



2004 NCAA Soccer Tournament

First Round • Nov. 12, 2004 • Gainesville, Fla.

Post-match Quotes

Florida Gators

Head Coach Becky Burleigh

On the game:

"I think first you have to give credit to UCF. They played hard and I thought they got a little momentum with the penalty kick. The second goal, the shot was a great shot. I was very proud of our team for mounting a comeback. With the score 3-0, probably the easiest thing would be to quit but our leaders, including these two seniors (Stephanie Freeman and Monica Hoyles), showed a lot of poise and leadership bringing us back. We knew all week that UCF was going to give us a game. It wasn't a surprise because we knew they were a good team. We talked about it all week and it was just a matter of us just not finishing on our opportunities, especially in the second half. I thought we had a lot of very good opportunities we just didn't finish. You have to give credit to UCF for preventing us from finishing on those opportunities."

On the increase in offense in the second half:

"Part of the reason there was a lot more activity offensively was because we went to a 3-4-3, which is a pretty risky offensive set-up because they were playing three forwards and three in the back. It is not something you want to do in the beginning of the game. I think another reason is that UCF went into "protect the lead" mode, where they dropped several people back. It was a combination of those two factors."

On the team's performance:

"I just don't think our team ever quits. It isn't the character of our team and having the seniors and other players who have been through that situation before certainly helps, but I think it is in these players' nature to not quit. You have two alternatives at that point, either stop playing or play harder. I felt like our team stepped up to the challenge and played harder."

On the contributions of the seniors:

"I think this team had its ups and downs, but this senior class did a really good job of laying groundwork for the future of our team. It was really big for us to win last Sunday in the SEC Tournament. It kind of showed that we could win a where something was really on the line. I think that for these seniors to be defined by this one game is unfair. I think they really put a lot of heart and soul into this program. All four of them have been big-time contributors since the day they got here. I will always be proud of the job that they did for us."

Forward Stephanie Freeman

On the two goals in the second half:

"We have come back from a deficit before so we all thought about that. After they scored their third goal, I could look around and not one person had their head down. I saw people trying to get people up and going. Because we had done it before, scored four goals in 20 minutes, we knew we could do it. It isn't in our nature to give up, especially for our seniors."

On the end of the season:

"It is going to be hard to put this game out of your head but I'm sure after the initial shock, we will look back and know that we had a great season. We did win SECs, which was huge, and I think those are those things that you are going to remember. It'll be the fun things you did even off the field with your teammates, those are going to be the things you remember."

Defender Monica Hoyles

On the end of the season:

"We put a lot of emphasis on winning, scoring goals and competing, but the emphasis that not everyone sees it that we are a family and in the end, it's the family that matters."