



2017 NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Second Round · Florida State University
Donald L. Tucker Center · Tallahassee, Florida
Sunday, March 19, 2017

Round 2 Quotes – Florida State University Sue Semrau, Florida State Head Coach

Opening Statement

“Missouri did a great job of keeping us off the boards and that is one of the things that we pride ourselves on. I thought we continued to battle and came up with some key offensive rebounds. Credit them for being a great ballclub that played hard. I am so proud of the way that we battled. It was a tough first half and we came out with our minds focused in on the now and not what happened in the past or what was going to happen in the future and we locked in.”

On the message to the team at halftime

“Since we were in the ACC tournament and had that little break we have been talking about our mentality. We talked about what that mentality had to look like and I thought too many times we worried about a play that we couldn't control because it was already over, or maybe we were worried about a play that was coming up. Just continue to remind them its about the now. When we had the run it was important to say lets go have another one. Its not about stopping their run its about lets go on another one. This team feeds off of that.”

On being able to take over games at this part in the season

“There is a different feel to the NCAA tournament and because you haven't seen these teams before there is a bit of feeling out that goes on in the first quarter. So to have them weather that and then understand what its going to take and where we can make adjustments and where we have to continue to be strong; for them to understand and compete that way I assume that is a pretty good thing.

On the challenge of the next steps in the Sweet 16

“Im going to go back to its about right now. Right now we talk to them about getting some rest and we don't play until Saturday and we are just going to take it one day at a time. Everybody wants to look forward and talk about this, that and the other. Right now we want to enjoy this. This is a hard thing to do and it really separates you if you can be one of 16 teams in the country that get a chance to play on this second weekend.”

On Shakayla Thomas' play

"She's not just about scoring points. She is about a different type of look. She gives us a lot of energy because of the type of athlete and competitor that she is. Again, her humility is what I love about her. She went from being ACC Sixth Player of the Year back-to-back to ACC Player of the Year. That's humility and that is what is so important to the team and Leticia [Romero] hit the nail on the head when she said it really doesn't matter who gets the credit on this team. It's about playing together. For her to be the phenomenal athlete and competitor that she is and to be all about everybody else helps us go."

On Shakayla Thomas' continued excellent play in the second half

"It's interesting, I'm not exactly sure. We liked to bring her off the bench the last couple of years because of that. I substituted her early again. Today I didn't think she was as locked in as we needed her to be. Not because she didn't try to be but her teammates really give her a lot of energy and encouragement. I think they really just want her to be the great player that she is and the more she hears that the better she gets."

On Ivey Slaughter's performance

"I am so glad you brought up Ivey [Slaughter], she was unbelievable. That kid today was a difference maker. You don't see it in her stats but the way she defended she was a difference maker. Yes it was great to see those other kids score some points but it was all about effort on the defensive end and it was all started by Ivey Slaughter."



2017 NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Second Round · Florida State vs. Missouri
Donald L. Tucker Center · Tallahassee, Florida
Sunday, March 19, 2017

POSTGAME QUOTES – Florida State University

Brittany Brown, Florida State Guard:

On the importance of the game:

“It’s just special to me because playing with this group of girls, playing in front of this crowd, is just an amazing feeling. I was talking to one of our former players, which is a big reason as to why I came to Florida State, and she was just telling me that she hates the ‘survive and advance’ motto. She was just talking about how it was dominating, how you had to just come out and dominate. I took that to heart tonight, and I feel like my teammates took that to heart. I feel like underclassmen really cared sending the seniors out here at our last home game. It was just really special to me and I loved every bit of it.”

On the defensive effort:

“That’s just what we do, we pride ourselves on the defensive end. I was actually playing with my teammates, trying to get them hype before the game, and telling them: ‘We need to be dogs on defense, if you got to get on all fours. I want our bench to be barking.’ Just finding ourselves ways to get energy. That’s just what we’ve prided ourselves on all year and I finally think that, in the NCAA tournament, that’s what we got back to. Just really priding ourselves and not letting our defense dictate our offense. That’s what we got back to today.”

On playing for Coach Sue Semrau and her 400th win:

“I think Coach Sue (Semrau) always gives us the credit for getting all these wins, but it’s her and our other coaches on the coaching staff. I’m just thankful to play for this lady, she has done so much for each and every one of us. She’s a big reason why I came here. I’ve known her since I was in sixth grade. She’s very special to me and I’m thankful under this opportunity to play for her, it’s very special.”

On the play of Shakayla Thomas:

"It's fun to watch because she is like my little baby. She is the young one, I've finally transitioned to the senior. I just told Shakayla before the game, she rebounded like crazy in our first round, and that's what I needed out of her. I know she can score the ball anytime she wants, but when she rebounds and defends on that other end, it changes us and this whole team. I think she did that and I also remember during a point of the game I told her: 'Hey man'. I know she had those two fouls early in the game, she's hard to read, nothing really psychs her out really. But I just came to her and I told her: 'I need you to turn up the second half, get after it.' She did, she responded well and she took us there."

Leticia Romero, Florida State Guard:**On breaking out of a midseason scoring drought:**

"I think it really doesn't matter. I felt like we got back to that mentality and that style of game that we've been playing in the beginning of the season and throughout, until the end. I think that's what keeps us going. We have the scorers, everybody can score on this team. It's really not about who is scoring what and as long as we are playing like this, I really don't care."

Shakayla Thomas, Florida State Forward:**On her performances in the second half of games this season:**

"Honestly, I couldn't tell you. I think it's just the energy that I get from my teammates. I feel like we come out with a different mindset after the first half. We go into halftime and we are like: 'Ok if we do this, this, and this.' Then we go out on the court and actually add more to it. I feel like that's all the energy I really need at that point."

On her defensive play energizing her whole team:

"I feel like we get hyped off the smallest things. I feel like at that point, it was a good turning point with the block (on Cierra Porter). At that point we had time to celebrate but get back and focus like: 'Ok y'all, this is what we need to do.' I feel like that was a great turning point for us."



2017 NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Second Round · Missouri vs Florida State

Donald L Tucker Center · Tallahassee, FL

Sunday, March 19, 2017

POSTGAME QUOTES – Missouri

Robin Pingeton, Head Coach

Opening Statement:

“First of all congratulations to Florida State, Sue (Semrau) has done an incredible job. They have a great program. We knew it was going to be a battle out their tonight and they just have tremendous athleticism and a tremendous perimeter game. They have size and power inside and they have very good transition game, and they rebound very well. As I watched film for them and tried to prepare for them, I didn't see many weaknesses in this Florida State team. So congratulations to them, but I'm very proud of our kids I thought they battled. If you look at the box score, everything is pretty even we just got beat at the free throw line, we didn't attack enough and give ourselves a chance to get to the free throw line. We missed some open shots, we had some good looks in the third period, and I thought we caused some turnovers and we just couldn't capitalize on them. Florida State is a team that can go on runs and can put a lot of points on the board in a hurry. I thought our kids battled, it has been a heck of a journey and I absolutely love this team to death. Our seniors have represented the University of Missouri in such a tremendous way, they are high character kids that just have a blue collar mindset and a lot of passion for the jersey. It's been an incredible run and I'm just very proud of our team.”

Thoughts on the progression of Missouri's team throughout the year:

“We want to continue to build our program and become a team that competes for championships and we still have a lot of work to do. I think our vision when we joined the SEC, it was to get to the middle of the pack and the upper part of the conference. With a couple seasons under our belt, we have progressed but it's not going to be an overnight process, it takes time. We have done it the right way, brick by brick and a lot of positive things have happened for us. Every year we continue to get better and better and break new records. Really exciting and extremely proud of our kids and the tough adversity they have been through this season.”

What was the reason for poor three-point shooting:

"I think part of the problem was FSU's athleticism and size, but the other part of the problem was we took some early shots that were not rhythm shots that hurt us. They sped the game up and we had a quick trigger, and that's what we didn't want to do. I thought we had some good looks, some really good looks and the ball just didn't go in the hoop for us tonight."

How did the amount of turnovers your team had play into the game:

"The points off turnover was only a two-point differential, but the turnovers can definitely hurt the momentum. We came down in the start of the second half and got a couple of defensive stops but then we proceeded to have back-to-back-to-back turnovers and we did not capitalize on opportunities that we had. Against a team like this, you really want to maximize on every offensive possession. We didn't shoot the ball particularly good and they killed us on the glass as they are a tremendous rebounding team. There was a lot of positives we could take away, unfortunately we didn't shoot the ball very well tonight and we had some turnovers you want to take back. Defensively FSU is really good, they are quick and athletic and anticipate really well. I thought they did a really good job on our ball screen action, and we just never looked fluid on offense. You have to give them a lot of credit, they are a very good ball team."

What makes Shakayla Thomas so hard to defend:

"Everything. She is just an incredible athlete, that makes extremely tough shots and anticipates on defense. She's a tremendous rebounder and can create off the bounce because she's so strong and so explosive. She's basically unguardable and you just have to do your best to make her hit tough shots. She is just a really special player."



2017 NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Second Round · Missouri vs. Florida State
Donald L. Tucker Civic Center · Tallahassee, Florida
Sunday, March 19, 2017

POSTGAME QUOTES – Missouri

Cierra Porter, Missouri Forward:

Were you disappointed with the effort or were they more athletic than expected?

"I think it was one of those games where we just got sped up. I don't think it was that we were underprepared or that they threw anything at us that we didn't expect. It just didn't go our way tonight. But I don't think it was lack of effort. I think everyone left what they had on that court tonight."

What was the team's mindset after being ahead in the first quarter?

"We knew it would be a battle, but we fully believed that we could get it done."

In the third quarter, was it nerves or did the size of FSU start to take over?

"They're a really athletic team. We knew we couldn't jump with them. We would have to get a body and I think we kind of lost that for a second there and that's maybe why they got more rebounds that quarter."

Sophie Cunningham, Missouri Guard:

Can you sum up this season?

"We can't let this game define our season and I think for our women's Mizzou program, it's been a huge stride this year what we've got done and accomplished. We're not satisfied. We're hungry. This is just a special group and those seniors were at the very bottom of this program when coach got here. And where they're at now is a really awesome place for them. I think that we're not satisfied and we're going to keep making more strides."

What was FSU doing in the second half and how did you try to stop their run?

"I think in the first half we got into some foul trouble but we did have the momentum there for a little bit. They're just a good team. They can go on runs and it was just a solid win for them."

Did you share any moments with the senior class as well as your sister in the locker room post game?

"Yeah we've been through a lot. But not just Lindsey (Cunningham), but Kayla (McDowell) has become my sister and so has (Lianna) Doty. Just what they've been through as seniors for Mizzou women's basketball, they've done everything the right way. That is the standard for being a leader. It's hard to let them go but I'm happy it happened and that we got the chance to be on a big stage."

How frustrating was the fourth quarter?

"I think that when you're down by that much, you just have to keep working hard. We wanted to go down swinging and in a classy way not trying to foul, but this is the type of team that we're blue collared. Were not going to give up just because were down by so much. We just try to keep being aggressive. The calls didn't go our way, but this team never gave up."