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

Saturday, March 17, 2012

Iowa Press Conference Quotes

Head Coach Lisa Bluder

On rebounding...

"We are not the most athletic, but what we have thrived on and continue to thrive on is doing things fundamentally sound and correct and making sure we do the things right—going to check the box out person, knowing where the rebounders are all of the time, seeing the angle of the ball."

On style of play...

"On paper there is not a whole lot of them. Our experience of being here is an advantage. Our seniors have known no other way than ending their basketball season here at the tournament. We will be patient, and we will get good shots. We have to really stick to fundamentals tomorrow."

On Jaime Printy's role...

"A lot of her role has been rehabbing to be quite honest. She certainly has been with us in all of our meetings. The underclassmen look up to Jaime a lot. She has been on the bench with us and is able to see some of those things."

On returning to NCAA Tournament...

"Being in the NCAA Tournament is never old habit. Every year you have a whole crop of freshman now that this is their first experience. It is fun to see the freshman enthusiasm and to get them to understand this is a standard for our team."

First thoughts on when Jamie went down...

"Anytime a player gets hurt, it is awful for your team. Ironically, Jaime went down the same game Melissa Dixon came back in. Melissa has stepped in to those shoes. Our team has never been a team that is star-oriented, where we set everything up for one player. Our goal is to have five players in double figures; our goal is to give everyone a green light."

On the momentum of the season...

"Our team was slow starting. We had a slow start. Our teams have traditionally gained momentum as the season goes on."

On not playing for two weeks...

"I think it is a disadvantage to our conference that we have our conference tournament so early. We will have had two weeks and two days off between games. When you are used to playing two games every week and you sit around for two weeks and two days, that it is a long time and I do think that is a disadvantage to the Big Ten."

On playing Bethany Doolittle and Morgan Johnson at the same time...

I feel very comfortable with Kelly [Krei] down there. I think she has defended well all year whether it is perimeter or post player. I think we are fortunate to have a power forward that is able to do that."

Morgan Johnson • Junior • Center

On California's rebounding strength and the challenge it presents...

"They're really tenacious on the boards, and they constantly get after the ball. I think it's going to be really vital to go after the boards. We need to make sure every single time to get them on our backs. We also need to attack the boards and make sure we're going after the ball. We can draw some of those over-the-back types of fouls – keeping them on our backs – and maintaining that contact is going to be really important."

On having NCAA Tournament experience...

"We definitely know what it's like to be here. I think that really helps our confidence to understand what this tournament means. I think they understand too. I think they're going to be excited about it – maybe just as excited as we are. But having that background to rely upon is really going to be a little bit of an advantage to help us explain to our freshmen and underclassmen what it's like to be here too."

On not being satisfied with just making the tournament...

"Once we got here and saw our names pop up on the bracket, we got excited. We don't want to just get here and go back home. We're not satisfied with just being here. We want to continue to move on. We want to continue to prove ourselves with the support of Jaime. Losing her – we've done a great job of combating that as Kamille said earlier. Just continuing to push forward and continuing to prove ourselves is going to be really important as long as we keep the focus on now."

Samantha Logic • Freshman • Guard

On California's style of play...

"I think they want to push. They're pretty complacent with more of a driving offense – driving their guards and getting the ball to the posts. I think that's what they really look for."

On being a freshman and the national exposure of the tournament...

"Our team has done a really good job with all of them having been here and explaining to us what the tournament is all about. Our coaches have done a good job of preparing us to play on a big stage like this. You have to take what you do here – preparing for the games and soak it up. You have to try to gain that experience for this year and obviously for years to come and trying to get back here."

On her presence as a rebounder...

"I think it's important to always have a knack for the ball – always being ready offensively. I think defensively, too, when we box out as a team, obviously that helps out Kelly (Krei) and Morgan (Johnson) and anyone else down low if you box anybody out. I think any of us can get the rebound. Sometimes it's just been bouncing my way. It's a team effort, especially on the defensive end. Sometimes it just falls your way."