

2011 NCAA Women's Volleyball Tournament
First and Second Rounds
Dec. 2, 2011
Liberty vs. Penn State

Liberty Quotes

Head Coach Shane Pinder

Opening Statement

Pinder: For us and our program and where we're at it was really exciting to come here and play and try and see where we stack up. I'm really proud of our kids. A couple of things we wanted to do was come here and control the things we could. We can't control their size, speed and skill, but we can control things on our side of the net and I thought our kids did a really nice job doing that. We can control effort and I thought our kids showed a great deal of effort tonight and they didn't quit. They never backed down and I feel those things in our program are things that we've tried to create as staples and I think they are key ingredients for success in the long run. I'm proud of our kids, our freshmen and sophomores and Kelly Haseman our only senior. She flew around the floor and for her last match I think she turned a few heads tonight. That ball was not getting down easily so we're really proud of her, and then Lillie (Happel) being a sophomore and getting the experience was great. We really enjoyed the opportunity to be here and play.

Q: What were you telling the teams in the middle of the prayer after the game tonight?

A: We are a Christian university and our platform and mission is to equip champions for Christ and our faith is a big part of who we are and what we do. I feel like volleyball is great and we love playing, but when you take your shoes off there is more to life than just playing volleyball. The Penn State University has been through a lot and to have the opportunity to bring two teams together in this time and pray for this university and what is going on is great. It would be hard for us to walk out of here and not take advantage of that opportunity. They need our prayers consistently. It is pretty heavy what is going on here so it felt like it was a moment that we wanted to take advantage of because we might not get it again. Our captains ask every team we play to pray at the end of the game and it is up to them if they come over or not. Some teams come and some teams don't, but tonight Penn State came.

#12 Lillie Happel, OH, So.

Q: How difficult was it trying to match up with Penn State's physicality?

A: We knew coming into it they were going to be a lot bigger than us size-wise, so we knew that we were going to have to attack high hands and just match their physical attacks in the front row. Kelly (Haseman) dug a lot in the back row for us so we could kind of steal some. I thought we did a good job at really attacking them. Our blocks stepped in when we needed to and we didn't beat them, but I think we did what we could.

#10 Kelly Haseman, DS/L, Sr.

Q: Is there a sense of pride for winning the blocks statistic tonight?

A: Yeah! I mean it's always good to have the stats line up. It definitely was nice to play a team known for being so good and it was just a lot of fun.

Q: You lead the fight tonight on the floor, how did you keep that mentality of not letting up any points, throughout the game?

A: It was just being in a relaxed state. I wasn't really worried about what the other team was doing I was just focused on being out there and playing with my team. I was just freeing my mind and trying to get touches. It is my goal every day to just get the ball up whether it is pretty or not.