



**South Carolina Quotes
Saturday, May 18, 2019
2019 NCAA Regional Softball Press Conference**

Beverly Smith, South Carolina Head Coach:

Opening Statement:

"First, I'd just like to congratulate USF on a fantastic season, and what a game that was tonight. I tell you, Corrick is impressive and I just kept thinking as many times as we faced her somebody hopefully was going to get a hold of one. I think our stars tonight are sitting here with me. We were senior-led tonight, by Kennedy Clark with a giant home run to put us ahead at the end of the game, and Dixie Raley who threw an outstanding game. I can't say enough about our defense because I thought USF put some pressure on us late, and Dixie and our defense did a great job getting us off the field. That was a great team win for us against a very strong USF team."

On the effect of Dixie's reliability on the mound:

"I think Dixie was giving us such a great performance, I was just waiting for somebody to step up. Dixie was keeping it close and I just knew it was going to be the first team to blink, because certainly Corrick was giving them that for USF as well. I just knew if we could stay in it and keep it close; it was just going to be who blinks first. It could've been an error, a hit, lucky for us it was a big home run. We made some big plays behind Dixie too but it was an outstanding performance from her on the mound."

On the message she gave to the team to come back and win an elimination game for the second straight year:

"We talked about this. We won our regional out of the loser's bracket last year. We know that's a possibility. We've got a tough Florida State team to face tomorrow that we'll prepare for tonight, but our team has a lot of grit. We understand that we were playing what could have been our last game. We were playing for our seniors today. I think everybody was with that 'Never say die' attitude today."

On what it will take to beat Florida State:

"Similar things. What an offense they have. They have an oppressive offense, so I think the same thing. We've got to limit their runs, limit the big innings, and put some scoring opportunities together for us. They're certainly a very good team but so are we when we're playing Gamecock softball."

On the chances of Dawn Staley [South Carolina's Head Women's Basketball Coach] showing up tomorrow:

"I don't know. Maybe, who knows! I heard she was live-tweeting the game, they told me that in my ear."

Dixie Raley, Pitcher:

On her mental edge over opposing USF pitcher Georgina Corrick:

"I would just say the way my team was playing behind me. You know, we have been in these situations before and we wanted to finish it out. I think we showed up and we fought right there at the end to close it out."

On how her arm is feeling after a high pitch count, and what was working for her in the circle:

"It's fine. We have another game tomorrow. I think my curveball on the sides was working and my screw and rise. It was a good day."

Kennedy Clark, Outfielder:

On her emotions after the game-winning home run in the top of the tenth inning:

"Well, Dixie was just fine out there on the mound for us and our defense was pretty rock solid so eventually we were going to make an adjustment off of her, and get that hit - maybe a home run. We were looking to string together a couple of singles, but I'm glad I got ahold of that one."

On her thoughts during the at bat knowing that as a senior, it may be her last:

"It'd be a lie if I said I didn't [think about it]. I mean I was thinking about it, I was like, 'Make it a good at bat, just stay within yourself and don't try and make it too big.' That was just going through my mind."

On remembering the pitch that she homered off of:

"Honestly, I just know it was inside. It went over so I don't even care what it was."

Ken Eriksen, USF Head Coach:

Opening Statement:

"Another classic South Carolina and South Florida matchup, and being the third game of the day on a Saturday, we got some fierce competition, something you would expect for a 2/3 matchup. This game came down to inches, and their pitcher Dixie threw a phenomenal game, but so did Georgina as she was on fumes heading into this game. For George to go back to back and pitch like she did in the regional, it is the gutsiest performance I have ever seen from a USF pitcher. My biggest fear of the day was taking Corrick out of the game, as I was afraid she would have punched me in the mouth. At the end of the day our senior class finished out a phenomenal season and I couldn't be more proud of these ladies. It is so tough to play at such a high level for 60 games, yet softball is about the ball bouncing a certain way and tonight it didn't bounce ours."

On playing the best lineup:

"You have to put the best lineup together in order to give your team the most confidence you can, so I put the best lineup out on the field. We were hampered this year, as we had really good 1-5 hitters, and then after that we tried to piece together the rest of the lineup. I'm extremely proud of what we were able to accomplish with what we had. I'm looking forward to the future and we have a great recruiting class coming in, so I can't wait to get going again in August and see how we can build on this season, with the new girls and the returners."

On the team's good defensive effort:

"I thought you saw some incredible plays from both teams' shortstops that were highlight reel plays. Devitt and Maguire were in a heavyweight battle as they both were making sensational plays. Both teams were able to put their players in the right positions to make plays and both shortstops are so quick to get the ball out of their hands. That's a special talent you have to work on and our defense continues to show its ability to come out and work hard, and then be able to put it out on the field. It was a good defensive ballgame between two really good softball teams."

Georgina Corrick, Pitcher:

On her mindset heading into the game:

"I was determined to come back and play better, because we went into the Florida State game and we got punched in the mouth, and we didn't punch back. I wanted to make sure I had the chance to face them again, so I knew I had to go out and give it my best. I wanted to show people that USF was for real, and I think by playing a 10 inning game against a great team like South Carolina, we definitely showed that."

On her mindset in the sixth inning when she got into a jam:

"I don't like to get caught up in those type of situations, but I trust my defense and I trust my spin, so I went out and did what I knew I could do. I have confidence in myself and in my team, and when I'm on the mound I have to have confidence, because I can't guarantee that the batter doesn't have confidence in herself."

Lindsey Devitt, Infielder:

On what she saw at the plate against Dixie Raley:

"When we saw Dixie last night, we knew she would come back and pitch again, and she was able to pound the strike zone very well. We knew she would come back and do the same thing and we had to be ready for it. You don't want to get behind in the count against a really good pitcher like Dixie, we had to attack early and often."