



**SEC Soccer Tournament: Friday, November 7, 2014
Post-Match Quotes**

FINAL SCORE: No. 3 Kentucky 3, No. 10 Tennessee 2

Kentucky Head Coach Jon Lipsitz

On his team's 3-2 win against 10th-seeded Tennessee in the SEC Tournament Semifinals ...

"It was a very difficult challenge. What a game. We knew what a battle it was going to be, and I told my team that it would be our toughest game of the year. It would test us in ways – physically and mentally – that we hadn't been tested. Late in the game, that's what happened to us. I'm very proud of our group. We came in here extremely confident and we really are excited to play Texas A&M again. They have been the standard-bearer of our conference this year, won the regular season and I can't think of anybody we'd rather play or that we respect more."

On his team's quick start in Friday's match ...

"It was very important and it's something that we emphasize. We emphasize getting the ball on the ground and knocking it around early in the game and developing a rhythm. We understand with how great Tennessee is that they're going to upset that rhythm and they're going to cause a lot of problems for us. They really did – unbelievable coaching by Brian [Pensky] and his staff. Obviously, we'd rather play from ahead than we'd like to continue with that."

On preparing to face top-seeded Texas A&M in Sunday's SEC Soccer Tournament Championship ...

"It was actually a turning point of our season. We lost 2-1 on a late goal. [Bianca] Brinson, just like she did today, had a fantastic late goal. It was a senior moment for her and a fantastic goal. It was the first game where we started changing our lineup. We changed it completely during that game and after that game. Texas A&M really exposed some thing and showed us what we needed to do going forward. A great thank you to them for helping prepare us to get here today."

Tennessee Head Coach Brian Pensky

On his team's 3-2 loss to third-seeded Kentucky in the SEC Tournament Semifinals ...

"I am very disappointed. We came out a little bit passive and kind of allowed them to have their way with us a little bit in the first half. Obviously, I continue to be so proud of our team and I really thought we were going to get a third goal there. Unfortunately, we gave away a third goal to dig ourselves into an even deeper hole to start the second half. We still gave ourselves a chance. We have a group of competitive kids who are dying for it. Now, all we can do is hope that maybe we'll be rewarded with a [NCAA] bid because I think this group can get into the tournament and win some games in the NCAA Tournament."

On his team's resolve ...

"We've got some kids who don't want and haven't wanted their season – and, in some kids' cases, their careers – to end. They left it out there. I wish we could have that first half back. We gave away a soft goal to start and we gave away a PK in the second half. You can't do that, especially against a very good Kentucky team. We gave ourselves a chance and hopefully our season's not over."

On making his team's case for an NCAA Tournament berth ...

"That's a top-16 RPI team [Texas A&M]. We tied a No. 9-RPI team, we've tied a top-25 team in Auburn, and we beat a top-30 team in Missouri. We've got results against top-50 RPI teams. If you look at late-season surges, I think our team is obviously a team that has had a surge. If you look at teams that have the potential to do well in the NCAA Tournament, certainly I think we've proven over the last two weeks that we can get in and not just get in and play one game and be done. I think we can get in and do some damage in the tournament, as well."