



## **West Virginia Press Conference Quotes**

### **December 2, 2016**

#### **WEST VIRGINIA HEAD COACH NIKKI IZZO-BROWN**

##### **Opening Statement**

"First and foremost, I'd like to congratulate the University of North Carolina on an incredible year and an incredible game. They were just tough – tough, tough, tough. When you have to deal with the Tar Heels and beat that pressure – it is incredible how hard that team works. I want to start by congratulating them and recognizing and admiring what a tough opponent they were."

"Next I would like to say how proud I am of these two ladies next to me and the team that I get to coach every day. We found a way to win, we defending and got our shut out and are thrilled to be going on to the championship game."

##### **On What the Loss of Bianca St. Georges Did To Affect the Lineup; Was She Tempted To Leave Ashley Lawrence in the Midfield?**

"Obviously it's a very difficult move for us to lose her in midfield and that constant threat that she provides for us. It was something we needed to do to make sure we could stay in this game and be effective. We have other players that we have called upon. I thought Vanessa Flores did an incredible job as Ashley Woolpert did and Carla (Portillo). It's difficult to make a call like that, but Ashley (Lawrence) has done that for us in numerous games. We know we can still get her in the attack from the back and that's part of what we do, so it wasn't as difficult. It's always playing in the back of your head because of what Ashley can bring."

##### **On If Playing UNC Was Difficult Because of Its Storied History**

"This team has really played some powerhouses – UCLA, Duke, Ohio State – we never put a name on a jersey. We just go out there and stay focused on our game plan. No team's going to faze this team. They're just going to go out and do their job to the best of their ability. All the credit goes to the players for executing it and not allowing all those trophies to come into vision of what they needed to do today. It hasn't been anything we've worried about all season. I'm very thankful the players didn't do that in this game."

#### **WEST VIRGINIA JUNIOR FORWARD MICHAELA ABAM**

##### **On the goal**

"I saw that one of the defenders that was coming out was overcommitting, and it was a great ball in. I just kind of cut it and struck it with my left foot. We've been working on those kinds of shots for God knows how long."

#### **WEST VIRGINIA SENIOR DEFENDER KADEISHA BUCHANAN**

##### **On the play of the backline**

"Really proud of my backline. All of us showed up today. We did an awesome job of not allowing a single shot on goal. Kudos to our backline. We've been working on getting on our rope. We've been practicing with our rope all season, a rope with us attached to it, holding onto it, keeping us tight and compact. Tonight I'm really proud of my backline and of the midfielders, showing them wide and denying the spaces in between us."

**On Playing Against a UNC Team Playing Direct In the First Half, And How Does It Affect Your Rhythm**

"It's kind of hard when balls are just coming down our throats over top. If we can be patient, it becomes easy, getting a head on the direct balls. It's tough getting that second ball in the first half, but we did a much better job in the second half. Again, it's hard when they're coming at us and we're just trying to clear pressure ... I think in the first half it was a bit chaotic."

**On Playing In the Women's College Cup For the First Time; Will Playing the Semifinal Make It Easier For WVU In the Final?**

"From the beginning, from the first round to this round, we've prepared like we did for each game – just getting our recovery done, just getting film done, just knowing each team in and out. We're definitely confident on the ball because we did the preparation."



## **North Carolina Press Conference Quotes**

### **December 2, 2016**

#### **NORTH CAROLINA HEAD COACH ANSON DORRANCE**

##### **Opening Statement**

"Obviously, we want to congratulate West Virginia on advancing. They are an incredibly tough team to even get a shot against so we want to congratulate their entire roster and coaching staff for having a remarkable year."

"It was a huge challenge for us and at times I thought we did some good things but credit to them. 1v1 they were remarkable. They beat us off the dribble consistently and we certainly saw that."

"I want to mention that I'm very proud of my kids. I thought they represented themselves very well this fall. I had an incredibly enjoyable year coaching them."

##### **On West Virginia's goal**

"I thought the strike had great power as it streamed into the upper right-hand corner. I thought it was a quality finish."

##### **On West Virginia's defense**

"They are very athletic. It was very hard for us to get in behind them effectively. It was also very hard for us to beat them 1v1 effectively. Honestly, their best qualities were certainly (Kadeisha) Buchanan's heading in the back, their general athleticism as a team and also they are very good 1v1 offensively and defensively."

##### **On Darcy McFarlane's injury**

"We do need Darcy on the field. It was a big loss. She's an extraordinary leader. Yes, we've got some excellent center midfielders that played, but I look back on this year and what I'm going to remember is my leadership and Darcy McFarlane is one of the greatest leaders I've ever coached. We certainly missed her in that second half."

##### **On team gaining experience going forward**

"I don't think it's so much that all of the sudden these kids are going to be transformed into stone-cold (Cesc) Fabregas'. I think they will still struggle under pressure and in bigger games, but we will continue to get better and I think when they look at this game they will see that they could have done a lot better."

"When you look at it, a team with three starters returning from last year to make it to the Final Four, I look at that as an extraordinary achievement."

##### **On the season overall**

"If you saw us in August you would have been horrified at our level. I wouldn't say we are a great team now, but we are quite solid. The progression that we made has been off the charts. Coaching them in every practice has been an absolute joy and they put themselves in this position and I am incredibly proud of them."

## **NORTH CAROLINA JUNIOR MIDFIELDER MEGAN BUCKINGHAM**

### **On WVU's defense and lack of shots in the first half**

"I think in the first half we just weren't looking to shoot and at halftime we talked about it. The only way we're going to score is if we get a shot off. In the second half, we just had the motivation to look to shoot."

## **NORTH CAROLINA SENIOR MIDFIELDER DARCY MCFARLANE**

### **On playing the last game at Fetzer Field a few weeks ago**

"That's really important for us. We know that we're getting a new stadium next year so that was the last game for a women's soccer team to ever play on Fetzer Field. We know the history of this program and it (that stadium) deserved to go out with a win. That was definitely one of the incentives for that game. It is something nice to look back on and it is a good representation of what our season was and all that we accomplished."

### **On two missed chances**

"One of the great chances we had was by Maddie Schultz and we were joking, it's hard to joke right now, but Maddie has had like six game-winning goals for us. So, she's certainly done a lot of great things and that (particular moment) won't be what we remember about her from this season. I think if you give her 99 other chances at that, she puts it away. But, that's the game of soccer and it doesn't always go your way. We created chances, more than we did in the first half, so I'm really proud of what everyone was able to do coming out of the halftime talk."