



2016 NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

First Round · West Virginia Press Conference

St. John Arena · Columbus, Ohio

Thursday, March 17

WEST VIRGINIA QUOTES

West Virginia Head Coach Mike Carey

Opening Statement

"We're excited to be here at Ohio State. Our players did a great job this year. We're a young team, but we have some great veterans. We're looking forward to opening up against Princeton; they have a lot of senior athletes, they're a very good and experienced basketball team."

On coaching a young team

"We had so many new players- you have to understand we had 11 new players out of 14 on this team, eight of which were freshmen- once we got our rotation down and figured out who's coming in for who, and how many players we're going to play, and everybody learned their roles on the team, that was big for us."

On West Virginia's first round opponent, No. 11 seed Princeton

"They're pretty good defensively. They keep themselves in front of you, they get to the ball, they rebound well, and they all can run. Their post players run as well as any of their guards, which is a concern for us. They don't have great height; their starting center is 6'2" but she can run as well as any of their guards. They do have good size on the perimeter all the way around, which means they can switch and do some things defensively because of their size."

On playing in the NCAA Tournament and whether it was unexpected

"No, this is what we need to do. Last year we went to the NIT and our fans were so excited that we went to the championship game, you'd think that we won a national championship. But that's not our goal, our goal every year is to make it to the NCAA tournament and advance."

On the importance of having a young team get NCAA Tournament experience

"It's great for these young players. For these eight freshmen to come in here and get this experience- and hopefully they can build on this experience, hopefully they'll be able to build on this. That's what we're looking for."

Bria Holmes, West Virginia guard

On Princeton's defensive play

"They're an experienced team ... a veteran team, so they've been playing with each other for a long time so they know how to play well together. I feel like we have to come out ready to play our game of basketball."

On the conference season preparation

"It helped us [because] we're a young team, so a lot of people downgrade us because we're so young. I feel that that helped us a lot. It lets us know where we are and what we need to work on. I feel like we've worked on it and we've gotten better as the year progressed, we're in a good situation right now."

Lanay Montgomery, West Virginia center

On when the freshmen came together

"Definitely right before conference play started. I think we ended off our non-conference schedule pretty strong and we saw that they can play our defense, and that's the most difficult thing about coming to our program ... then they started to understand it and apply it from practice to a game."

On the urgency of the tournament

"I think it's important because after these two games it's really one and done. It's not like it's the Big 12 tournament, when we have the NCAA to look forward to. After this, there is nothing to look forward to other than postseason workouts. It's up to us, I think we just have to come out and play hard for 40 minutes."