



2016 NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Second Round · Stanford vs. South Dakota State

Maples Pavilion · Stanford, Calif.

Sunday, March 20

PRESS CONFERENCE QUOTES – SOUTH DAKOTA STATE

Aaron Johnston, South Dakota State Head Coach:

"It's exciting for everybody (to beat Miami). It's a culmination of a lot of work that goes into not only this year, but even previous years. It's neat to see everybody be rewarded in this way for a chance to play together again as a group and represent South Dakota. And in this case, do it against Stanford, really one of the storied women's basketball programs in the country."

"They're very good in what they do in X's and O's (from meeting two years ago in Mexico). But what makes them good is the exact same thing: they take great shots, they pass the ball incredibly well, they play together, stay in their system and are very good defensively."

"She's a very heady player and makes everybody around her better (on Stanford freshman point guard Marta Snizek). She impacts the game without taking a lot of shots and feeling like she has to score a lot of points. She does a great job of finding teammates."

"I think it's a great thing. We don't put too much on ourselves or try to over-glorify what we're doing. It certainly raises the profile of what can be accomplished for many players back home. Our team takes that pretty seriously."

"We're weren't surprised or disappointed. I do think we're much better than a 12 seed."

"I think the things that have helped us are we have been very good defensively. Miami came out early and was making shots but they were tough, contested shots. They weren't breakdowns. That's why we've been in every game."

"Each year we've really tried to play that level of competition (facing Notre Dame and Maryland in nonconference games). That's why this is such a rewarding process. It's not just about winning yesterday."

"It's so unusual in this day and age, for coaches who have coached that long and at one place and have adjusted with the changing flow of basketball. What they do now is very different than what they did a short period ago. And to have the courage to make those kind of changes and go outside your comfort zone says a lot about how she continues to evolve and adapt. She's done it nationally and internationally. There's very few things she hasn't accomplished."

Gabby Boever, Senior Guard

“Coming from South Dakota, not a lot of people know about us. But I think when they continue to watch film on us, they know we are able to compete with big schools.”

“It meant a lot (for state of South Dakota, beating Miami). We’re really looking forward to this opportunity to continue the goal that we set for ourselves to reach the Sweet 16 and go farther than any basketball team have ever gone before in South Dakota.”

“We are a completely different team than we were two years ago (vs. Stanford in 2013 at the Hardwood Tournament of Hope in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, won by Stanford 80-60). We are a lot smaller, and they’re a lot different. Definitely looking forward to the opportunity to play again.”

“Stanford is really good at attacking you, finding the extra player and making extra passes and moving the ball around. Our key for tomorrow’s game is to guard the ball and make sure we don’t have to over-help on some players.”

“I’m just playing like it’s my last game. That’s always how you have to play. You’re not guaranteed a win, so going out there and giving it your all.”

“Coming from a smaller town, you don’t necessarily get looked at by big schools (on representing South Dakota way of life). So coming out and proving to yourself and others that you are able to compete and play with bigger schools is definitely something that I take pride in.”

Clarissa Ober, Junior Center

“In practice, we mainly focus on defense. Since the league tournament, we have been playing excellent defense. We told ourselves coming into this game (vs. Miami), that’s what is going to win games.”

“We’ve played against crowds like that. We usually can feed off their energy, knowing that we have to get big stops against Stanford at their home court will be big.”

“We talked at halftime that the first four minutes are going to be crucial and whoever owns those four minutes will come out on top (vs. Miami). Having that in our mind, I thought we came out and executed every play and defensive stop.”

“It puts on us the map (beating Miami). Teams that are ranked higher can’t really overlook us now because we have stayed with other high-ranked teams.”

Kerri Young, Junior Guard/Forward

“I think it was huge (beating Miami). This is our second time winning first round. This is hard for a lot of teams, to come out and win the first game. We played loose and confident, and I think that was a big part of our success yesterday. Now we can’t be satisfied, be ready for the next game and still be hungry.”

“I will be a good environment tomorrow and they’ll have a lot of fans. But our fans are pretty rowdy, too, and that gets us fired up. That’s always good to have a lot of fans come here to support us. When they go on runs, we’ll go on runs. That’s just the game. We just have to stay focused, calm ourselves and make the next play.”