

**West Virginia vs. UCLA  
NCAA Tournament Third Round Quotes  
November 20, 2016**

**West Virginia Head Coach Nikki Izzo-Brown**

**Opening Statement**

Exciting, exciting game today. This team never ceases to surprise me. They have prevailed through so many different adversities and situations, and this was just another one where this team showed their grit, their grind and their focus. It was a tough battle tonight. There was a lot of adversity going around and I'm not really allowed to talk more about it, but it was a little bit frustrating for us. All the credit to UCLA, that was an incredible team. That was a tough opponent and it was an incredible, incredible result.

**On if much was said to the team after the end of regulation**

I think when you're in like this and it's at the two-minute mark, you're so frustrated and all you do is look back and worry about what just happened. I just wanted them to look forward and I just kept saying 'We have to look forward, we have to look forward, don't worry about what just happened we've just got to beat UCLA.' Pretty much that's what we discussed and we kind of put our heads down and decided what we needed to do moving forward.

**On how the weather conditions affected the team's game plan**

Obviously it affected both teams, but we like to possess the ball and there were times when we couldn't because of the conditions of the field. We just had to figure out different methods of getting into the attack and being effective. It was frustrating because I don't think we got to play the way we necessarily wanted to play, but we showed great effort today.

**On Sh'Nia Gordon's goal**

It was huge; again it was just one more opportunity and one more momentum that we needed. Sh'Nia did her job and it was incredible. Obviously Newhouse had a great game, it was just unfortunate on that goal.

**On what it's going to be like facing Duke again**

It's tough, look what we had to do against Ohio State, we had to go into overtime. Both teams have some familiarity with each other and understand each other. Again, there's been a long season between the last time we were up at Duke and obviously I have all the respect in the world for what Robbie Church does up there, his team's incredible. They were able to win on the road last year and march to that Final Four. We know we're going to have our hand full, that's an exceptionally awesome Duke team.

**Junior Goalkeeper Michelle Newhouse**

**On her thoughts during the second overtime and what the team said before penalty kicks**

Just that we've been here before. A couple years back in the Big 12 tournament we came out with the same outcome. We were pretty confident, we practice all the time. I just told them 'they have to make theirs and I'll come up with a few,' and that's what happened.

**On if any advice was given from Kadeisha Buchanan or Ashley Lawrence on how what to expect from Jessie Fleming during the penalty kick.**

I honestly don't even look at who's coming up. I just try to focus on the ball try to read it by what way they are going, so I couldn't even tell you who was taking the kicks today.

**Sophomore Forward Sh'Nia Gordon**

**On what it was like to score in the game**

I knew the conditions were going to be slick and I knew the ball was going to go over the goalie's head. I just tried to get my foot on it and tried to get an early goal for us and get some momentum for my team. I thought that really helped us get in the groove because UCLA was a great team.

**UCLA Head Coach Amanda Cromwell**

**Opening statement**

Welcome to West Virginia in the winter, right? One of those experiences that you'll never forget for a variety of reasons, but incredible game. Honestly I thought we had some great possessions but we weren't quite dangerous enough, we weren't getting shots off. West Virginia was very dangerous when they counted on us and got some of their possessions going. The first half was a bit of, what's going to give feeling. I thought the goal we gave up, I felt good about rebounding from that, but we just weren't quite, I think, energetic enough. You could see the tired legs. We're used to playing Thursday-Sunday during conference and we tried to get some subs in there to give us some energy. Obviously getting the late goal was huge and that's a huge sign for our team, the resilience of our team, it's a characteristic, we've done that already this season against Cal scoring in the last minute, but West Virginia, I thought we would have the momentum but they came out in the first overtime and were all over us. We were lucky to get out of that one and then we changed formations to push and try to set the momentum how we wanted to go and it got better for us in the second overtime. In the end, PK's are a horrible way to loose, but it is what it is and congrats to West Virginia and thanks for hosting us. Facility is great; a little less snow would be nice next time.

**On her feelings towards penalty kicks**

I don't think any coach is a fan of PK's. I've never played for PK's. You know, it crossed my mind when they were all over us in the first overtime, I'm 'like shoot should we sit back,' but we actually changed to a more aggressive formation to try to get one because I felt like if we sat back we might give one up, so we actually did better in the second overtime. It's a crapshoot; you'd never guess Jessie Flemming, an Olympian, would miss hers. She's been great at them all year and sometimes the footing is off, they think too much about it especially in this kind of weather. It's just one of those scenarios. You know, I feel bad for those kids, it's not one person's fault. Courtney Proctor is a sixth-year senior, she's in there devastated because she missed one of the PK's, but she's put so much into this program that she should feel proud and all of them just need to hold their head high for how resilient they were and just how hard they worked.

**On Kadeisha Buchanan?**

A center back with that kind of athletic ability, that kind of tactical awareness, she's just so composed on the ball, just a quality defender, so we definitely had to talk tactically

about how to get in behind them different ways, how to pull her out of shape maybe. She's fantastic and West Virginia has many threats, many weapons and you can see that. I think Ashley (Lawrence) on the right back, and we thought she might play midfield today, but she was fantastic coming forward from the right back. They have the capability of putting players in different spots, which can throw teams off. Going forward, they're going to be a hard team to beat.

**On the playing conditions effected the game**

It definitely did. While we were warming up we thought the snow was going to actually melt away with all of the action and the feet being on it and running around, but it didn't. It was kind of iced over a little bit, so we thought about just going more direct, but we can't really play that well that way. You saw how we did a couple of times and we just had to play possession. I think there were some times you could see the ball was sliding and slipping in a certain way and it was just a bit off at the right moments when we needed to make that final pass. But it was hard for both teams, it may have been more of a disadvantage for us because we do we tend to, I think at halftime the possession was 60-40 us, but we really couldn't get anywhere with it behind them. Part of that is due to Kadeisha (Buchanan) as well.