

2001 NCAA Soccer Tournament

First Round

Nov. 16, 2001

Percy Beard Stadium, Gainesville, Fla.

UCF 0

Florida 4



UCF Quote Sheet

UCF Head Coach Amanda Cromwell

Opening Statement – “Florida’s a strong team, very physical, very fast. They have feet every where not just in the front or in the back. I think they are going to be a hard team to beat with their athleticism. Tonight they did well with getting in line and crossing the ball and taking advantage of finishing chances. They disrupted us enough that I think we felt a little frantic. We didn’t play our game as offensively liked we had hoped. Our first touches were off and so were our passes didn’t connect.

On dropping people back - “We dropped an extra defender back so we more in a 4-4-2 and sometimes a 5-4-1. I always had a forward high to try and maintain possession. We really wanted to key on Wambach in the middle and run her and not let her win balls out right. I think not only is she good on set plays but she is a very good playmaker. She has good vision, and if we could deny her the ball and just try to disrupt that, as for her attacks they are very direct, so we knew they were trying to get it behind us and we tried to take that space away.”

On have they played like that before – “It depends on who you’re playing against. We haven’t played a team this fast all year and this direct, so we had to adjust a little bit. I guess all year long we’ve been playing a 3-5-2 and pushing those backs into the midfield more. Tonight we had to be aware of the people up top.”

Coach on dropping people – “Basically you’re supposed to get numbers behind the ball and a counter out of that so they’re back before they drop. I think we could have done better with the space we had in the midfield and change the point of attack. We did that in the first half, we were at the other side but we weren’t reacting well to each other and running with purpose at times. I was happy obviously, one zero at half is better than two zero any day, and giving up that goal in the final minute depletes you a little bit going into halftime.”

Coach on Florida – “Our toughest game up until this point had been Florida State. I think they are faster than Florida State and more physical as well. So, I know Florida beat Florida State earlier in the year 2-0. I think Florida is very direct, good in the air, find some good balls, crack the ball from the outside and they can get it behind you. They have a lot of weapons so it is hard to be on just one player. You want to be on Wambach and Sellers but they can get it to the outside with Frimpong or play back to the center mid and strike the ball from the outside. So, they showed it from all areas tonight.”

Jessica Kuhlman

On calling the ball – “Well, I think everybody was a little rushed tonight and I should have called the balls a little bit earlier. I was slower off the ball.”

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Florida Quote Sheet

Florida Head Coach Becky Burleigh

Opening Statement – “Well, I think it was a good first round for us. We got a shutout. We got to play a lot of people. We got to rest some people. So, all the way around it was a good opening round game. I am very excited because it got the jitters out of us a little bit.”

On the defensive play – “I think the defense dominated tonight and not just the back four or five and the keepers but the whole team did a good job of limiting UCF’s opportunities and it takes an entire team’s defense when you’re playing in the NCAA Tournament. Everybody’s got to be playing hard defense and I think as long as we continue that trend we’ll be in good shape.”

On UGA team – “They are pretty similar to what we saw. You know that Georgia game (earlier this season), the score was not really indicative of that game. I think Georgia outplayed us in the first half. We scored all four goals on set plays, so I have a lot of respect for that team in the way that they play. We are going to have to bring it and they’re probably feeling the same way. I agree with Karyn (Hall), it is probably going to be a real battle.”

Winning games – “The way I look at it is, I don’t care if it’s ugly, I don’t care if it is pretty, just as long as we win.”

Abby Wambach (Florida senior)

On UCF dropping people back – “I think going into all these tournament games we’re almost expecting that from these early round games and we expect them to pack it in. One of our goals in not to get frustrated and I was tending to get frustrated in the first half. I think when we settled down and scored a couple goals, it took the pressure off of scoring because that is my main job out there. I think when we scored the first couple goals and came out in the second half and scored again, we did better. I was happy about that.”

Karyn Hall (Florida senior)

On facing UGA – “It is definitely going to be a battle, especially physically and especially since we beat them earlier. It is tournament time and games are so different at tournament time. I am looking forward to it because it is going to be a battle out there.”

Christine Johnson (Florida freshman)

On going into the game – “I was nervous but in that I didn’t know what to expect but other than that, I was pretty excited.”