



2016 NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

First Round · Miami vs. South Dakota State

Maples Pavilion · Stanford, Calif.

Friday, March 18

PRESS CONFERENCE QUOTES – MIAMI

Jessica Thomas, Miami Guard:

"Once you hear your name get called on Selection Monday, it's all just a rush with all the traveling, getting on the plane, checking into the hotel late at night. It's a really exciting feeling."

"During the offseason, you put in a lot of hard work for moments like this. Once it comes March, everything that you work on just becomes repetition and it just becomes natural. So many hours that I've put in in the gym just forms within itself."

"We know South Dakota State is a hard-nosed, hard-fought team. We've watched a lot of film on them on their conference tournament. They can shoot the three-ball like crazy from all around the roster, and we know defensively, they like to get in on it on defense as well."

"It's funny because last year, Coach had me stand on the court and watch Iowa celebrate going to the Sweet 16 when they beat us. And that's just been a burning sensation. We've used it as motivate the whole season, off season. We had one mindset just to take another step closer."

Adrienne Motley, Miami Guard:

"[Jessica Thomas has] had it all season. People don't give her the credit that she really should get. I tell her all the time: we've worked hard for everything – just not us personally, but as a team. JT's numbers aren't surprising to me. We've come in together. I know what she can do. It's just a matter of everybody else realizing that she's done this. She's playing with a tremendous amount of confidence right now, and I love it. It's kind of hard to guard two guards that do what we can do. I'm extremely proud of her and she's had us on her back. It's fun playing alongside her."

"You're looking at the two biggest goofballs on the East Coast. You just really have to look at our team and see how we interact with each other. We're like non-stop laughing."

"We love to laugh and joke but when we get on the court, you don't want to mess with us. Us being captains, and Michelle Woods, we kind of set the tone. We don't let anything get too tense, but at the same time we make sure we're all about business."

Katie Meier, Miami Head Coach:

“We want to be the most excited team in the entire tournament. The first thing I told them in practice was celebrate everything. We are an emotional team. I think we’re really fun to watch.”

“They’re super individuals. I was joking around: usually at this point in the season, coaches are sick of their teams, but I just love this team. I’m having a ball with them. We even did the European tour in August, so we’ve had an extra long season with them.”

“The closest team to South Dakota State was the Netherlands national team that we played. They had a very similar style with their post players that can stretch the floor so much. They run, and pass the ball so quickly. Their pace of play is similar to some European teams.”

“[Our players] are very playful. They’re competitive, but they’re playful in their competitiveness... With accomplishment comes confidence, and with confidence comes belief. They’ve done stuff. So when they do stuff, and work and work, then they get confident, and then we can kind of have that belief and free ourselves up a little bit and not get over stressed.”

“I came up in a generation of coaches that benefitted from Title IX as getting the scholarships. It completely, 100 percent changed my entire life, and all my goals, and everything that I can provide for even my family. Having the coaches that were in that generation before me that just fought all the battles that I don’t fight anymore. Am I going to complain about flying across country? No, I can’t. Because I’m humbled by what the coaches before had created in women’s basketball. I’m one of those coaches that does tell history lessons to my team, does remind them who these people are. Tara walked into our practice yesterday at the end, and I introduced my team to her. I want them to know how special she is.”

LOCKER ROOM QUOTES – MIAMI

Erykah Davenport, Miami Forward/Center:

“We are going into this tournament with the mindset that we are always going to play to our best ability. We are going to be Miami on and off the court. That’s just the mindset we always have.”

“The three-hour time difference did kind of affect us but we bounced back and are back on track. We are ready to play hard and get the win.”

“You never want to get too serious. You have to find time to laugh about things and smile. Being goofy keeps us comfortable and keeps us grounded. It keeps us in character and character is everything. That’s our way of doing things at Miami. It’s just fun.”

Emese Hof, Miami Forward/Center:

“It’s been a quick turnaround but we were prepared when we headed out here. We’ve been out here, it feels like a couple days, but we came out two days ago.”

“I think it helps us become a good team. If everyone’s having fun and staying loose everyone can talk to each other. That’s when we are at our best. I think we’re ready.”