

## 2011 NCAA Women's Basketball Championship First Round --- March 18, 2011

An interview with:



THE MODERATOR: We welcome University of Notre Dame head coach Muffet McGraw.

### Opening Statement:

"I was really happy with the way we played in the Big East Conference Tournament. We have a lot of momentum going into the NCAA Tournament but it's been a long time since we've played so we are anxious to get started.

### On possibly being an elite team this season:

"We're starting to peak now. We had some tough games in November that we learned a lot from. This team continues to improve every day. That's what we try to do each game. We take each game and look at it and ask how we can get better. The tournament is about surviving events and that's all it is.

### On Skylar Diggins as a point guard:

"She's definitely met my expectations and then some. She does amazing things on the floor. To make the switch from running the team is difficult even as a sophomore. She was fortunate that she had some great leadership. This year, she has really made this team play her way. We're playing a lot faster than last year and are definitely an up-tempo team. It's because the ball is in her hands and if you want it you better run with her.

### On playing Utah:

"They are riding a big wave of momentum coming in. They are a young team and a lot of things have been going their way. It's a really well-deserved bid to the tournament for them to be hosting. There is

a lot we have to come through to win it all. They have played really well down the stretch. They made some huge shots and some big plays so they've got to playing with a lot of confidence now.

### On Skylar Diggins' improvement:

"She wants to score and she's finally figured out how she can run the point and also score. The first 15 to 20 games, you saw that at different times. She finally figured it out in the last 10 games and has seen where to score and where to run the team. She's done a really great job of learning. She's matured throughout the year. Now, she's got a really good feel for "This is what I need to do."

### On getting Utah down early in the game:

"That would be great, but looking at the last game we played and we've been off almost two weeks now. It's a long time between games for us so we'll be a little rusty at the start. That's what I'm expecting.

### On Utah's confidence coming into Saturday:

"Everybody coming into the tournament is coming in for the win. Everybody has that same excitement on their campus. They happen to be playing at home, which makes it even more fun for them and for their fans. It's going to be a great atmosphere for them.

### On Devereaux Peters:

"She came on in the Big East Championship and she also had some growing pains early in the year. It's great to have her healthy. She adds something on both ends of the floor that we didn't have before. She's a shot blocker, can rebound, has a big wing span, and helps our press. She really does a lot of great things. She runs the floor and is an incredible athlete who can really elevate our team when she's playing well.

### On ASU's program in the last few years:

"Charli [Turner Thorne] has done a great job there. We don't follow the west coast as closely as we are focused in on the Big East during the season. They are continually a post-season team, going a number of post-season tournaments over the last six or eight years. She's done a good job at keeping them up at the high level.

### On what Notre Dame does best:

"Statistically, we generally shoot the ball pretty well. We can score points and are a pretty good defensive team. Our assist-to-turnover ratio is good as well.

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**On playing and learning against different teams:**

Within the Big East, we see some different styles. We feel like we've seen just about everything. We've seen the offenses everybody is running and we see the similarities from game to game. The Big East really prepares us well. It's a great conference and we're fortunate to be in it and have such a good season. That's also given us a lot of confidence going into this tournament."