



SEC Soccer Tournament: Monday, November 3, 2014
Post-Match Quotes

FINAL SCORE: No. 10 Tennessee 3, No. 7 Alabama 2

Tennessee Head Coach Brian Pensky

On Tennessee overcoming a 2-0 deficit to defeat Alabama ...

“Our team’s backs have been against the wall for a couple of weeks now. We really feel like we’re a good team and our kids don’t want the season to end. Unfortunately, I thought we were obviously a little slow out of the gate in general. The goal that they got in the first half was very unfortunate because the game was even. If anything, I thought we had a little bit better play. Then, we came out flat in the second half and gave up the second one. But, it was the thing that lit a fire under our kids and then, all of a sudden, we started dying for it. Hannah’s [Wilkinson] goal was massive because it was so quick and now, all of a sudden, we go from two down and in a really bad spot to thinking we’re in this thing and we’ve got a chance. Gabby’s [Santorio] service was big time on the second goal, and Michele [Christy] obviously getting in on the end of it. At that point, we’re pushing and pressing. We’re confident and our energy’s up. We had a couple of other chances and then we eventually get the game-winning goal. We’re a good team and our kids don’t want this season to end. They’re fighting their tails off.”

On Amy Neal’s game-winning goal in the 81st minute ...

“Hannah [Wilkinson] did well to get us up in a good position where she got fouled. Michele [Christy] has been hitting some good free kicks. She hit another similar one the other day against Ole Miss that resulted in nothing, but she hit it well and Amy’s [Neal] so good in the air. She’s got three goals for us with her head this season in the air. She gets on the end of it and it was a little bit of a tussle between her and the Alabama defender. It goes upper 90 and that’s it. Then we just had to lock it down in the end and all of our kids did really well killing off in the end. We’re in a desperate place and so we fought so hard to kill the game off. We told our team about two or three weeks ago that the best teams are owned by the players and not owned by the coaches. They take the team away from the coaches in many ways. That’s certainly happened in the last couple weeks. Our kids have taken absolute, total ownership of this group right now and are making great things happen.”

On facing second-seeded Florida in Wednesday's SEC Soccer Tournament Quarterfinals ...

"It will be a massive task, especially playing the game like we just did. One thing that's nice is that we just played them 10 days ago, so in terms of preparing for them, we're not going to have to review a ton of stuff, because they're probably a bit fresh in our kids' heads. Florida's the best possession team in our league and they're the most technical team in our league. [Florida head coach] Becky [Burleigh] does an amazing job with their team. Our kids don't want our season to end and we'll be ready to give it a shot."

Tennessee Forward Amy Neal

On Tennessee coming back from a 2-0 deficit to defeat Alabama ...

"It was a damper when they scored the second goal, but we pulled our team together at that point and we started playing like Tennessee. Hannah Wilkinson got the ball rolling and, from there, we started playing like we can actually play."

On scoring the game-winning goal in the 81st minute ...

"I just went for the opportunity. I just saw Michele [Christy] and I know where she puts the ball, so I just ran straight towards the goalie. I did not know where the ball was going, it was just luck."

On what the win against Alabama means to Tennessee's team ...

"It's awesome. We're playing the Cinderella story right now – first Ole Miss and now this. They're two great wins in a row and, hopefully, it will continue."

On facing second-seeded Florida in Wednesday's SEC Soccer Tournament Quarterfinals ...

"It's going to be a hard game. We're going into it like it's our last game of the season, like we came into this game. We thought it was going to be our last game of the season. That's how we played and we pulled it out, and now we have another chance."

Alabama Head Coach Todd Bramble

On his team's 3-2 loss to Tennessee on Monday in the SEC Soccer Tournament First Round ...

"It doesn't get any harder than that as far as having a heartbreaking finish. To be up 2-0 in the game and then, in just a matter of minutes, for it all to go wrong for you, it's really painful. My heart is broken for our seniors right now who didn't get a chance to advance in this tournament."

On why his team is deserving of an NCAA Tournament berth ...

"I think we've got some significant wins when you look at our wins over Missouri and Georgia, who I think are teams who are getting strong consideration as well, and we had a tie against South Carolina. As long as I've been doing this and knowing what an NCAA Tournament team looks like, I would say this is a team that can get into that tournament and represent ourselves really well, and compete and have a chance to win some games."