

West Virginia coach Nikki Izzo-Brown

Opening Statement

Thanks for being here. From day one, this team wanted to separate themselves and be special. I have been fortunate to be the only coach here at West Virginia, so I am able to compare them to past teams. I don't like to compare teams, but I will tell you that this team wanted to separate itself and be special. They have done just that today with their 19 wins because no other team in program history has done that. Now, they have to get to the Final Four.

On the difference between senior forward Kailey Utley's performance in the first and second half

I have to give a lot of credit to LMU. They had a great game plan, and they came out ready to play. They were man marking us tight. (Senior forward) Kailey Utley gets all the credit, because she separated herself from her defender, and she decided to draw the line physically, mentally and technically to find the back of the net. Again, I have been riding my leadership all year. I have been riding my seniors. I have been riding my captains, so it doesn't surprise me, and I am so glad she made that decision. She was relentless about it.

On how the team responded to adversity in today's game

Character is built with adversity. As much as coaches love wins, which I will take more wins than loses, the true test comes with adversity and loses. For us to feel a little bit of adversity in the first half and be able to respond like we did in the second half, it was great coaching moments for us to learn. The whole team bunkered in and said we can't do that again. Lesson learned. Moving forward, we are going to learn our lesson and hopefully, we don't repeat some of our mistakes today.

On the early goal in the second half

It was confidence. Once we scored, we were a little bit freer, but this team didn't need it. They weren't tight in the second half. They were motivated. I saw a difference in that mentality, but there is no question that what (senior forward) Kailey (Utley) gave us relieved a lot of pressure. It taught us what a senior does. It taught us what a senior captain does. She led us, and people responded to her.

On the intensity of the offense

When a coach gets up and says 'hHy, we have to survive and advance,' this team doesn't want to survive. They want to win. What (senior forward) Kailey Utley did in the second half and what she just spoke about shows it. She knew she was a senior, and she didn't want it to be her last game. There was no pressure. It was a privilege for her to be out there, and she showed us that we were going to advance.

On what she looks forward to with Penn State as the next opponent

The good news is that we know Penn State, and Penn State knows us. It was a 1-0 game here at Dick Dlesk (Soccer Stadium), so this team knows that we have to give everything we have going into that Elite Eight game. It's going to be a tough game. I think the good news is that there is an understanding and a familiarity with this team. We know them, and we also know that it's going to take a giant to walk into Penn State and beat them. We have to be awake and ready. Playing LMU today, we didn't really know them, and I don't think we gave them enough credit. Once we saw how good LMU was, they woke the giant.

On players coming off the bench

I never spoke about this team being special early on. I only spoke about how much depth we have, and how many hard choices I had to make with who was going to play in what position. You can see when (senior defender) Leah Emaus, (sophomore forward) Heather Kaleiohi and (senior forward) Kelsie Maloney step on the field that there is no difference. I probably missed somebody, and I apologize. We don't miss a beat with our subs, so that's the key ingredient. The selflessness, the depth we have and the intensity that we bring.

Senior forward Kailey Utley

On if she felt responsible to lift the team up at halftime

As a senior captain, I knew that my performance in the first half was not good enough. We were tied 2-2, and it could have been our last game. It could have been the end of our season. I knew I had to pick it up.

On if she saw the goalkeeper in her first goal of the game

No. I had my back to the goal, and it was a great ball in. I just knew how to turn it, and it was a one-time shot. I knew the defender was on me, and I had to be quick.

Junior defender Kadeisha Buchanan

On the team's defensive performance tonight

It definitely wasn't the best. I felt like we performed better in other games, but I think we pulled it together in the second half. We made the team tighter. It was more about getting repetition on the ball and getting into open space. We had to recognize where the defenders were. I think we got caught not checking our shoulders and not recognizing where our defenders were coming from. We just turned right into them, but in the second half, we definitely controlled the ball and checked our shoulders. We gave ourselves options, and that's what we were lacking in the first half. We were not opening up and finding our options, and then we did that in the second half.

Loyola Marymount's coach Michelle Myers

Opening Statement

First of all, I would like to congratulate West Virginia and wish them the best of luck moving forward. Today was a great game, and I think the difference was that they were pretty clinical in finishing. We were happy about the way we played today, and I cannot be prouder of our team. Like I said, it was a good run, and we are excited to focus on next year.

On if it ever got to a point where it was a little bit too much

I don't think it was ever too much during the game. If you watch the game and read the stats, we were never out of the game. We were actually in the game, and the bottom line was that they finished it when they had the chance. That was the difference maker today. They didn't outshoot us. We had great opportunities. We were possessing the ball. We were getting it behind them. We were creating things. I thought we did a wonderful job today, and unfortunately, they were a lot more clinical and efficient in their finishing.

On getting so many shots on the WVU defense

After our game the other day, I don't think we played as well as we did today. That says a lot for us coming off of a Friday game into a Sunday game with heavy legs. We lost the (West Coast Conference) WCC Defensive Player of the Year (senior forward Callie Taylor) to a concussion, so she was a mainstay in our backline. For someone else to step in there and cover that, again, I thought we did a good job.