



SEC Soccer Tournament: Wednesday, November 5, 2014
Post-Match Quotes

FINAL SCORE: No. 5 South Carolina 2, No. 4 Missouri 1

South Carolina Head Coach Shelley Smith

On her team's 2-1 win against fourth-seeded Missouri on Wednesday ...

"I was very pleased with our performance tonight. I thought we came out and played very well for the majority of the game. I thought we were well in control and we limited them to few opportunities. There was some sloppy play, especially towards the end. I thought we didn't handle the pressure that Missouri brought towards the end of the game to finish the game off. Overall, I'm very pleased with the win and happy to be advancing."

On her team setting the tone in the match ...

"It was very important. Last time we played Missouri, we struggled to find the back of the net and we lost 1-0. We had a better performance than that result. We were obviously very pleased – when you score first, it puts a little pressure on your opponent and it definitely puts you off on the right foot. We were thrilled to get the first goal."

On South Carolina's depth ...

"It has been crucial all year. Our starters have done a good job to start us off, but to bring in players that can come in and lift the team when we need it, that's been huge. That's what we need, especially in moments during SEC play when we have Friday-Sunday games and preparing for the SEC Tournament and NCAA play. You have to be able to play and compete with your reserves so that you can make it through those tiring matches."

On facing top-seeded Texas A&M in the SEC Tournament Semifinals on Friday ...

"They're a tremendous team. I saw their game earlier and they showed that they won the league for a reason. They are excellent and they're well-experienced. They have a good senior group, so they're difficult. We played them not long ago and came out with a tie in College Station, so we know that we can play and compete with them. Anything can happen, so we're excited to be here and facing such a good opponent in Texas A&M."

Missouri Head Coach Bryan Blitz

On his team's 2-1 loss to fifth-seeded South Carolina on Wednesday ...

"South Carolina is a good team and we've faced them, beating them 1-0 in the regular season. We knew coming into this game between the 4 and 5 seeds, we knew it would be a tough game. I thought that we didn't come out as quick as they did and we started to chase the game. I was proud of our team to fight back and get a goal, and almost tie it. We'll learn from it, move forward and we'll take what we can to next week for the NCAA Tournament."

On preparations for the upcoming NCAA Tournament ...

"We talked about how we just need to start faster so we aren't chasing the game. This will be a good, hard lesson and I think we'll heed that, and we'll need to correct that moving forward."