

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

### **Opening Statement**

Survive and advance.

### **On how much confidence a win like this can provide moving forward**

It's always important to put the ball in the back of the net in tournament time. Teams are playing you tight, they are trying to disrupt you. We didn't feel that it was our best performance, but most importantly, with my beginning statement, we came in, we found the back of the net. I am proud of that opportunity and that piece and moving forward we are going to get better, get a little more focused and be ready for Friday.

### **On the defensive game plan against Northern Kentucky's attacking line**

I have all the faith in Keisha (Kadeisha Buchanan) and Easter (Mayi Kith) to make sure they know where they (NKU's forwards) were all the time. I think one time we didn't know where she was, and No. 12 (Northern Kentucky's Jessica Frey) got super dangerous with us. We just wanted to make sure that we were three versus two and the weak side defender was always tucking in. Keish and Easter (Mayi Kith) did a good job containing that.

### **On if scoring early works against the team**

Maybe. I think the pressure is off because we know it's tournament time. You look at a Notre Dame, they go into overtime and you look to a Nebraska - these teams can't find the back of the net, and all of the sudden there is saran wrap on the goal. Sometimes the relief is there and you go, 'Ok, now we just have to defend.' Yeah, a little bit, but most importantly in tournament time you have to score. I'll take it.

## ***Junior Defender Amandine Pierre-Louis***

### **On the importance of the defense getting another shutout after the Big 12 Championship game**

It was really more of a mindset. We were working hard all week, we worked on our transitions. I think it's just a big focus because that's a big goal for us, so I think it was a mindset and we wanted to focus on our goals.

### **On how comfortable she is with junior goalkeeper Michelle Newhouse in net**

I have always been comfortable with Michelle at goal. I feel like on our team, we have players that can just get plugged in and bring intensity, and they know what they have to do. Michelle knew what her goal was and what she had to do. We have known that (freshman goalkeeper) Rylee (Foster) might leave for the tournament, so Michelle knew that her time would come. I'm really comfortable, and she is getting more comfortable playing with us, too; the communication is better.

## ***Senior Midfielder Ashley Lawrence***

### **On how often she works on her types of shots in practice**

We definitely work on different types of shots in training. Whether it's bouncing balls or one-timing it, so you know Izzo (head coach Nikki Izzo-Brown) and the rest of the coaching staff really put emphasis on that. I know throughout the game for myself I kind of had myself in a position where I was in front of the net. I took one too many touches, and you know I was trying to shoot through defenders. A couple of the players came up to me, Izzo as well, just saying

'quicker release,' so by that point I was like we're two up and I just saw the net and I went for the goal.

### **On the efforts made by the defense**

I think for myself for being on more of the attacking side, you know it helps us with momentum because they (NKU) came out with that fire and that pressure. I think the way our defense responded was amazing because then, it gave us that encouragement and that confidence to push forward. We were able get Michaela (Abam) scoring and just pushing forward on the offensive side, so it takes both ends of the game. For sure, defense wins championships, so that was big time.

## ***Northern Kentucky Head Coach Bob Sheehan***

### **Opening Statement**

Nikki (Izzo-Brown) has done an incredible job with the program, very gifted players and very experienced players. It was a wonderful experience for us to have the opportunity to play a team of this caliber.

### **On feelings about WVU scoring in the first minute of the game**

Well that was disappointing, obviously. When you're playing the No. 1 team in the country, (you don't want) to be a minute into the game and to be down 1-0. That's not necessarily the position you want to be in, but that's how the game went. The word of the day for us was 'togetherness,' we wanted our team to stay together, and I thought we really did stay together through that, and I thought we showed some resiliency and really competed. I'm really proud of our players, they really competed. Again, congratulations to West Virginia, they have a heck of a team.

### **On Northern Kentucky's emotions after the game**

You know our seniors; it's been a really difficult four- or five-year period. We've gone through transition from Division II to Division I. We've recruited these players, and they didn't have an opportunity to play in the postseason for four years due to the four-year moratorium. So our seniors, our fourth- and fifth-year seniors, this is the only opportunity they've ever had to compete in an NCCA Tournament. They made the most of it by winning the Horizon League Championship, and again we're really proud of the effort they've put forth and the passion they've shown and the commitment they've given to Northern Kentucky University. They've been excellent role models and excellent representatives of our program. They gave everything they had today, and that's all we asked them to do to start the game. Can you give your very best effort, and we'll walk off the field together as a team, and we'll be proud of you.