

Head Coach Nick Zimmerman

Opening Statement...

NZ: “First off, thank you to all the fans that came out and supported us all season long. Credit to Lipscomb, well-coached and made it really difficult for us. They sat in, and sometimes that’s the way football is. It’s cruel. You create a lot of good chances, and Lipscomb’s goalkeeper made some incredible saves. I’m really proud of this group and everything they’ve accomplished this year, the willingness to continue to work and to be intentional every single day. I can’t say enough great things about them. You know, the one sitting next to me [Ally Perry] will leave a legacy. She’s one of the best to ever do it. So, incredibly grateful, incredibly humble. Not the result we wanted, but we talk about performance over results. Tonight, they gave everything they had and just came a little bit short.”

Q: Talk about the run over the last few years, four straight NCAA tournaments and what that means to the program

NZ: “Yeah, I mean it’s obviously a testament to the players, you know the standards and expectations that we have. Obviously, this is fresh and it’s going to take a little bit of time to process it. We said, sometimes futbol is cruel and credit to them. They made it really difficult and they made the save early on in the first half. The goalkeeper did an unbelievable job. I was like, ‘Is it going to be one of those nights’ and I’ve been on both sides of it where it’s been in my favor and when it gets us. So this is part of it. This is part of growing, you know. That’s what we talked about. This group probably had unrealistic expectations coming in for where we were last year compared to this year, and to be in this position and what they’ve earned all season is a testament to them so incredibly blessed, incredibly grateful to have been here with them this year, in terms of being a part of it. And I know this will leave a taste in their mouth for the players coming back next year. They will be hungry.”

Q: You used the phrase ‘grow and learn’ several times throughout the year and it really seems like they did that. They were playing their best soccer in the SEC tournament and even tonight they played well, they just couldn’t quite get...

NZ: “It’s a process. It’s performance over results, and for us, it’s always trusting the process. Part of these learning moments, sometimes you really, really have to learn and tonight is one of those tough lessons that you’ve got to learn. These are sometimes where you find the most growth, is through failure if you will, and this is another opportunity for us to reflect, as a team and collectively as a staff and figure out how we can continue to push the envelope forward and make sure we are doing everything we can to put ourselves in the best position to go in day in and day out and put together the best performance possible.”

#5 Ally Perry, Midfielder

Q: Ally, can you just talk about the kind of chances that y'all made?

AP: “I mean it was just one of those games where nothing was falling for us, and those happen. It’s a part of soccer. We couldn’t get through them due to how well they sat in, so it is credit to them. We just couldn’t find that one chance we needed, but we were trying and had good opportunities”

Q: What are some feelings that are trying to process for you right now?

AP: “For me, I’m very grateful for all the highs and lows. This is a low, but just all of the memories I have made here, thank you to all of the fans. This place will always be special in my heart, and it is somewhere where I have grown into a better person and am coming out a better person. So just positive emotions. Obviously very upsetting, but it happens.”

#25 Laila Murillo, Midfielder

Q: What are some feelings that are trying to process for you right now?

LM: “It’s just a great experience for us to grow and learn from. We worked hard and had a performance, it just wasn’t going our way, but I think it’s just the next step into our process.