

**2012 NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Championship
Second Round
Purcell Pavilion at the Joyce Center • Notre Dame, Ind.**

Monday, March 19, 2012

California Press Conference Quotes

Head Coach Lindsay Gottlieb

On the defensive challenge Notre Dame presents...

"Someone asked me you know what stands out about Notre Dame and there's so much. The main things are their balance, their passing ability and the way they run their system with much fluidity. I think the major match up challenge is that they play four guards, they spread you out in a four out one in and the challenge is to take away the things that come easy to them and force tough shots."

On watching film of Notre Dame...

"I feel like I'm really familiar with them at this point, the key to coaching is to be able to take all of the thoughts and knowledge (we have gained) and be able to articulate that in short, easy to digest messages for our players. With all the film I've watched, I know we have to stop them in transition, we have to make them take tough shots and we have to defend their system because as talented as they are individually we have to get them out of their system. We'll chop that down into a specific game plan, concepts and have our players focus on those small things as well as doing the things we always do."

On the strategy for guarding Skylar...

"If you have (a strategy), we can talk after. She's really good - the first thing is to slow her down in transition and take away easy looks at the basket. There's a reason that Skylar (Diggins) is one of the top, if not the top point guard in the country."

On the mental approach to the game...

"I think that there's absolutely no quit in our team. Going back to the Rutgers game, the first game of the year, we were down and came all the way back to get within one or two. To me, I see it in their eyes in the huddle - I try to figure out what to say sometimes - I need to calm them down sometimes - I need to fire them up other times. Either way I get some incredible eye contact in the huddles and I know they're with me, I know they're with each other and there's no part of me that ever feels like we're going to lose a lead or we aren't going to be able to comeback. That's a good feeling to have about your team."

Eliza Pierre • Jr. • Guard

On the new experience of NCAA Tournament and leadership...

"Like Layshia (Clarendon) said, we're all just leading each other. We do all have experience and get along with each other pretty well. We all want to win, so I think that helps us throughout practice and throughout this whole journey. We have a great coaching staff behind us, and I think we're ready."

On making the most of the games and the newness of it to the freshman on the team...

"I think we're all figuring out that we can't really celebrate three days about a win that happened yesterday because we have another game coming up soon. I think we all have communicated how special it is to be in this tournament."

On being successful against defensive pressure...

"The best thing against pressure is great guards. That's Coach Gottlieb's thing to say. I think we have great guards and people like Brittany (Boyd), Layshia (Clarendon) and myself can attack people on offense so that makes it easier. Also just to be able to pass out of a pressure defense helps."

On facing the #1 seed...

"They are the number one seed and we have to know that. They don't make many mistakes and they are who they are and they are where they are because of what they do, so we never overlook an opponent. I think we are definitely ready for the challenge and them being a number-one team does not mean much for us right now."

Layshia Clarendon • Jr. • Guard

On the new experience of NCAA Tournament and leadership...

"We're all kind of leading each other in a way. We said it's a new experience for all of us, but we all have postseason experience with the WNIT. Coach (Gottlieb) always tells us about other teams that are looking for something and knowing who they are. We know who we are, and we're just going for it. We're sticking together. The three people up here are great leaders, and we're looking forward to going through this experience together."

On what Eliza Pierre brings to the game...

"I played with Eliza my junior year on a travel ball team and I love playing with this girl. I think we were called thunder and lightening my freshman year. We both came off the bench and we both got in the game. I love playing in the game with her and her tempo and pace; I think it's something you can definitely feel. Something changes when she's in the game."

Talia Caldwell • Jr. • Center

On team rebounding edge and importance of controlling that stat...

"It will be very important, especially defensive rebounds. It means we're getting stops. It's a big part of our identity. I think it's something we'll continue to do very well."

On enjoying their win and looking forward to Tuesday's game...

"We enjoyed the win for a good 30 minutes to an hour. Then we started watching our next opponent and we moved on quickly. Right now everyone's just really focused. No one is ready to stop playing this season. We're focused to get a win on Tuesday night."

On how seeing Notre Dame play in person and play on TV is different...

"I thought it was kind of the same. On TV it showed they get the ball out fast and then made or missed the basket. They run. (We) saw that yesterday. (Notre Dame has) just a solid five players out there offensively and they are good on defense. I think we saw how good they are on film and yesterday so no surprises."