

## **West Virginia coach Nikki Izzo-Brown**

### **On the team's first half performance**

They went after a team that only gave up 11 goals this whole season. Everyone had great movement on and off the ball. I was so proud of the effort, the will and the ability to move the ball around to find the back of the net. It was incredible.

### **On her confidence with the team's backline moving forward in the tournament**

Absolutely. We are denying so many great scoring opportunities. The more that the backline plays together, the more they feel for each other, and the more effective they are. (Senior goalkeeper) Hannah (Steadman) leads them in back, obviously, with (junior defender Kadeisha Buchanan) Keisha and (senior defender) Maggie (Bedillion) being our two upperclassmen. Then our two freshmen (Bianca St. Georges and Easter Mayi Kith) are tremendous. It's a great confidence booster. Moving forward, we know that LMU is very dangerous and very dynamic in the attack. We know there will be a battle on Sunday, but Keisha will lead them in the back.

### **On the depth of the team**

I have been talking about that since the beginning of the year. We have so much depth and so many people can be starting at any given moment. I am so proud of this team and the way everyone has taken on her role. They are selfless. It's incredible. We are so much stronger in numbers as a unit, and that can be a strength or a weakness. This team's mentality is to only use it as a strength. I am so fortunate to coach a team like this.

### **On Loyola Marymount**

The West Coast schools like to play, and they like to move the ball a lot. They are definitely dynamic inside the 20 and in the final third. We know that they have a couple special players that have been effective. Obviously, they knocked out Cal, and they just knocked out Minnesota. We are going to do a heck of a job scouting them out tonight and tomorrow, and we are going to do everything that we can to deny their strengths. I know the West Coast likes to build, they like to possess and they like to find the gaps. It will be a great game on Sunday.

### **On her confidence in the counterattack**

Northwestern is a very quick team. We saw it a little bit in the Big 12 Conference play with different opponents, but when you send those numbers so quickly with the counterattack it's on for us. I thought the girls did a great job moving the ball with three passes and getting in and getting behind them. With a team that only gave up 11 goals, they are definitely packing behind that 18 and getting in. I thought we did a great job moving them and finding those spaces.

## **Senior Midfielder Amanda Hill**

### **On scoring the game winner on her birthday**

So far I am liking 22. The assist and the buildup of the goal are more impressive to me. I just put the ball in. Everyone worked so hard for that, and it's one of those scrappy goals that you really like because it shows the no give-up mentality. We busted to get that one in.

## **Junior defender Kadeisha Buchanan**

### **On the program-record 15th shutout**

We are definitely doing the small things day-in and day-out. We are communicating. We are doing things right early. We have to keep doing what we are doing, and we have to keep

improving by watching film, and we have to keep going over the little details that the other opponents might break down. The backline tries to nullify that.

### **Northwestern coach Michael Moynihan**

#### **Opening statement**

Credit to West Virginia. I thought they were a fantastic team. We came in here with hopes, and I thought we put together a fantastic season. We have shown steady improvement, and we have played some pretty good teams ourselves. (WVU's) amount of athleticism and the quality in terms of technical ability was extremely impressive. It was the best we have seen this year. Credit to them, and I wish them luck as they move forward.

#### **On the team's resilience this season**

You can carry that a few years back. We have been growing fairly quickly over the last few years. We talk a lot about our senior class and the character that is has shown. They didn't have role models to follow when they joined the program on how to get to this level of success, and they built the road map for other people to follow. Our assistant coach just said that, so don't credit me. I think it is very true, and they have shown an awful lot of resilience. They have a tremendous work ethic and the expectations have risen dramatically.

We got off to a little bit of a rough start tonight. I thought we were going to run into some luck when they hit the penalty kick off the crossbar, and I thought we could keep ourselves in it. It was just a little bit too much to overcome early on. Halftime, we talked about who we were as a team, and what kind of impression we wanted to leave with the people who were watching us tonight. I thought our players continued to battle, and they fought through the entire 90 minutes regardless of the score, so I was proud of them for that.