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

Liberty Press Conference Quotes

Head Coach Carey Green

Opening statement...

"We are very excited to be here. We are excited that we are not playing today because it is St. Patrick's Day. I think it would be wild and crazy, and we would get into a lot of trouble. We have had experiences in the tournament in the past, and last year we weren't in the tournament. We set some goals, and one of them was to get back to the tournament. We are back in it, and we are very excited that our season has been extended. We understand that the challenges in front of us are huge, but we are going to prepare our very best for those challenges."

On having success leading into the tournament...

"You need to back up and start at the beginning. This whole season we have had our share of adversity. We have had our share of distractions and injuries. I am really thankful that the team has stayed focused, and has continued to improve. At this time, we are playing the very best that we have all season long. There was disappointment and frustration early in the year. I think as a teacher or a coach you want your students to continue to look at the goal in front of you. Our team has continued to do that. We have a big challenge ahead of us. Notre Dame is an outstanding team. I don't think you can get to the championship game like they did last year without being a very well-coached, well-disciplined, and talented team. They are a big challenge for everybody."

On the importance of rebounding...

"Obviously, from a defensive perspective, if you can limit your opponent to one shot, the percentages will work more in your favor. If you can limit their opportunities, then you just have to flip it to the other side. Maybe the best indicator is that when we aren't shooting the ball good I am sending more players to the glass to get a second or third shot."

On simulating Notre Dame's quickness in practice...

"We, along with a lot of other programs, use some practice players. They are usually some very talented guys. We have done that in the past. I think you hit on one of the great attributes of this Notre Dame team. They have great hand quickness, anticipation and basketball IQ. Those things complement their physical abilities. They are super quick, and they understand what they are doing. There is no doubt that this team has great understanding. They position themselves for an advantage both offensively and defensively. And they can shoot the ball very well at every position."

On playing Notre Dame on their home court...

"Let's look at women's basketball as a whole. In the men's game, there are more upsets, and that is primarily because there is not that home court advantage. Women's basketball is doing what they have to do right now. Eventually, I think the women's tournament will venture away from these home court advantages. It is what it is. The people here have been very nice. There are five people on that court that won't be too nice to us, but they will do a great job hosting."

Avery Warley • Senior • Center

On the team's rebounding success...

"It's an attitude of the team. It's something that Coach [Carey Green] stresses a lot. It's something we put emphasis on. It's a focus point. It's who we are."

On the importance of rebounding to give them more scoring opportunities...

"There is an emphasis in general, whether in the tournament or not, on limiting teams to one chance. The percentage of one-shot chances made is not very high, so we want to eliminate their second and third chances. Overall, rebounding is just really big for our team."

Devon Brown • Junior • Guard/Forward

On her reaction to playing Notre Dame in the first round...

"It wasn't a shock. We kind of had the idea that we would be playing them. It's just another basketball game for us."

On what the Liberty team respects about Notre Dame's style of play...

"They're a good ball club. They're number four in the country, so you have to respect them. At the same time, you have to respect every team you play against. You're going into the NCAA Tournament. There are a lot of upsets in this, so we always go out and play hard. We've been working hard at preparing all week."

On being a #16 seed...

"It didn't matter what seed we had. We are just proud of everything we did this season. We're ready to go out there like everyone else."

Regan Miller • Freshman • Guard

On overcoming turnovers...

"We have done much better with taking care of the ball towards the end of the season."

On beating Notre Dame's press...

"We have to take care of the ball. We have to move it quickly and well. We need to try not to force anything."

On respecting Notre Dame's game ...

"If we go in, execute, and play like we know how, anything can happen."