



2015 NCAA DIVISION I MEN'S & WOMEN'S TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

May 19 • Waco, Texas • Baylor University
Hurd Tennis Complex

Women's Finals Quotes

#4 VANDERBILT (25-6) def. #7 UCLA (23-5) 4-2 - Hurd Tennis Center Grandstand Courts - 5 p.m.

Vanderbilt Head Coach Geoff Macdonald

On winning the National Championship...

"I am rarely at a loss for words, but I am right now. It is a dream come true. It is such an elusive, difficult thing to accomplish. In a funny way, this morning I told the team I am sad that this is our last match, in terms of us as a group. We lose a couple seniors and it's part of the job, but it's been an extraordinary group. The two women to my left [Astra Sharma and Marie Casares] they work so hard on their conditioning, on their games, they study hard. Marie has a job in Nashville as an engineer. She graduated with a degree in engineering and she will be just a few blocks away and I am thrilled that she will still be with us. The great thing in this job is the relationships you form with just incredible young people. I'm just privileged to be with them and drive them around in a van."

On fighting through a close match...

"We have been through so many close matches this year. As I said last night, we played the toughest schedule in the country. I kept saying to myself, I love these kids, I love the way they are competing, and I focused on that and not winning and losing, and you know I did a few superstitious things."

On Astra Sharma's performance in the tournament...

"It's extraordinary. She is so deserving of MVP of the tournament. Her improvement this year is the most striking improvement I've seen in my life. It's partly work ethic. She was taught really good technique young. She is an extraordinary athlete, but her heart and her soul and her mind are really good. She has matured a lot this year. What I have enjoyed in working with her is that she is a sponge. We talk about tennis at a really high level. We are honest with each other. I can tell her stuff she is doing wrong and it's not personal. It works really, really well and the same thing with Marie."

Vanderbilt Redshirt Freshman Astra Sharma

On clinching National Championship...

"I did look over, I know you are not supposed to, but I did for a while just tracking and I was really disappointed that Marie went down. I just really had to regroup and think, we are both in thirds. It is very manageable. It took a lot of discipline, I think, because both players were tracking the scores. I think really what I had to do was just let it go and focus on my match, not think too much about Marie. That's where the trust comes in because I really had the upmost faith that Marie was going to do her best in the third. I just regrouped and said, 'Okay, just play a set. Play one point at a time.' That's what I did and it clinched it for us."

Vanderbilt Senior Marie Casares

On losing her chance to clinch in the second set...

"I did have an "oh-no" moment. We could have had it now, but I knew that we were still in it and that Astra was fighting and that I was going to fight. I am here for the long haul and going into the third, I knew that I had to battle and that's what I was up for."



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UCLA Head Coach Stella Sampras Webster

On the match results...

"I knew that Vanderbilt was going to be a tough team. I had no idea how tough because we'd never played them. But looking at their season and probably the last 10 matches that they've played, to beat Florida, to beat USC like they did yesterday, we knew it was going to be a tough match. It was going to come down to points and today, with some tiebreakers that we played, just didn't go our way and I think that would've made a difference. We had to work really hard to get games that we won and it just came down to some of those tiebreakers. We had our best team out there, and they were just able to be a little more consistent than us. I think that made a difference. I think their doubles point was played extremely well, and I think losing that point really hurt us a bit. I'm really proud of my team and they made them earn it. We fought really hard to stay in it and we just came out a little short. I'm a little bummed for our seniors because they really wanted this. For them not to finish their career in the team championship with a win, I'm sure is really disappointing for them. Now they have the individual championships and I'm sure they'll get up for that. Vanderbilt just played better than we did."

On the late rally for UCLA...

"It was going back and forth. There were times where it didn't look good, and times where it looked like we were coming back. You can see the score right there and you see what's happening and the momentum was shifting back and forth. It felt like we were in it the entire time. It never felt like we were totally out of it. I just really tried to focus on coaching players that I was coaching and trying to find a way to win. We just felt like we were going up a hill, and could never get on top. Robin [Anderson] winning and Jenny [Brady] winning helped us get on the board, but we needed a little bit more."

On Chanelle Van Nguyen's match...

"I knew it was going to be tough. [Astra] Sharma has been playing unbelievable tennis and she clinched a ton of matches, so I was a little concerned there because I knew she had handled pressure pretty well. But I also knew Chanelle wasn't going to give it to her and Chanelle was gonna make her earn it. Sharma was just a little too tough, and Chanelle gave it her all. She was just fighting her way back and I just thought it would go either way. I was hoping that Sharma would get a little tighter and not be able to execute as well as she did, but she handled it extremely well."

On déjà vu from last year regarding Kyle...

"I was trying to keep her focused on her match because I saw Chanelle coming back. It was deuce/ad, and she was saving some match points, so I really wanted to stay on Kyle and keep her focused on her match and she did a good job just fighting back. She's been struggling with her legs a little bit and she fought really hard to stay in it. [Marie] Casares, I have to give it to her, she didn't miss a whole lot, and Kyle had to work extremely hard to get the points that she won. If it did come down to Kyle, I would've felt pretty good. I knew that she would be able to handle the situation."

UCLA Senior Robin Anderson

On how she felt after she won her singles match...

"When I first looked at the scoreboard, I was a little bit nervous for our team. I knew my teammates were going to fight as hard as they could, and I started seeing them come back. I was feeling a little bit more hopeful. I really believed in my team and with the last two matches out there, I really thought that Chanelle was gonna come through. But to fight off a couple of those match points, to see her fight in her last team match, that was awesome. I'm really proud of everyone today."