



## NCAA Softball Durham Regional Postgame Quotes – Duke vs. South Carolina

May 19, 2024 // Duke Softball Stadium // Durham, N.C.

### South Carolina Head Coach Beverly Smith

#### ***Opening Statement***

"I'd like to start by thanking Duke for being gracious hosts. This is our first time here, and I thought they did an excellent job running the tournament. I'm really proud of my team. I thought we played an excellent game against a tough Utah team and were able to come back and earn our way into the regional final. I'm proud of this group. I thought it was a really good softball game. The last inning got away from us, but I'm proud of this group. I always say it's bittersweet, when the season ends, and it ends the collegiate career of eight seniors for us, but I am certainly very proud of all their efforts and everything they have done for South Carolina."

#### ***On looking back on this season***

"Well, it's tough, right? There's so much going into this season, and we reflect that with a one-year transfer [Aniyah Black], a two-year transfer [Alana Vawter], and then Zoe [Laneaux], who's been here her whole career. It has been a special group. It has been a journey with this team and we have had some really good times. I feel like I'm just proud of their resilience and how they battled through a tough SEC season. To get back to the postseason is something this team wanted to do, but the bitter part is that we're losing eight faces that we won't see in the locker room next year. And all of them, I really appreciate them."

#### ***On what to look forward to next season***

"Well, we have a great group of returners. I think, going through the season, there were so many lessons to take, but we have got a great group of returners coming back. I feel good about the freshmen that are coming in. So, we'll just keep building on the things that we talked about this year with our seniors – 'what do you want your legacy to be?' I think our freshmen and returners learned a lot from all of them. We have eight, all with different personalities, all with different leadership styles, and I think everyone on the team will be able to take good things from them."

### Senior Infielder Zoe Laneux

#### ***On the proudest moment of her career***

"I think I'm most proud of my growth and just having to face adversity year after year and knowing that [it] prepares me for life after softball. I know I'll face a lot more adversity that is harder than just this softball field. I'm just growing through that."

#### ***On looking back at her tenure as a Gamecock and what she's meant to the program***

"I faced a lot of adversity through injuries, so I haven't really gotten to play a full season until last year, and that was the first year we made the postseason. So, I think, these last few years, being able to play the full season and then making it to the postseason, it was just the best feeling."

## **Senior Designated Player Aniyah Black**

### ***On the proudest moment of her career***

"I think I'm most proud of learning that softball isn't the end of the world. You kind of think like that when you're a freshman and you're in big situations like today, so when you strike out, you think it's the end of the world. But as a senior now, I know that it was just a learning experience, and softball has taught me so much. I'm just grateful for the opportunity."

### ***On the feeling of hitting a grand slam against Utah***

"First of all, the change-up that I've been struggling out on, I had to hit a grand slam! It felt great. I mean, for it to be my last day playing collegiate softball, to have that in the day is special, and it meant a lot to me."

## **Senior Pitcher Alana Vawter**

### ***On her favorite part of her softball career***

"I think just my favorite part about softball is being able to better myself every day. I truly believe that I gave softball my everything for four years, maybe too long - the fifth was a long time coming. But no, I genuinely think that every day, the people surrounding me make me better. I was able to push myself to be the best version I possibly could be through college softball."