



2016 NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Second Round · West Virginia vs. Ohio State

St. John Arena · Columbus, Ohio

Sunday, March 20

OHIO STATE QUOTES

Kevin McGuff, Ohio State head coach

On Kelsey Mitchell

"She's obviously very tough to defend. She's got speed and quickness and handles the ball like no one in college basketball. West Virginia is a great team, a really good defensive team, but we were able to get in transition and get great spacing to give her opportunities to drive the ball."

On being in "attack mode"

"That's a big part of who we are and points to our style of play. This game specifically, I knew Kelsey – and our team in general – had to attack them off the dribble, because if you pass it around and reverse the ball, they're so good with their pressure and ball denial that it's hard to do that. To counter that, we had to attack them and put the ball on the floor."

On making an emphasis to push the pace and turnover the Mountaineers

"I didn't think we could beat them in a half-court game. We knew we had to push the pace and turn them over. Scoring 40 points off turnovers, you can see we were able to do that."

Kelsey Mitchell, sophomore guard

On the keys to the game

"Coach McGuff put the emphasis on pushing the ball as fast as possible, getting the ball out as quick as possible to our forwards. Cait [Craft] and Shay [Shayla Cooper], they do a good job getting the ball out quick to me and I get up the court as quick as possible. So I think that is one of the biggest things we did throughout the course of the 40 minutes today."

On fatigue being a factor towards the end of the game

"I missed two or three lay ups our team needed. I think I was just a little fatigued towards the end. I lost a little focus as far as keeping my eye on the glass and finishing the easy baskets. I think my teammates did a great job of picking me up though."

On scoring points off of West Virginia turnovers

"As Shayla said, pressure. We just tried and put a lot of pressure on them. In the back court when I press and I think it was really effective down the stretch because I think fatigue settled in for both teams. So I think it affected them with patience as you said. I think they tried to throw the ball a lot of different places and we were able to get a lot of deflections, loose balls and 50/50 balls which also helped us in the end. I think our pressure was one of the things that helped us."

On challenging defenses by driving to the basket

"Coach McGuff put the emphasis on me to play at a fast pace and I know that coach is one of the guys who helps me keep going with the ball. He tells me to go straight up and at the people. I think it helps our team as a whole as far as transitioning and driving."

Shayla Cooper, junior forward/guard

On pressure defense affecting West Virginia

"It seemed to as the game went on because they are probably no use to that pace, but we practice like that all of the time and we play like that all of the time."

On advancing to the Sweet 16 with Ameryst Alston limited

"It just shows a lot of focus, and without Ameryst we can't fall back. We just have to pick it and play for her, ourselves and the coaches. For the team I just think it says we just got our mojo back."

WEST VIRGINIA QUOTES**West Virginia Head Coach Mike Carey**

On his team's turnovers against Ohio State

"We got impatient. The first quarter we were advancing the ball and passing it around, spreading it around. Then all of a sudden we started holding onto the ball too much. When you hold the ball that's when they're pretty good. They're going to try to get you to turn it over. The difference in the game was they went to the foul line a lot more than we did and we turned it over a lot more than they did. If we don't turn it over 27 times then I'm coming in here after them. But I'm in here first. You can't turn the ball over 27 times against a good team like that."

On guarding a player who charges the basket

"It's hard to guard somebody when they keep coming at you. It puts a lot of pressure on the referee because she comes right at you. I don't know what you're supposed to do as a defensive player. I don't know, just stop? Hopefully they charge, but I don't know what you're supposed to do. But we can't let people go to the line 22 times. I'm not saying they were bad calls, I'm not saying that. It's just tough to defend when someone comes straight at you off a drive."

On his thoughts on this season and his three seniors

"I told them before the game they did a great job this year and I'm proud of them. The seniors did a great job. Bria Holmes had a great, great career and she's been a model student on and off the floor. Jessica Morton will be the first person from her family to graduate from college, she's had a great career. And Arielle [Roberson] came in here as a fifth year senior and she really did a great job for us."

Senior guard Bria Holmes

On the team's 27 turnovers

"I think we were just rushing a few things when we should have slowed it down and executed better. We should've been more patient, but we weren't, which led to a lot of the turnovers."

On playing against a team that pushes the pace

"I mean we like to run too. It was an up-and-down game and it was really anybody's game from the tip. They like to run, we like to run, so that's the kind of game we tried to play. It came down to executing on offense and getting defensive stops."

On playing against a great player like Kelsey Mitchell

"We had to help a lot. Pinch and get out on the kick if she passes it, if not then just try to stop her from scoring. Or not try to foul at least, but that didn't really work. She's a really great player and she had a great game today."

Freshman guard Tynice Martin

On the future of the team

"We'll just have to build from this. We know what our weaknesses are, we know what we have and we know what we're getting next year. All we have to do is build on it."