seen one that close. We lost to Vanderbilt here a couple of years ago. It was one of our last losses here at home with nine seconds left in double overtime in an SEC game. That was probably one of the worst feelings I've had at South Carolina just because you know you shouldn't lose. One bounce here or there and it's such a disappointment. But that's why you play the game. Tonight, we talked about as long as we leave our field today with our heads up, that's what we wanted out there tonight.

On dramatic finishes

I know the fans are entertained by this team and proud of the effort we gave. I can't say I've witnessed another soccer game that was quite that finish. I must say in the SEC tournament we had a lot of dramatic finishes there. How all those other teams felt, we know how they feel now. For Blakely to score with two minutes left in the SEC Championship was amazing. These guys have put themselves in that position over and over. That's what sports are – you're going to be on the winning end sometimes and the losing end sometimes. As long as you put your best effort out there, you are winners.

On the season

This team has meant a lot to us. All I can say is we are so proud of them and what they've accomplished. They know that. They need to get over the disappointment and look at what all they've accomplished and put it into perspective. We'll make sure that these players understand how proud we are of them as well as the entire community.

South Carolina Senior Defender Blakely Mattern

Did you think they were going to have time to get the corner kick?

It was so quick how it happened I didn't even see how much time was on the clock. I knew it wasn't much. I was trying to get in position and get my team in position in the corner. Obviously she got it off really quick and the girl got a good header off of it and it went in unfortunately. My team fought to the end, and I am just really proud of our efforts.

Reflect on everything up to this point

It's hard to put four years into 30 seconds, we have come a long way. My freshman year we sat in our team lounge to watch the NCAA selection show by ourselves on a small TV and we didn't get selected, and that was one of the worst feelings ever. This year we had a selection show party at a restaurant and fans come out to watch it with us. We got 4,000

fans in our stands and we were hosting NCAA's in the third round. Where this program has gone from my freshman year to now is just unbelievable. I just couldn't be prouder, and my senior class everything they've done for this program is unbelievable. I'm sad right now with this loss, but Kim Miller and I and the rest of our senior class are leaving with our heads held high. This year we have done a lot and made a lot of history. (We know) that their future (in this program) is looking unbelievable and they are going to do great things.

Chances to score, coming out of the half did you think you were going to have more chances to score?

You like to think you can play for 90 minutes every single game, but obviously that's not going to happen every time you step on the pitch. We've been strong in the second half all year. We talked at halftime, we knew we had to step up emotionally, physically and tactically our game, and we did. From the time that whistle blew for the next 45 minutes we played our soccer. We took it to them. We did have our chances. Unfortunately we just couldn't get that one in the net today.

On the crowd

We have a huge stadium and it was full. You can't help but get a good feeling in your stomach. To know that my last game was in the NCAA third round at home with that kind of crowd is awesome. The fans were huge for us all year and I hope they come out and support this team in the future because they will be back here for sure.

South Carolina Senior Midfielder Kim Miller

On the end of the season

Kudos to (Wake Forest), but we have worked our butts off all year, we have made history, and its sad right now but we will look back and we have done great things. I'm proud of our team.

Reflection of her four years

Everything that we have accomplished this year we have deserved. From (work we did) on our own, to with the coaches and trainers, we have literally worked out butts off. It just proves to you that how hard you work is how far you get. This year has been unbelievable. From our fans to our staff to our players we have deserved every single bit of it.

Chances to score, coming out of the half did you think you were going to have more chances to score?

The first half we were a little sluggish, but the second half we came out there and that was us. That's how we won the SEC Tournament. We were out there and that was us. We don't give up, and we said first goal in the first four or last four minutes, we were going. That second half we brought it to them. We had chances it just didn't go our way.

On the crowd

Our fans this year have been great. Families and people that just live around Columbia to friends, we've had the best support system all year. That's definitely helped us. Being at home was a great advantage as well. We play great at home. Even tonight we didn't get the

win but we played great. That's one thing we'll walk away with as a senior class. We played great tonight. The chants that they had going with the Game-Cock chant and hearing the roar when your name is announced is great.

Wake Forest Head Coach Tony Da Luz

Opening Statement

“First of all I would like to congratulate Shelley and the Gamecock team on a great season. They took it all the way down to the wire and she’s created a great atmosphere. What a great crowd tonight and a good display for women’s soccer tonight. The game was a crazy game and I was telling our kids today that every big game has a lot of critical moments in it when you have to defend, you have to save balls, you have to be a little bit lucky and you have to finish your chances and try and win the game. I thought it had a little bit of everything, a lot drama. It was a fantastic NCAA playoff game and we’re really proud to be on the winning end.”

On the final play

We actually lost last year NCAA tournament. We got knocked out on a corner kick, the exact same play. In the last three minutes of the game. The exact same, but not quite down to the last three seconds. So I guess things even out eventually.

On the corner kick with a few seconds remaining

We saw it happen to South Carolina on Sunday against Rutgers, the same thing. They had a corner at the very end kicking down and they got a header and their goalkeeper made a great save on that play. I showed the players some of the clip and told them they could not stop playing in the end, you have to keep going. It strangely came about today but you rarely see something that dramatic at the end of the game. It was a very special play and a very special moment for Jill.

On seeing a game end with a second left

I haven’t personally. I’ve seen them. I saw one this year at Virginia where they tied the game at the 89:59 mark. They left a second on the clock for the kickoff. That’s the closest we’ve seen this season. I can’t really think of any situations like that. It was a really special moment for us. Our team has come through a lot this year. I thought we played well tonight and created a lot of chances. I thought we deserved to win. I didn’t want to go to overtime especially with the crowd starting to get into the game.

Wake Forest Senior Midfielder Bess Harrington

We’ve had this happen to us, against us, losing in the last couple seconds. So it’s a great turn around to have this going for us. We pushed until the very end and it was really exciting.

On the crowd

The crowd was about (the same amount) of people that go to our whole entire school. We get a good support system at Wake but we don’t get that many fans so it was exciting to play in front of that many people. It was a good atmosphere.

Wake Forest Senior Forward Kaley Fountain

I saw Jill Hutchinson sprinting to get the ball and take the corner, I could hear the clock winding down. I was just there and nobody was marking me and she put the ball in a perfect place. As soon as I saw the ball coming to me I said to myself 'It's going in, it's going in' and it went in.

I'm still kind of in shock that it happened. I'm proud of the whole team. We never gave up. Our captain and our center back went down, busted her head open and everyone stepped up and filled in. I'm just really proud of everyone.

On the crowd

We came in knowing that it was going to be a huge crowd. We were hearing how many people they brought to the first and second round. We knew it was going to be a big crowd and it was. Standing in the starting lineup and hearing them yell, it was overwhelming but at the same time it pumped you up.