

QUOTES | SEMIFINAL #1



NO. 1 NOTRE DAME 83, NO. 4 NC STATE 48

NOTRE DAME FIGHTING IRISH

COACH MUFFET McGRAW
JEWELL LOYD
MICHAELA MABREY

COACH MUFFET McGRAW: I thought we played really well. I thought we did a lot of good things defensively. I was happy with the transition game and the rebounding. It was difficult for North Carolina State without Gatling, and they'll be fine, they just didn't have enough time to prepare. And I know she'll be back for the NCAA tournament and we wish them luck.

Q. You've piled up 78 bench points in these two games. Obviously you're trying to rest your starters, but not every coach could bring in the reserves and get the production you've gotten. How good is the bench?

COACH MUFFET McGRAW: It's the best we've ever had. I think we have great depth with Michaela Mabrey. She's having a great year. I thought she was the best sixth man in the country this year. Taya Reimer, a freshman, we're expecting great things throughout her career. Markisha Wright comes in and gives us good minutes. It's great to rest your starters and be confident in your bench.

Q. Jewell has 998 career points. She would only be the third sophomore to hit a thousand when she gets there. Can you talk about that accomplishment, considering the scorers she's been around and her ability to get to that point?

COACH MUFFET McGRAW: If she has trouble making the shot early I'm canceling my subscription to the "South Bend Tribune."

I'm not sure Jewell knew that or not. I wasn't going to put her back in the game to get it. I didn't know it until she came out. It's a tremendous accomplishment as a sophomore to be looking at those kind of numbers, with a team as unselfish as we are and Jewell as unselfish as she is, what a great honor for her to be in this position.

Q. Coach, you talked about Michaela and what she was able to bring to you. Can you talk specifically when you have a shooter that good when you bring her in off the bench, not everybody can be that good a shooter when they're not a starter.

COACH MUFFET McGRAW: She heats up in a hurry. She is a fearless competitor. She doesn't mind missing a couple of shots, we know she's going to keep shooting. She's got the green light. She's probably the first player I've had in a long time that has the absolute green light to pull up on the brake and do whatever. She's really taken advantage of her opportunity this year.

Q. Can you talk a little bit about how your team went into attack mode immediately.

COACH MUFFET McGRAW: I thought we had a little bit of a slow start, missed a couple of shots early, but I thought we really got comfortable. I thought we made some nice plays. Jewell made some big plays. Mike comes in and gets a 3 right away. I think that makes everybody feel comfortable.

Q. Can you talk about the rebounding numbers? Is that the area that you took the most advantage of regarding Gatling's absence?

COACH MUFFET McGRAW: Yeah, for sure. I thought inside we really wanted to go inside and score inside a little bit more. But for the rebounding that the minutes everybody played, I thought the rebounds were well distributed. Madison Cable, leading rebounder with 7. Everybody had five or six. I thought we did great on the boards, both ends, 19 offensive rebounds. We missed a lot more shots than we normally do, but made up for it getting the rebound.

QUOTES | SEMIFINAL #1



NO. 1 NOTRE DAME 83, NO. 4 NC STATE 48

Q. You don't know who you play tomorrow, whether it's North Carolina or Duke. Do you adjust your game depending on who the opponent is?

JEWELL LOYD: I think it's about preparation. The coach does a great job making sure we're prepared. And we'll go over some scouts and personnel to make sure we're ready for tomorrow.

MICHAELA MABREY: Both teams are very good, both teams are athletic, have great players, we know how to prepare for both.

Q. Coach, talk a little bit about the two teams that you could play tomorrow, what makes them good?

COACH MUFFET McGRAW: Duke has a number of All Americans on the roster, probably as many as anybody in the country. Tricia Liston had an outstanding year. Elizabeth Williams a really talented inside player. Haley Peters is a great glue player for them. They've got All Americans on the bench.

North Carolina is incredibly athletic. They are an amazingly athletic team, and Diamond DeShields is having a spectacular year. She's come on late, playing phenomenally well in the tournament here. She's a really difficult match up for every team. I think she'll be a scary match up in the NCAA tournament, also.

Both teams present different challenges. Both are very, very good.

Q. Jewell, can you talk a little bit about what you guys took advantage of early on to get that big lead and then also could you talk about the different ways you were able to score today?

JEWELL LOYD: We were making sure we got the rebound first. And Lindsay did a good job of looking ahead. And personally I was just taking what the defense gave me, not trying to force anything, and just trying to follow up on it.

Q. Could you talk a little bit about the challenge of being ready, just coming off of the bench and hitting shots and how well the bench has done this tournament?

MICHAELA MABREY: I think I've really embraced my role of coming off the bench. I just I'm always ready to shoot and always ready to get my teammates open and in the right positions. I think our bench has really come along. I think in the beginning we were struggling little bit. But I think we've definitely come along very well.

FastScripts by ASAP Sports.

QUOTES | SEMIFINAL #1



NO. 1 NOTRE DAME 83, NO. 4 NC STATE 48

NC STATE WOLFPACK

COACH WES MOORE MIAH SPENCER LEN'NIQUE BROWN

COACH WES MOORE: Rough day. Obviously very humbling day. And it's hard right now to look at the big picture. But hopefully we can do that soon. And there's about 290 Division I teams out there that would give anything to trade places with us and be playing in the NCAA tournament in a couple of weeks. We've just got to pick things up and maybe try to learn from some of the things that occurred today.

I'm proud of these kids. Obviously 25 wins is a great accomplishment. And so do our best not to let one bad day overshadow what they've accomplished over the last few months.

Again, Notre Dame, great team, and wish them the best. And again, we've got a couple of weeks to try to get back on track and be ready to go.

Q. Coach, how close was Markeisha to being potentially able to play today?

COACH WES MOORE: You know, I think once she got out there it was just you know, there's no structural damage, but there was a bone bruise. And I think the doctors that looked at it yesterday felt like there might be a chance. But then when our team doctor got here today he just felt like it probably was a little bit too painful for her to go.

So we wanted to be definitely be careful with it. She's going to be very important to us in a couple of weeks, plus feel like she has a professional career ahead of her. So there's no need in taking any chances with something like that.

Q. Just to clarify, she was not medically cleared to play?

COACH WES MOORE: Again, when they looked at the MRI and all that again today, you know, again, it's a bone bruise, it is painful. So they just felt like we didn't want to we didn't want to do anything today to, like I said, maybe compromise her ability to go in a couple of weeks.

Q. You had some players that haven't played significant minutes against a team at that level. Who really showed you something of the people that haven't played a lot?

COACH WES MOORE: It was a rough day, you know, so it's pretty hard for me right now to analyze that game, our individual play. Obviously I'll go back and watch the film, maybe. I may just throw it away, to be honest with you.

But I don't think anybody stood out and had a great game today. And I think there's a lot of reasons for that. So mainly, you know, Notre Dame had a big part of that, as well. You've got to give them credit.

No. Again, we were it was tough, you know, even to run some of our stuff. We had people out of position and different things. So it was a rough day. Again, that's life. You're going to have those, and that's the great thing about college athletics, it teaches you a lot. We learned a lot today, I'm sure.

Q. Coach, have you ever, in all your time coaching, had this many injuries to deal with in key players?

COACH WES MOORE: Probably not, especially so close together. I've never had two ACL's within a 24 hour time span. And then for Keisha to be ruled out, yeah, it's tough. But, you know, there's other people that go through it, too. And we just have to keep battling. I just hate it that these kids that played so hard all year and so well all year, I hate that on this stage we had such a rough showing. But again, just got to deal with it.

Q. Both players, you got some time to recover from all this and you get one of your key players back. What

QUOTES | SEMIFINAL #1



NO. 1 NOTRE DAME 83, NO. 4 NC STATE 48

do you hope you learn from today's game?

MIAH SPENCER: Just keep playing hard, every position. I know we had some players that were out, but we have to pick it up ourselves and come together as a team and play hard each possession.

LEN'NIQUE BROWN: We have to bounce back, no matter what, we have to play hard, play through.

Q. Coach, can you just talk about what makes Notre Dame so difficult to stop offensively, great ball movement, shooters. I know they've got a lot of talent.

COACH WES MOORE: All of the above. Obviously they're well coached. They pretty much always have five players on the floor that, A, have very high basketball IQ's, and B, can shoot the lights out. And again, they run their stuff extremely well. They read and react to how you defend. It's not so much a set play or anything like that. It's more once you make a decision how you want to defend they've got a counter to it.

So, again, I would have liked to have played them at full strength, but at the same time, they're, what, 31 0, so they've shown that anybody in the country they can pretty much do this on a given day.

Q. Coach, you get emotion from your team when you guys are winning and you feel good and so forth. And now your team is facing an experience maybe for the first time for you leading them and them under your leadership. How do you work through that and how did you initially try to get that started today?

COACH WES MOORE: I just told them, like I told you guys, we still have a lot of basketball ahead of us. And we're fortunate these kids have put together a great résumé. We ought to get a really good seed in the NCAA tournament and have an opportunity to make some noise in there.

So we have a lot to be excited about. And we do have some time now to catch our breath. We'll take a couple of days off and then get back in and try to clean some things up and get better and be excited about the opportunity. Like I said, there's 290 Division I teams that would love to have the opportunity that we're going to be presented with here in a couple of weeks.

Kids are resilient. We lost to Notre Dame last week. We gave them a couple of days off. And the second day off a lot of them were in the training room, and I was really concerned about how they were going to bounce back from that, I'll be honest with you. I was thinking about trying to pick them up, and I'll be honest, they picked me up when I went down there. That's the way these kids are. They're very resilient and they're going to keep coming back. And I have no doubt we'll do that again.

Q. Yesterday Kody was effective after Keisha went down. Today she had difficulty getting the ball and difficulty getting good shots. How much of that was Notre Dame's defense?

COACH WES MOORE: I'm sure a lot of it was, but also, she was out of position today. We had to move her inside and I don't know how smart of a decision that was on my part, but we had to put somebody in there.

You know, you can talk about running different stuff, but when you've ran four out, one in, all year long, it's kind of hard to change when you find out less than an hour before tip that your one in is not playing. Again, as coaches we've got to be prepared for that. But you can imagine if the Denver Broncos an hour before kickoff Peyton Manning wasn't playing, it might affect their game, as well.

Q. You sort of addressed a little bit what I was going to ask. How much reshaping on the fly did you have to do with what you do offensively considering it's been a pretty simple formula on the first option for 31 games?

COACH WES MOORE: Obviously I didn't do a very good job coming up with counter ideas. We run quick hitters, and we have other things we can do offensively. But Keisha is a big part of what we try to do. And we work inside out. These are the kids that obviously can do a lot of things on their own, as well. But it starts it runs through her. And obviously you take her out, that changes things.

But, again, I don't want to make excuses. We're a better team than what we showed today, with or without

QUOTES | SEMIFINAL #1



NO. 1 NOTRE DAME 83, NO. 4 NC STATE 48

Keisha. We've got to do a better job than that. We've got to play better, we've got to do the little things we didn't get done today. That game should have been a little more respectable than it was. I'll take the blame for that. I didn't have them prepared for this situation, obviously.

Q. Coach mentioned how after the game last Sunday against Notre Dame you all had a good demeanor. Do you feel like with Keisha coming back in two weeks, you can make a good run in the NCAA tournament? You still have confidence in yourselves?

LEN'NIQUE BROWN: I think we'll be able to bounce back. We've been bouncing back all year. I think we can.

MIAH SPENCER: I think a couple of days off is going to give us our legs back, get our minds back right, let all this go, and focus on what is ahead of us. I think we'll be fine.

FastScripts by ASAP Sports.