



2016 NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

First Round · Stanford vs. San Francisco

Maples Pavilion · Stanford, Calif.

Friday, March 18

PRESS CONFERENCE QUOTES – SAN FRANCISCO

Zhané Dikes, San Francisco Guard:

“[The comeback wins in the WCC tournament happened because of] determination and staying with it. I was really proud of my teammates because no matter the deficit, no matter how much we were down, we continued to fight. But I’d definitely say it was our defensive intensity and effort. We were nitty-gritty after every single loose ball. Defensively is definitely what got us back in each game.”

“We’ve really just been focused on playing USF basketball. That means passing up good shots for great shots, picking our teammates up when they’re down, sharing the ball, playing hard every single possession – defensively and offensively. We know we have a tough matchup – Stanford is an awesome team – but when we lock in and play that USF basketball that I know we know how to play, good things tend to happen.”

“Watching the film on the Stanford vs. Santa Clara game does give our team a bit of hope because we have played against Santa Clara, who is also a very good team. Seeing a WCC team also take [Stanford] down gives us more fire inside and get us really excited for tomorrow evening.”

Taylor Proctor, San Francisco Forward:

“The energy we put on the court at the end of the games especially. We’re a team that is filled with fight, and heart, and love for one another, and I think in those three games, that’s what put us over the top: staying together and playing USF basketball.”

“Being on [Jennifer Azzi’s] home court and coming back to her place is really cool for us to experience with her. But we’re playing against the home team, and of course, we’re going to do our best to take them down.”

“The first conversation I had with her, I wasn’t familiar with Jennifer Azzi. But when I did my research on her and my coach from high school was talking about her, I couldn’t believe that I was talking to a Hall of Famer. It was an honor for me, and just being able to play for her has been probably the best four years of my life.”

Jennifer Azzi, San Francisco Head Coach:

“It’s very surreal coming back to Stanford. But more so than that, I’m so proud of the team that I’m coaching. They have fought so hard this season. What people don’t realize is that we lost three senior starters a year ago. We finished very strong a year ago as well, but we were a new team this year. It took our team a little while to find their own identity and their own chemistry. And so they’ve worked extremely hard to get to where they are. The WCC Tournament proved that they have a lot of fight and heart, and they truly love one another, which is one of the things I’m most proud of. Living in this day and age of cell phones and everything that coming at them, to get a group that really connects is something that I’m very, very proud of.”

“I don’t even know if I know how to describe coming back to Stanford. I’m getting all these texts from former teammates how it’s strange. And even driving here from our hotel and passing by The Dish, where we used to run, it brings back a lot of very, very good memories.”

“I’ve shared often with my team, and this was before we even knew we were coming to Stanford, what it was like as a player building a program. When I see [Zhané Dikes and Taylor Proctor] as seniors earning their way to the NCAA Tournament, it’s exciting to me because I know what that feels like. Being here with them, I couldn’t be with a better group.”

“The only way I can describe it is that it is a little bit surreal being at Stanford. I don’t want that to overshadow though that USF has made it to the NCAA Tournament, which is historically an incredible milestone in it of itself.”

LOCKER ROOM QUOTES – SAN FRANCISCO

Rachel Howard, San Francisco Guard:

“I think we really resemble the word team. We work really well together. Not only on the offensive side but also on the defensive side. We really have each other’s back. There’s a lot of trust in the way that we play. That really helped us when each game came down to the wire.”

“The whole season we’ve talked about not hanging our heads on any loss. The season is really long, it’s a process and we have to continue to set our sights on getting better each day. That’s been our attitude this whole time.”

“There’s no way to explain it. As a whole, for each one of us this is what we dreamed about as little kids. Everyone grows up watching the tournament. It’s incredible to be a part of it.”

“Each day I’m so thankful to be on the court. Blessed with a whole season not having any serious injuries. Our whole team in general has stayed healthy. It’s been nice and I’m super thankful for that.”