

PENN STATE POSTGAME PRESS CONFERENCE QUOTES

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Head Coach Erica Walsh

Opening statement ...

"It's hard to feel great after a 4-1 loss especially when you haven't felt that all season long, but what I said to the team after the match is how proud I am of the work that they've put in this season and the leadership presented by our senior class. I told them how much I've learned from them this year and how much their legacy means to this program and this university and that will carry us on to next year and obviously they set a whole new standard for Penn State women's soccer, one that Taylor Schram and her class will carry on into next season and try to get back to this spot."

On considering changing the defensive structure in response to Carolina...

"The story of this game can be told through the timing of these goals. When you've got the momentum, when the game is starting, when the half is starting you have all these things in front of you and all of a sudden you have a ball in the back of the net that you're picking out you're constantly searching for answers at that point and that's what Carolina did to us they had us searching for the next answer trying to do different things we did make some changes we moved Taylor Schram around we put her in some different spots she got a great goal off of it, but every time we tried something Carolina came right back with something else. I think Carolina was the better team the score line indicates how the game went and the credit goes to them today."

On Christine Nairn...

"I think Christine's emotions stem from how far she's come in her four years. Sue Scheetz was my first boss when I arrived here and watched her on the field and saw all the talent in the world. Christine can cry all she wants when you put out the effort she has put out all season long, all year long, throughout the course of her career and I've gotten the chance to know her family. My family is going through a tough year and her family has stepped in and what you see in front of you here is a family and that's why it's so hard for us because now it's at the end and now we've got to start a new chapter so I can't say enough about this person sitting to the left of me right now."

On sharing feedback from the alumni ...

"This program started in 94 and by 99 they had won a couple of Big ten Championships and had already been to a college cup so the university invested enough money and resources and time into Penn State soccer to put it on the map immediately. By '02 they were at their second college cup and in '05 they were at their third so there was an expectation to be successful—every season to win a Big ten Championship, but not only to win a Big Ten Championship to get to the College Cup as well and win a National Championship. Then I came in and took over a program that as far as I'm concerned I could only screw up at that point. Transition is tough, we had some challenging years as I worked to get in the type of student athlete that I was trying to get in. We felt like it could happen and obviously here we sit getting these guys to a National Championship for the first time ever so these guys have been with us every step of the way. I think the 2005-2012 seasons were challenging the expectations are high for Penn State Women's Soccer and they are to win it just as they are for every Penn State program. They wanted us to understand how proud they are so they said that to the team before the season. Before the game today we put the quotes up on the wall, every email that was sent, we posted in the locker room so that they could understand that they're playing for something much bigger than themselves."

On the strategy for approaching Crystal Dunn ...

“For this team, they play against Christine Nairn every day so they know exactly what they are dealing with I thought Rocky, her defense was perfect at times, she tried to defend with numbers and that’s what she’ll give to you she always makes the right decisions and gets numbers around the ball.”

On the growth/ future of women’s soccer...

“We talk about that a lot- to control the things we can control because there is so much talent, there’s so many good programs now. These universities are investing in women’s soccer in ways they never have before and with that, when much is given much is expected and there is big expectations on these players on this coaching staff to perform. That’s why you’ve got to work hard everyday and throughout the course of the summer which is what Christine and Taylor did, but we saw another level of fitness today and you could see- whether it’s either the volume of players or the overall fitness level. You keep redefining your standard, and it’s always an education for us. Christine educated herself and she is going to come out the other side as a fit pro ready to be one of the top draft choices in the country so I think it’s exciting when I watch these four teams because the future of women’s soccer here is bright and it needs to be because some of these Asian and European countries are working just as hard.”

On their opponent’s fight ...

“Just the volume of the set pieces and the opportunity of the eight corners. They’re able to expose a space behind our outside backs and we went to a 4-back to try to stop it and that worked for a while but there is just so many weapons that the Carolina team and they were excellent as usual but where there’s space they’re going to track things down and you’re going to give up corners that’s part of the three back and that’s a risk that we have to be willing to take. Today it didn’t pay off but I thought the second goal was the game changing moment and right after half time we came out we were ready to go and then they put one in the back of our net and it buried us for a short period and then we started the fight again.”

Christine Nairn, Midfield, Senior**On today’s game against North Carolina ...**

“They did a great job to holding us to one goal. So a lot could be said about that. The credit goes to their back line. We threw absolutely everything we had at them. Credit goes to their backline and their goalkeeping. It worked.”

Taylor Schram, Forward/Midfield, Junior**On their postseason run ...**

“It puts our program back on the map. Like coach said, we were in the College Cup in 2005 and now we’re back this year. Christine, along with our other seniors showed us the way. They led us through this whole thing and now hopefully next year, my class and I can step up and do the same thing they did and more.”

On the playing against North Carolina ...

“It was definitely challenging. Every 15 minutes they would sub a new line. We had a couple of injuries earlier in the year, so it took away from our depth, so it was tough when you’re playing against fresh legs second game of the weekend. We tried to hang in there.”

On what she's going to miss about teammate Christine Nairn ...

"Christine is the best player that I've ever played with. It's been an honor to play with her the past three years. She's also my best friend and she will be greatly missed by me and by everyone else on the team along with the other seniors. Just going to try to step into the huge shoes and fill them to the best of my ability."