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Description automatically generated with medium confidence Dayton (30-2) 3, South Carolina (16-12) 1

Thursday, Dec. 5, 2024

Ferrell Center (Waco, Texas)

SOUTH CAROLINA POST-MATCH QUOTES

South Carolina Head Coach Tom Mendoza

Opening Statement…

“First set was a little bit of how we thought it was going to be. We started out well. We didn’t slow Dayton down well enough on the serve. But I thought we were playing good volleyball, setting at a high level, getting kills, doing the things we worked on that we thought would be effective. Set two, we got away from that a little bit. We started competing in set three. Most importantly, just really proud of these two up here, Oby (Anadi), Ellie (Ruprich) and the seniors and what they’ve done this year. Playing in the SEC is a grind. You have to play well from the first week of non conference all the way through. They’ve handled it really well. You show up at the NCAA Tournament and you think everything is going to fit together. Wish we had played a little cleaner today. We are capable of playing cleaner than we played today. On any given day you have to show up and work as a group. We didn’t do it quite as well as we needed too or we feel we are capable of. But that doesn’t take away from the amount of times we were able to do that this year. Just grateful for these two and the rest of the team and our staff for everything they were able to accomplish this year. This was a team that was capable of making a run in the tournament. Things didn’t go our way today but things don’t go that way for half the teams in the first round. We’re just going to learn from it and move on.”

Riley Whitesides, Gr., LS/OH

On the Dayton run that powered the UD win …

“It’s always frustrating when a team gets on a run. When you are on the other side of that and you are on a run then it feels great. Obviously wanted to avoid that. It is over now and I’m excited about what the program is going to do in the seasons to come and I am grateful for my time here.”

Sarah Jordan, Jr., S

On playing with Riley Whitesides…

“I loved playing with Riley this whole season. I can depend on her any time in any match and I wouldn’t want to do it with any other group of girls. No other outside I would rather want other than Riley. The way we kept swinging and we didn’t back down from anything. We didn’t resort to not playing Gamecock volleyball. We were swinging and attacking and I think that shows our grit and our toughness that we weren’t going to back down and we were going to go out swinging. I really appreciate Riley. She was a powerhouse this whole season.”