



## 2016 NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Second Round · Stanford vs. South Dakota State

Maples Pavilion · Stanford, Calif.

Monday, March 21

### PRESS CONFERENCE QUOTES – SOUTH DAKOTA STATE

#### **Aaron Johnston, South Dakota State Head Coach:**

“Congratulations to Stanford- they made a lot of plays late in that game when they really needed them, and that’s what good teams do. So it’s a very good win for them, we wish them the best going forward. We played really well; the season has come to a screeching halt. You don’t ease into the end of the season, they just come up and hit you, so it’s tough. We’ve been sitting here for the last couple of days watching all the other men’s and women’s NCAA Tournament games, I’ve done this a long time, and you see a lot of those tight games. I’ve been on both sides of that, I know how it feels, and it feels tough to be on this side of it. Ironically, we were in a really good spot in our first year with a chance to go to the Sweet 16 and we had the same type of loss. I just feel for our players, I’m so proud of all of them. What a great year they had- really one of the best years in program history and that says a lot. Chloe and Gabby were wonderful seniors for us, and internally I think we know what they gave up with their roles to help our team move forward, so I just couldn’t be happier for two people and two great leaders. I’m excited for what the future will bring for this group.”

“There is tremendous pressure in this tournament and there is tremendous pressure on the home team. People might feel like it’s a huge advantage to be at home, and it really is, but when things aren’t going well that’s tremendous pressure, even more so than being on the road. Making shots in that first quarter and that third quarter really turned the pressure, so to speak, and it really wasn’t on the road team, it was on the home team.”

“We were trying to get into the high ball screen we were in during the third quarter. I really thought Macy had a good look, gave it to Ellie, and I thought Ellie had a good look. But it’s a pressure situation and that’s always tough. It ended up being a tougher shot than we wanted to take, but we still had a couple chances there if we could have taken them.”

“I feel really good about the future- I’m not quite into the future right now, I’m still dwelling on the past. Looking at the roster, it’s a really good, talented roster and we have great players who will join us next year. But returning doesn’t mean you’re better, and that’s where I think some make the mistake. There are things we need to work on and improve to put us in a better position in this kind of event.”

“We kind of knew it was going to be there- nothing is ever easy in this tournament. Had we been down eight, I would have felt the same way- this is going to come down to the end, we’re going to make a run, and we’re going to apply the pressure. I felt we had the right people in the right spots, and I felt good about some of the things I’ve already talked about. When you lose, there are always levels of regret, and I think that’s the hardest part for being a coach or a player when you’re looking back thinking you could’ve done something different. It was going to come down to the end, and that’s what you want from two good teams and in a tournament like this.”

**Kerri Young, South Dakota State Guard/Forward:**

“This is a tough loss for us. Having that on the line, knowing we could be the first Jackrabbit team to make it to the Sweet 16, I think it pumped us up a lot. Before the game in the locker room we were all jacked and ready to go, but they played really good. We made runs and they made runs, and sometimes in games like this it comes down the little plays. This is a tough loss for us, but we had a good year and that’s something that we’ve got to look at.”

“In our preseason we played a lot of teams like this. Stanford is just another team- we don’t shy away from teams like this just because they’re a four seed. In the locker room we were fired up, and we really wanted to be that first [North Dakota State] team to make it to the Sweet 16. We believed in each other and ourselves, and having our fans there was awesome.”

**Macy Miller, South Dakota State Guard:**

“We ran a play, “jersey,” to come off a screen and time was running down so I thought I may as well drive and try to get fouled, but it just didn’t happen.”

“We just had a little breakdown there. We let her drive in and we got a bad foul there allowing her to get the and-one. But credit to her- she made a great layup and a free throw to win the game.”

“This is really going to motivate us. Right now, it’s an awful feeling. We have the five of us [starters] coming back, and coming into this tournament we’re going to have veterans who know what it feels like to play every game, how it feels when you lose and we’re excited for next year.”

## **LOCKER ROOM QUOTES – SOUTH DAKOTA STATE**

**Gabby Boever, South Dakota State Guard:**

“Coming out of half, we kind of talked about during our Miami game that was the key to our success was coming out strong in the third quarter and making our runs. We knew they would make runs but we wanted to limit theirs.”

“The fourth quarter we had nothing to lose and everything to gain. I feel like we played a really strong fourth quarter. Unfortunately, we had some mental lapses that resulted in huge plays in the last couple minutes. I feel like we did really well minus the last couple minutes.”

“We are really young and we have a lot of depth coming off the bench. They’re all great scorers. They did an awesome job of attacking and having an attacking mentality to get to the rim and not settle for a jump shot or a pass out when they’re wide open.”

“I’m so proud of our team and what we’ve accomplished this year. We have nothing to hang our heads on. We played well enough to win this game but unfortunately little things stopped that from happening. They’re going to be great next year. They’re a very young team right now. Add this experience and the depth on the bench and they’re going to have a great year.”