

West Virginia vs. Ole Miss Women's Basketball Quotes

December 4, 2016

West Virginia University Head Coach Mike Carey

Opening statement

Let me just start out by saying, I'd rather win ugly than lose pretty. So you know that was an ugly game with all of the turnovers and missed foul shots. But, I give credit to the bench. Kristina King came in and did some good things. I thought Desiree Rhodes came in and gave us some quality minutes so give credit to especially those two. Also, I thought Alexis Brewer came in and did some good things. It was good to see the bench contribute. But you know turnovers, same thing, offensive rebounds, turnovers, and missed foul shots. We are usually a pretty good foul shooting team. Today, we missed a lot of foul shots. Happy to get the win. I think both teams set back basketball about 10 years, but like I said I'd rather win ugly than lose pretty. It's a win. You know we have to get in practice and work and continue to get better going into conference play. I keep saying that and I think everyone saw that tonight. We have a long way to go by the time we get into conference.

On Ole Miss' pressure defense

Well, they didn't do anything we didn't know they were going to do. I've said all year we don't come off of picks well, we don't get open. We don't know how seal and get open. We have to get our wings to be able to come off picks and wait on picks, and then if you don't have a pick you have to be able to run them down, seal them, and get the ball. We did a terrible job of that today. Terrible job today. That's why you play these games, so you can see what you need to work on. I think we all saw a lot of stuff we need to work on, so that's why you play these.

On adjustments made after the first half

We started attacking. We didn't stand and hold the ball. I mean they were trying to take us out of our stuff. Okay, if they're overplaying you, attack, make a play. Well, that's why we went to the foul line a lot. The first half we are standing around trying to, our wings weren't getting open. When Alexis [Brewer] had to go in there at the point guard, she had a lot of turnovers, but a lot of them weren't her fault. Nobody was open. Nobody was getting open. When that happens, you have a lot of turnovers.

On points and rebounds from the bench today

Yeah, it forced me to play them a lot of minutes, which is good. I don't know if I would have played them as many minutes as they played if we weren't in foul trouble. But it's good. It shows me that the good thing is they showed me they can play, the bad thing is I know they can play. So now practice, they better get after it in practice. I know they can do it if they want to do it. We have to continue to get better.

On tonight's crowd

Great crowd tonight. A lot of enthusiasm and I thank everyone for coming.

Ole Miss Head Coach Matt Insell

Opening statement

Definitely not the way you want to start a game. The way we started the game in the first half, we've shot the ball extremely well all year and we came out here in the first half and got great looks, but just couldn't get one to go. Proud of our girls for continuing to fight, giving ourselves a chance to win, but unacceptable that we didn't win. These are games that we have to win. These are games that we built our program from day one to compete in these games and give ourselves a chance to win against a top-20 team on the road. We gave ourselves a chance to win. Now, we have to finish out and win those games. All credit in the world to West Virginia. What a great team. Mike [Carey] does an unbelievable job. I have so much respect for him and his staff and what they do year in and year out. They have a great team this year, obviously being ranked top 20 in the country. That's been a consistent thing for them, and that's where we're going, that's where we are close to being to.

On losing despite typically shooting well

It doesn't make sense. It doesn't make sense that we are a team that shoots 45, 46 percent from the field, a team that shoots in the mid to high 30's from the three, and to go 15 percent in the first quarter and 18 percent in the second quarter. That doesn't make sense. There's so much in this game that doesn't make sense. As I told Mike after the game was over, "boy that was ugly." It was. At the end of the day both teams kept fighting and you get those type of games. Sometimes you win them, sometimes you lose them. We won't shoot this bad again. I don't know how they will. We didn't press or anything, we just played half court man. To force them into 25 turnovers, that means we were very good defensively at times. We slowed the game down. I thought the difference in the game was in the third quarter, we took a lead a little bit there. Got back in it and took a lead, and then we started fouling, allowing them to go to the free throw line. They were not scoring on us in their halfcourt offense. We allowed them to go to the free throw line and get into a little rhythm and that hurt us.

On defending Tynice Martin

She's an incredible player. She's somebody we shadowed everywhere we went. We didn't do anything in particular special. We just told our players that whoever had her, you can't lose her. You have to know where she's at. Our coaches did a great job of scouting and we figured out some tendencies of her. We got our players to do a good job of listening to what we wanted to do to her. But she's a great player. She comes from a great high school program, and has really expounded her game since she's came here. She's done a great job of taking her game to a new level. We recruited her pretty hard out of high school ourselves. She's really taken her game to a new level. Good player. As I told our team before the game, she's one of the best perimeter players we will play all season. I felt like we did a good job for the most part. We got into some foul trouble which hurt us, which then got a player on her. She kind of got going in the third quarter. A lot of that was our matchups on her because we got in foul trouble. We had a player that was a little bit timid and scared to guard her. That can't happen.