



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 – STANFORD

Tara VanDerveer, Stanford Head Coach:

“What an excellent team and what a great job the coaches and staff did at South Dakota State. They gave us everything. I don’t think you could ask for a better, harder fought game by both teams. But having said that, when we needed to make plays we did.”

“Every person, every basket, every rebound. It was what coaches love to talk about -- you’ve got to play each play, because each play mattered.”

“It’s very satisfying. Most people talk about next year’s team, but you never know about next year. So, let’s enjoy this year.

“I’m proud of the fight, the resilience, just the grit that our team showed. This isn’t maybe our best shooting team or best execution team, but maybe it’s the hungriest team.”

Lili Thompson, Stanford Guard:

“Coach Kate Paye said, ‘We don’t have to do it on one possession, but take it one possession at a time. Do it on the defensive end and we’ll start to chip away at it.’ I thought we did that, but they’re a great team. They played really really well, they made big shots, and they executed really well. It definitely wasn’t easy and it wasn’t just us poorly, but them playing really well.”

“You have to have a short memory. You can’t step up to the free throw line and think about the three that you missed just. All I’m hearing from my coaches and my teammates is, ‘Take your time. We believe in you.’ So, you just step up, depend on your preparation, and knock it down.”

“We were actually running a play for Bird (Erica McCall), but they weren’t in the defensive alignment that we expected. So, Bird gave it up for Karlie (Samuelson) and I just came up to the top to get the ball and Kailee Johnson set a really nice screen for me. I just wanted to go in and finish and luckily I got the foul as well.”

Erica McCall, Stanford Forward:

“Honestly, I had flashbacks of the ASU game and the Sophie Brunner shot (a buzzer-beater that gave Arizona State a 63-61 victory after Stanford had rallied from a 17-point second-half deficit to force overtime on Feb. 14).

“I knew Bri played great defense on her and when I saw the ball in her hands I knew I can get a clean look at it.”

“The only thing I thought about was blocking the shot. At that point, I had point I had no worries, just making sure she didn’t get a good look.”

“She is the one you want the ball in her hands. She is clutch. This girl’s crazy good. Honestly, I wouldn’t have any other person with the ball in her hands. The way she finishes, the way she attacks, is something I admire a lot. She’s a great player.”

LOCKER ROOM QUOTES – STANFORD

Kaylee Johnson, Stanford Forward:

“I think we all knew we needed to stoke up our defense and get our offense to start moving and make it work for us. That six-point lead was nothing obviously. We had the mindset that it was 0-0 again it just took a while to get us going.”

“We know we needed to take it possession by possession. We knew we had a lot of time. I think it all became very real when we realized it was one and done. We had to pick it up. All of our juniors were out there. They led perfectly by example and brought a lot of energy. One possession after one possession they all made it work.”

“It was so exciting. Obviously our free throws weren’t falling in. Over on the bench that’s all I was thinking about. It could have been just one free throw or this possession. You can’t really focus on the play-by-play. Everything worked out perfectly in the end. I’m really happy for Lili [Thompson].”

“We love our fans. We love playing at home. It’s harder playing when you have other people cheering against you so their energy really helps. It reflects on the floor.”

“I think we could have taken more advantage of it [the size difference] in being more physical. I think that’s going to have to be a focus for next game.”

“We know it’s going to be a great game and great team [Notre Dame in the Sweet 16]. We know we can play a lot better than we’ve been playing. We’re excited to get out there and start preparing and really give it our all.”