Head Coaches: Geoff Macdonald (VANDERBILT) and Lele Forood (Stanford)

Stanford coach Lele Forood
Opening Statement
“It couldn’t have gotten any closer than that match. We were hoping to break through in the doubles and it didn’t quite happen. We had a few seconds of frustration after that then we really got ourselves together and said ‘this is what we do’. We won four singles matches. Everybody competed like crazy.”

“We got to three. Of course, Mel had gone into the third and so had Emily and we knew we needed one of them. They just did outstanding jobs, both of them. Obviously, Melissa got up early in the third and Emily was struggling a little bit on her court with a very good player. The match point at 5-4, didn’t get it, was very resilient in the 5 all game. Came back and switched sides for 6-5 and made us a little less nervous. Then closed out the game. It was great, great effort. And (Laampl) erased a loss to Rosca in February. It was a very important point for us. I am very proud of both of them.

Q: Your team never seems to get fazed.
A: “I think we just have confidence in who we have on this team and we we don’t care about some of the externals. We’re bonded in the groove. We know who we are. We know we’re pretty good. We have to go out and prove it. We just have confidence in the group and we’re a good team.

Q: Talk about Melissa Lord’s clinching win at No. 2 singles.
A: “It’s very difficult to be in that situation. Not everybody gets to clinch a national championship. It’s quite an extraordinary event especially when it’s going to be a 4-3 and not a 4-1 or 4-0. You have to remember what you do and how you do it and stick to how you play your point and try not to think about the rest of it.”

Stanford junior Melissa Lord, No. 2 singles.
Q: The whole championship looked like it was coming down to your match. Could you feel the pressure?
A: “When it was 5-4 me, Emily (Arbuthnott) was still playing. I knew that Emily, she’s so solid in third sets, so having a teammate right next to me also playing helped a bunch. I feel like we’ve done this before. It was like our freshman year when Taylor Davidson clinched. It was a little bit of déjà vu. Having a teammate next to me helped a lot.”

Caroline Lampl, junior, No. 3 singles
Q: Talk about the support you received from your teammates.
A: “Every single person on this team puts forth the effort, every single person helps us win a national championship. I’m just so grateful for my teammates and all the support I’ve received from them. They’re all so great whether you’re on the court or off the court. Every single person had a hand in winning this. They were so loud and so great throughout this whole tournament. (Q: Can you hear them?) Oh, yeah, I hear them and they get me super fired up and when I get fired up, they get fired up and it’s kind of like a domino effect.”

Vanderbilt head coach Geoff Macdonald
Opening statement…
“That was an amazing match to be a part of. It was close to about three and a half hours. I give them a lot of credit, they are a really, really good team. However, I want to commend my team, because if you watch that for its entirety, they were in control on most of those courts, and we turned it around and got within five points of a National Championship. If (Fernanda) Contreras gets that deuce, then she is serving 6-5. I really just feel great about this team – not heart broken. It was an amazing journey and we missed it by a whisker.”