



## 2016 NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

First Round · Notre Dame vs. North Carolina A&T  
Purcell Pavilion at the Joyce Center · Notre Dame, Indiana  
Friday, March 18

### PRACTICE DAY 1 QUOTES – Notre Dame

#### **Muffet McGraw, Notre Dame Head Coach:**

*On her strategy to ensure the team is focused against North Carolina A&T...*

“Every year is a new year, and each NCAA Tournament is a brand new season. We’re 0-0. We have no wins and no losses. We need to go into the game with that kind of focus. I think it’s up to the seniors and the leaders of the team to come out with that focus and that will transcend down to the rest of the players. I think that job is done in the locker room before the game.”

*On Notre Dame being considered a lock for the NCAA Tournament throughout the season while the other teams (Georgia, North Carolina A&T, Indiana) were not...*

“Maybe in your opinion. I don’t think we ever look at it that way. We’ve always been a team that takes care of the business at hand, one game at a time. Throughout the season, we played ranked teams and unranked teams and we focused on them exactly the same way each game. That’s why we are in the position that we are in right now.”

*On her emotions about the NCAA Tournament...*

“A lot of anxiety. I think that never changes this time of the year. It’s really interesting when we get that first practice after the bracket is announced, and the intensity really rises. I think that’s a great compliment to our seniors. They really get incredibly focused. Practice has been really intense the last few days. I’m really excited about where this team is with their goals, their focus and their intensity. They are ready.”

*On the team’s health...*

“Everybody’s healthy. Arike [Ogunbowale] actually spent the week, some of it, in the infirmary. She didn’t practice all week. She had a fever of 104 [degrees], and she’s been sick all week long. She’s going to be in the gym today for the first time since Sunday.”

**Michaela Mabrey, Notre Dame (guard):**

*On the mood before the game...*

“We are really excited. We haven’t played in a little while. We’ve been practicing a lot, and we’re ready to get out there and play against another team instead of each other.”

*On not taking past success for granted...*

“We just need to come out focused. We’ve obviously had some tough games before, but we don’t take anyone lightly. We are trying to get better. We are not trying to dig down to their level, but we’re trying to up our level of play. We just have to keep focused.”

**Lindsay Allen, Notre Dame (guard):**

*On the mood before the game...*

“We are excited to get started. Intensity has picked up in practice, and we are ready to face North Carolina A&T.”

*On what they’ve seen of North Carolina A&T...*

“They have a really good post player, and they like to get the ball into her a lot because she is very skilled and talented. We need to help our post players. We need to make sure that we double down and make sure that she doesn’t score a lot of points for them. They also have some good guards that can shoot the three. They’re a very talented, athletic, and quick team.”