

## 2012 NCAA Division I Women's Volleyball Championship

### First Round - Liberty at No. 8 seed Minnesota

Nov. 30, 2012 – Minneapolis, Minn.

#### Post-match quotes - Liberty

##### Liberty Head Coach Shane Pinder

###### *Opening statement*

"It was great to play at Minnesota. Obviously, seeing this venue many times, we knew the crowd was going to be good. The hospitality has been great the last few days here. I'm really proud of our kids and the effort, especially after losing the second set. They got us pretty good in that second one, and we talked about resolve and the heart of a champion, coming out and playing strong in the third set."

###### *On adjustments made entering the third set*

"We thought their outside attackers were hurting us in the hard angle. They were starting to get down inside, so we made some adjustments, shading our defenders back there to hopefully make some plays. Their middle hitters were hurting us swinging on the inside, so we tried to make adjustments with our blockers, stepping inside and taking up some more court so it wasn't as easy. If you look at the second set, we didn't have any blocks, and it's really hard for us to compete with that level of a team if we don't make a few plays at the net. We were able to come out in the third set and have a few blocks, so it gave us a chance."

###### *On the energy during the third set*

"I think when you have two teams playing well, and the energy is going and the fans are in it, I think that's the beauty that is sometimes missed in college athletics. Games are fun. That's why you started playing when you were eight, nine, 10 years old. Sometimes, we lose perspective and lose sight of what it's all about. You had two teams going at it, great young women celebrating a great sport. It was beautiful to watch. We talk in our program a lot, 'take care of the moments and the memories take care of themselves.' This life journey is about creating memories, and tonight our group, although we fell short, has great memories to take with them along when they take the volleyball shoes off."

"The disappointing thing is that it didn't go our way. When you walk in the locker room again, there's a lot of energy let out. They expected to win. Our bench talked "believe." That's all they were yelling out there. We talked a lot about speaking life into each other. 'Don't disconnect. Let each other know that you're supposed to be here. It's not a mistake. And then go out there and make them beat you. Don't beat yourselves.' Hopefully you saw some of that out of our program. That's kind of the heartbeat of our program."

###### *On Loren Thomas' play during the match*

"I got after Loren the first couple swings, she didn't go as tough at the block as I wanted her to. I said, 'LT, this is time.'" I look at the numbers here, she ends up 7 and 2 and hits a .417. Here's a senior in this venue and in this environment, and she responded."

*On the character of Liberty's team*

"Again, that's a credit to these kids. Every time we talk to them, they respond. They push each other, and they want to be great. The thing is, what people don't see every day is their day-in and day-out commitment, and they do the little things and really make a commitment to being great. What these kids go through in a day, in terms of schedules and classes and tutors, and they have to come out and do what they do, I'm amazed at how they pull it off every year."

**Redshirt Freshman Outside Hitter Caroline Douglas**

*On the adjustments made before the third set*

"I think in the third set, we came out after hearing coach talk at the break time, and we just really wanted to go out there and compete and show that we could hang with Minnesota. Towards the beginning, we started off a little slow, and then as a team we decided that since this was our seniors' last match, possibly, and a couple girls stepped up and said, 'We have to fight here. We have to give it our all right here. This is our last chance.' So, I think we really just went out and fought for our seniors, trying to get that last one."

*On the tense nature of the third set*

"It was tense in that last set, but at the same time we were having a blast. That was the most fun volleyball game I've ever been involved with. LT can vouch for that, too."

**Senior Middle Blocker Loren Thomas**

*On her blocks at the net against Minnesota's attackers*

"It felt good to do that. I kept telling myself that I'm just as big as they are, so I just tried to go out there and make plays and work for this team, and that's what I tried to do the whole game."