



2016 NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

First Round · South Dakota State 74, Miami 71

Maples Pavilion · Stanford, Calif.

Saturday, March 19

POSTGAME PRESS CONFERENCE QUOTES – SOUTH DAKOTA STATE

Aaron Johnston, South Dakota State Head Coach:

“The way that game started off, it was a lot of offense. We really had to weather their first quarter. They shot the ball so well. I thought we defended pretty well. There were some tough shots that they made to get themselves going. But then as the game went on, I think we settled in. Our defense was really good in those last three quarters.”

“One of the biggest shots we hit today was [Madison Guebert's] three before halftime after Miami was on a run – in a comfort zone. That three really settled our team down going into the locker room. And we came out and played really well early in that third quarter, and just carried it through, and had enough in the end to sneak one out.”

“We had more of a post presence in that second half. We were able to go inside to [Clarissa Ober] and [Ellie Thompson] some. The first half, we had a hard time even throwing the ball in without turning it over. We had more penetration to the basket. We talked a lot about guards being a little bit more aggressive. Trying to create some offense. And then we really talked about trusting our defense. We really felt like Miami had a lot of good shots, but contested shots that our defense was pretty good at early on and not to get discouraged from that. If that happens again in the second half, not to be distracted. To continue to trust what we do. That second half, I thought we played awfully well to get up 10 points, and I'm really proud of the majority of what we did there.”

“It means an awful lot. There are 32 teams that are going to be playing after today in the NCAA Tournament, and to be one of them is a heck of an accomplishment for anyone – any of the 32 teams that move on. There's just so much on the line in these games. It's not easy to play well.”

“I want our team first to just enjoy today and enjoy the moment of victory and getting an upset. What it means going forward is that I think we're on the right track. We've been on this for a long time now. We've had some setbacks in the NCAA Tournament and it's easy to look at those as discouraging things, but I think our team and program has really looked at it optimistically and said, 'If we keep at this, we're in a good trajectory here and things will move in our direction.' It's a culmination of a lot of years and effort of scheduling and recruiting and development and players putting their time into it, so it's great to see all those things come together.”

Macy Miller, South Dakota State Guard/Forward:

“We were really aggressive and we had a bunch of people knocking down shots that were very crucial to us. [Miami] didn’t help very well defensively, so I’d just say we got to the basket really well and we were tough.”

“Towards the third and fourth quarters, they put on the heavy press. It causes some frustrations, and that really brought it close. We had some big people like Gabby, our senior, make some big free throws.”

“At halftime, we told each other that the second half, we needed to go in just like the first half, but even better. Go in tougher, play better defense.”

“I’d say it’s huge for our program. It’s been a while since we won a first round game, and I feel like it’s a very big deal.”

Madison Guebert, South Dakota State Guard:

“Being a freshman, it’s a different experience out there. But our team really moves the ball well, and just having a confidence in my team give me more confidence in myself.”

“You try not to really caught up in [first half success] because it’s not just about offense. You have to bring it defensively too. But like I said before, my teammates are just doing a really great job of penetrating, kicking, and moving the ball really well. It’s not just a personal thing, it’s more of a team thing.”

“It’s really exciting to get a win in the first round. Being a 12 seed upsetting a 5 seed. Coach really talked about how, ‘Yeah, we’re a 12 seed but we’re much better than a 12 seed and we were here to prove that we were much better than a 12 seed.’ That’s really what we came out and did today with so much of our toughness, and defensive intensity, and just being so aggressive on offense.”

POSTGAME LOCKER ROOM QUOTES – SOUTH DAKOTA STATE

Ellie Thompson, South Dakota State Forward:

“It’s been an upset year; it’s the year of the upset. That gave us a lot of confidence coming into the game that it’s a year that this is going to happen.”

“Coming out of halftime, we talked about minor adjustments. We needed to play better defense which we definitely improved on. Then we just gained confidence during the game. We were only down by two so I think that really helped a lot.”

“I think we need to be a little bit more poised. A lot of our turnovers occurred when we were trying to draw fouls. I think in our next game we will do better at that, having a practice to work on it.”

“It’s a great feeling. It felt great to win the Summit League. I don’t want to say this feels better, but it’s just as good.”