



**2016 NCAA Division I Lacrosse Championship Semifinal
Penn State vs. No. 3 North Carolina
May 27, 2016 — Talen Energy Stadium**

Penn State Post Game Quotes

Penn State Head Coach Missy Doherty

(Opening remarks)

“It was a great game, that is what Final Fours are all about. Teams both went on runs and were competing hard. Both teams were coming up with big plays at big times, and our athletes played a full sixty minutes. We fell a little short there in the end, but I am so proud of how hard they worked and how hard the game was. We wanted to show everyone in the Final Four that we are here and we were ready for it. They definitely showed that today.”

Junior midfielder Abby Smucker

(On adjusting to North Carolina face guarding in the first half)

“We came into the game thinking they may faceguard so we prepared for that during practice. We have seven great players in the attacking end, so we just kept going hard and luckily something opened up for us. We went hard to the goal giving us the opportunity to get free-positions.”

(On struggling to score in the final seven minutes after disallowed goal)

“It was frustrating for us to not get possession of the ball, but did have some practice with that in the Florida game. We just wanted to stay composed, stick to our game and not let them get anything easy on us. Our team a good job staying composed and competing hard until the end.”

Senior attacker Jenna Mosketti

(On the timeout after North Carolina opened up 3-0)

“We needed to go on a run to show that we were here for a reason. Coach told us to make sure we stayed calm and didn't get upset by anything.”

(On being at the Final Four)

“Once you walk in the stadium, it is like nothing we have played in before. Yesterday we came here for practice, and we were able to get the feel. It was an awesome experience that we have never had before.”

Coach Doherty

(On the goalie change in the first half)

“Their goalie had great saves in the second half. She really shut down some of our opportunities and chances to take momentum. Those are the game-changing plays that sometime happen. Everyone was stepping up for both teams, and their goalie play was definitely one of the differences in the game. If we put two of those shots away, the game would be going in a different direction.”

(On the versatility of Abby Smucker)

“She did a great job being marked up on #23 Molly Hendrick, one of their top scorers. It was a running game and our midfielders were getting a little fatigued so we pushed her up. She performed for us after that change, and that is what a team does in these types of situations where people need to step-up. Both Abby and Jenna (Mosketti) were examples of that.”

(On North Carolina delaying the offense)

“They have really good scorers, as do we, and when a team slows it down it gives you a second to catch your breathe. It gives you times to get ready to play some good defense. Towards the end, when it was a one-point game, I was alright with it. You get one turnover and put it away it’s a tied game. We almost did that in the end.

(On handling their surroundings being at the Final Four)

“I thought our team handled it well. All week everyone has been talking about first time being back, but I told the team that you have been here before. You have been playing these game all year, and we just need to play our game. It’s not like once you reach the Final Four you try to play a different game. We did a great job of that. We didn’t have too many crazy turnovers, keeping their composure and getting great shot opportunities. In the second half, we had some good opportunities to make. They held their championship composure. We didn’t pull it out their in the end but I was so proud of them. When we were down, they didn’t give up they just kept competing.”



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North Carolina Post Game Quotes

North Carolina Head Coach Jenny Levy

(Opening remarks)

“Congratulations to our team and our coaches who have worked hard all season. We’re obviously really excited. Congrats to Penn State for their tremendous season. They came out fighting and gave us everything we could handle tonight. We had a lot of kids contributing in different elements of the game and we are just happy with the result at this time.

Junior goalkeeper Caylee Waters

(On coming into the game nine minutes in)

“It was exciting. The past three years we’ve had a rotation so I’ve always been ready to go in at any point. I was really excited and happy to be out there and ready to play.

Sophomore midfielder McCool

(On playing close games)

“This team is really gritty. We’ve been in so many situations when it’s a back and forth game. We’ve had many one goal games but we’ve come out on top on most of them. This team just never stops fighting. We never put our heads down, even when we got down and we knew we were going to fight back.”

Caylee Waters

(On last save of the game)

“I was happy it went our way. We’ve been in that situation a couple of times this season. There were two games that led to overtime because of the last goal I gave up in the last 30 seconds. I told myself to have confidence in myself and have confidence in my teammates and to just have fun. I didn’t put any pressure on myself. If I had to make a save I was excited about it.”

Carly Reed

(What it feels like to play in NCAA Championship game)

“It’s awesome and it is what you work for all year. We only get so many games to play each year. In the fall you battle and you have your time trials and lifting and this is what you live for since you started playing lacrosse. Getting to the game on Sunday is a dream come true.

Coach Levy

(On goalkeeper rotation)

“I’ll start with Meg first since she’s our senior. She’s been great for us for four years. I didn’t think that the goals scored early on were Meg’s fault. I thought our defense was a little on their heels and credit Penn State for coming after us the whole game. We weren’t playing help defense and we were giving up high percentage shots. I felt like we needed to settle down and sometimes when you make a shift with personnel it gets the group’s attention.

Caylee’s the ultimate team player and so is Meg. They really handle the situation really well and I couldn’t ask for a better two-some than those two because they set the standard on how to be a force together.”

(On last save by Caylee Waters)

“I have confidence in our players and on those big moments, great players make big plays. And that’s what it takes to get to a national championship game. Your big players have to make plays throughout the year, and then once you get to ACC and NCAA play, you rely on those kids and trust that they are battle tested and that they are going to come up with the big save. I actually thought that she would make the save.”

(On patience on offense)

“We really don’t like to sit on the ball for that long. We really wanted a shot that we wanted. We didn’t want to take a shot that they wanted us to take. It didn’t matter how long an offensive set was to get the shot that we wanted.”

(On Carly Reed)

“I’m so proud of Carly. She’s a junior and came in a highly recruited player. She played offense in high school and didn’t play mid field. She has worked really hard to learn how to play at this level and for our program. She’s a goal scorer and there’s not a shot that she sees that she doesn’t like. She has worked extremely hard over the past three years, staying late at practice to get extra shots on our goalies. We really had to convince her that she could be a great middie and she’s obviously proven that for us this season.”

(On heading back to national championship game)

“I can’t wait to watch that game (Maryland vs. Syracuse). I always tell the team what number practice it is. We only play 15 regular season games and we’re in practice number 55. Every game day is so special. Those are the golden nuggets that you work for. The postseason with ACCs and NCAAs are even more special. Our kids come to North Carolina to play at a high level, to develop as human beings and develop as lacrosse players. Our GPA is over 3.0 and we’re in the national championship game. To see them rewarded for their hard work and their focus and discipline. This is all about them. I’m really happy for our group, and for our coaches. We have two tremendous coaches in Phil Barnes and Katrina Dowd, they do unbelievable things with who we have available.”

