

2006 SEC Women's Tennis Championship
 QUARTERFINAL ROUND
 Linder Stadium at Ring Tennis Complex
 Gainesville, Florida



	Kentucky (No. 3 Seed)	vs.	Alabama (No. 6 Seed)
Date	Friday, April 21		
Coach	Carlos Drada	Coach	Jenny Mainz

Doubles	Kentucky	vs	Alabama	Winner	Score (match length)
No. 1 -	Kim Coventry (35) Carolina Escamilla (35)		Ashley Bentley (14) Robin Stephenson (14)	UK*	8-6 (1:07)
No. 2 -	Joelle Schwenk (45) Lara Maurer (45)		Andrea Brenes Mari Muller	DNF	6-5 Kentucky ahead
No. 3 -	Danielle Petrisko Carolina Winebrenner		Melissa Day Shelley Godwin	UK	8-4 (0:57)

Singles	Kentucky	vs	Alabama	Winner	Score (match length)
No. 1 -	Kim Coventry (46)		Robin Stephenson (19)	UA	6-1, 6-0 (1:32)
No. 2 -	Lara Maurer		Ashley Bentley (102)	DNF	7-6 (4), 3-2 UA led
No. 3 -	Joelle Schwenk		Mari Muller	UK*	6-1, 7-6 (4) (1:51)
No. 4 -	Danielle Petrisko		Natalie McElveen	UK	6-4, 6-0 (1:36)
No. 5 -	Carolina Escamilla		Shelley Godwin	DNF	6-2, 2-6, 2-2 UK won first set
No. 6 -	Jessica Giuggioli		Sofia Ayala	UK	6-2, 6-2 (1:44)

Final Score	Kentucky 4	Alabama 1	* Clinched victory
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Match Notes:	Records: Kentucky 16-8 (8-3 SEC)	Alabama 11-11 (6-5 SEC)
	Order of Finish: Doubles -3, 1	Singles - 1, 4, 6, 3

Kentucky advances to the semifinals for the fourth consecutive year and the sixth time in program history ... UK avenges 4-3 regular season loss to Alabama ... play was stopped for six minutes in the early stages of singles play and later for three hours and one minute ... length of singles matches does NOT include 3:01 delay ... UK plays No. 2 seed Vanderbilt in the semifinals on Saturday at 2 p.m.



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Friday, April 21, 2006

Post Match Recap & Quotes

Recap

The University of Kentucky women's tennis team overcame a three-hour rain delay and a feisty Alabama team to defeat the Crimson Tide, 4-1, in the quarterfinal round of the Southeastern Conference Tournament Friday evening at the Ring Tennis Complex.

The match started over 30 minutes late due to the length of the Georgia-Tennessee contest that lasted four hours. Once the teams took the court, the Wildcats (16-8) secured the doubles point in one hour and seven minutes thanks to UK's No. 1 team of Kim Coventry and Carolina Escamilla, which upset 14th-ranked Ashley Bentley and Robin Stephenson 8-6. Danielle Petrisko and Carolina Winebrenner earned the first doubles win of the match, downing Melissa Day and Shelley Godwin 8-4 at the No. 3 spot.

The teams were no further than five games into the first set on all six singles courts when a lightning warning halted play, which preceded a downpour. The courts were dried and the players resumed action three hours and one minute later, when Kentucky jumped out quickly and seized control on courts 3, 4, 5 and 6. But Alabama (11-11) settled down in the second sets and took early breaks at the No. 3 and 5 positions.

Meanwhile, Alabama's Robin Stephenson remained focused and impressive, defeating Kim Coventry 6-1, 6-0 to even the team score at 1-all. UK's Petrisko followed with a 6-4, 6-0 decision over Natalie McElveen and Jessica Giuggioli capitalized on her fourth match point to polish off Sofia Ayala 6-2, 6-2 at the No. 6 position, as the Wildcats regained the momentum and a 3-1 lead.

Attention then turned to court No. 3, where UK's Joelle Schwenk and UA's Mari Muller were beginning a second set tiebreaker after Schwenk took the first set. Schwenk jumped out to a quick 4-0 in the tiebreak and staved off a few mini-breaks to clinch the dual match with a 6-1, 7-6 (4) victory.

Kentucky advances to the semifinals for the fourth consecutive year and the sixth time in program history, avenging its 4-3 regular-season loss to Alabama. The third-seeded Wildcats play No. 2 seed Vanderbilt in the semifinals on Saturday at 2 p.m.

Kentucky

Head Coach Carlos Drada

"Alabama is always a tough opponent, they beat us at home and they have a lot of experience. We knew we had to come here and take care of business and we did. Anytime you play a team in the SEC Tournament you have to be prepared for a battle and our kids stayed focused and did very well under pressure."

Joelle Schwenk, Junior

"I played the same opponent (Mari Muller) during the dual match and knew she was a fighter. After winning the first set 6-1, I thought 'Ok, now the match is going to start.' She is a really good fighter and in great shape, so it didn't really surprise me much. I just stayed calm and hit to the right targets, made the right choices and did not make too many unforced errors. I also took my chances when I needed to take them."

Alabama

Head Coach Jenny Mainz

"I couldn't be more proud of Alabama. We gave it all we had today. We came up short and I commend Kentucky. They got the doubles point and it was a huge momentum factor. The doubles point proves to be pretty important in terms of confidence, momentum and taking control of the match."

"I thought we did a great job of being resilient. We were down on three or four courts and found a way back into the match. We fought back and sunk our teeth in, but we just couldn't get back. Mari Muller was the last one standing in terms of it being on the line and you can always count on her to compete. She poured her heart and soul into it as did Ashley Bentley. We have nothing to hang our heads about. We competed as hard as we could and we just came up short."