



# 2006 NCAA Division I Women's Volleyball Championship

National Semifinal #2 - Stanford vs. Washington

Dec. 14 • Qwest Center Omaha

Postmatch Notes

With the win, Stanford (30-3) advances to Saturday's NCAA final match against Nebraska (32-1). Washington dropped to 29-5 on the season.

Stanford will make its 12th NCAA final-match appearance. The Cardinal will aim for its seventh national title on Saturday, while it also has finished as the NCAA runner-up five times.

Stanford ranks first in all-time NCAA playoff wins heading into the 2006 NCAA semifinals. The Cardinal has won 82 NCAA tournament matches. Nebraska (69) and UCLA (67) are second and third in postseason victories, respectively. Washington has 24 NCAA wins.

Stanford is one of three schools to have earned spots in all 26 NCAA Division I Women's Volleyball Championships. Penn State and UC Santa Barbara are the other two schools.

Stanford has won a nation-leading six NCAA Division I Women's Volleyball Championship titles. The Cardinal is 50-2 in the NCAA playoffs when winning the first game.

Stanford is 30-1 this year when winning game one.

Stanford placed Foluke Akinradewo and Cynthia Barboza on the AVCA All-America first team, in addition to Bryn Kehoe on the second team and Kristin Richards on the third team.

Stanford Head Coach John Dunning has won national titles with Pacific (1985, 1986) and Stanford (2001, 2004). Only Southern California's Mick Haley has won titles with two teams (Texas in 1988 and USC in 2002 and 2003). Dunning has led the Cardinal to the national semifinals in four of the past six years. He ranks third in coaching appearance in the NCAA semifinals with eight (four each at Stanford and Pacific).

Washington placed Christal Morrison and Courtney Thompson on the AVCA All-America first team, in addition to Alesha Deesing on second team and Jessica Swarbrick on third team.

Washington defeated Nebraska in three games last year capture the 2005 NCAA Division I Women's Volleyball Championship, its first-ever championship in the event.

Stanford allowed 12 points in the first game, which tied for the second fewest it had allowed all year (10 vs. Hawaii, Sept. 9). It also allowed 12 points vs. Texas A&M-Corpus Christi on Sept. 2.

Stanford has needed to advance to more than three games in only six matches this season.

Washington's 12 points scored in game one were its fewest this season since scoring 15 points against Stanford in the second set during a Nov. 24 loss.



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Postmatch Press Conference • Washington

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Head Coach: Jim McLaughlin

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## Washington Head Coach Jim McLaughlin

### *Opening Statement*

"Stanford, congratulations to them. They played a great match, the best match they have played against us for sure. But we didn't do the things we are capable of doing. It was a tough match. I told these guys in the locker room, we knew it would be tough, we knew the whole season would be tough. We put in a lot of time and had a good season. Had we won the thing it would have been fantastic, but the way these guys worked and the time and effort they put in it was still great. I told Janine as a senior she came to a place where the stakes are high and I admire that in her. Courtney, we recruited her and she changed this program. She set a standard that is pretty unbelievable."

### *On the passing tonight*

"We were way below our standard; it's the key to playing good volleyball. Stanford served tough and we just weren't in a good rhythm passing and when that happens it's just tough to run our offense."

### *Reflect on getting back to the Final Four*

"In this business you can win a lot and the few losses just somehow hurt a little more and you remember them a little bit more. But at some point, I told Courtney she'll look back and these will be some of the greatest years of her life, considering what she accomplished."

## Junior OH Christal Morrison

### *Reflecting on the last two years*

"Thinking about what we built at this university is a good thing to think about. It all started with our senior class last year, Courtney definitely carried it on. We built something special at this university, to be able to compete now, every year."

## Senior OH Janine Sandell

### *On spending this year at Washington*

"There is no way I can explain how big of an experience this has been, I have just been blessed and very lucky to have this experience. To be honored and to have the chance to play with a player like Courtney, words can't describe. She has a drive like I've never experienced before, she is a good person and an awesome leader on the court."

## Senior S Courtney Thompson

### *On redefining the Washington program*

"From my perspective this is an awesome program. It takes the coaching staff, the players, and the people off the court to be successful. We lost five players last year and we are back in the final four, so I think this program is a lot bigger than one person. I've been very lucky to be here."



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Head Coach: John Dunning

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## Stanford Head Coach John Dunning

### *Opening statement*

"I would to congratulate the three players sitting with me here. I think they have just gotten better and better as the year has went along. They are the driving force of this team and it's exciting to watch them play. They are amazing athletes and we are looking forward to Saturday night. I want to congratulate the University of Washington and UCLA on having great seasons. I want to congratulate the University of Nebraska. I'm sure it will be a full house and very exciting on Saturday, and we are looking forward to the challenge."

### *On his team's post-season experience*

"I think our team has gotten better, better and better. I think we've had some scares in the playoffs that has helped us play at a higher level. I think Missouri did a great job against us, putting us in a tense situation that we learned from. I thought last weekend Cal played great against us and Texas was amazing. You've got to be pushed to keep going higher, and I think that's what helped us play at the level we did tonight. I thought we were very composed and we were very aggressive tonight."

## Junior S Byrn Kehoe

### *On the match*

"I think we served very aggressively tonight and also Jess Fishburn had a great match, she passed very well and that allowed us to run a great offense."

## Sophomore MB Foulke Akinradewo

### *On the match*

"I think coming in we were all on the same page and wanted a win. I think we kept our focus and that's what helped us put the string of points together in the beginning and from then on we were able to keep our composure."

## Sophomore OH Cynthia Barboza

### *On the match*

"I think this was a serve and pass match. I think we did a good job getting the ball to Bryn so we could run our offense and take them out of theirs."

### *On Nebraska*

"I think it's safe to say they have a slight home-court advantage. There are a lot of Husker fans out there, but I think it's going to be fun. I've never played in front of this many people before and I am excited about it."

### *On the team's season*

"I think how last year ended for us, it was a big driving force for this entire season. I don't think it just started in the playoffs. Last year was pretty disappointing for us on the whole, and I think this year we are playing with a lot more intensity and we are playing for each other out there on the court. Every play is for each other, and I think right now, this is the best our team as a whole unit all year. We had a great performance from Jess Fishburn in passing. I thought Angie dug some amazing balls, and we got a lot of good offense out of Erin Waller on the right side. And to have it all coming together at this point in the season gives a lot of confidence going into Saturday."