

**2012 NCAA Regional Final**  
Minnesota vs. Penn State  
Mackey Arena  
West Lafayette, Ind.; December 8, 2012

**Penn State Head Coach Russ Rose**

*Opening Statement*

“I thought it was a great match in which Minnesota played terrific and forced us to make a lot of adjustments in areas that I think a couple of our kids weren’t ready to make adjustments in. Coach Shondell said yesterday, and I agree, that Minnesota is an incredibly physical team with three or four kids with big arms, but I thought at the end, Deja had some big blocks and A. Scott was out offensively. Micha’s serving kept us in it when other things were starting to get shaky. I think Dom’s performance goes unnoticed by a lot of people except us, but I think she did great and made some great defensive plays on very strong attackers hitting on her one on one.”

*On Minnesota’s play*

“They have a very strong lineup of attackers. It’s just not they are good hitters; they only made 18 errors of the match. That’s an incredibly low number for a team that makes as many big swings as they do. We had 20 errors, and they were at 18. It was a match where we won the first game and had some leads at different times and the second game where we really let it get away from us. You can have a game plan but it doesn’t mean anything when Harms is getting a big swing. Dixon has been a monster player for quite some time, and I think A. Scott and Deja took some real big swings for us. But I think we had a couple of kids that I don’t think handled the pressure as well as they would have liked or I would have liked, but that’s what teams do. Teams last year when we lost to UCLA, they had a team that was playing great at that time. I was disappointed how we played against UCLA. I wasn’t disappointed losing to UCLA because we lost to a number of teams last year and when we lost to teams last year and same as to teams we lost to this year, they played better than us. Coaches did a better job that day than I did and you try to learn from those mistakes and move on. I am pleased with the athletics department. We have had a great fall run with our new football coach doing a great job, our field hockey team winning the conference, and our women’s soccer team making it to the finals and the men’s soccer team winning the Big Ten. We feel pretty excited about trying to do our part as an athletic program at the university right now.”

*On Micha Hancock’s serve and the impact it has for the team*

“She could have probably broken the record last weekend but at one point we were winning 21 to nothing. I just wanted to stop it myself. When she is in a good rhythm, it’s similar to today; we knew that Minnesota has three good kids that were in the air taken good swings at the ball. A lot of teams have good jump spin serves. In our case, we start her as our best scoring opportunity because we want to expose it as many times as we can. We mix it up a little bit, but she came in with that serve. If she came in right now before the lights went off, she would be hitting. She is a kid that is really aggressive that likes to hit. She is making great progress as a setter, and it’s not unnoticed by us that we need her to serve well. In the matches that we have struggled, she has really struggled from the end line as well.”

**Dominique Gonzalez, sophomore, Defensive Specialist**

*On controlling the match*

“I think when you are playing really good teams in volleyball; you are always scoring so your momentum is going to change. It’s just really important to seize control when you can and run with it when you can.”

*On capitalizing on scoring instincts*

“I think in our last time out we said to each other we need to focus on these last few points and we need to go super hard because we knew Minnesota is going to come in really strong and that they are fighting. Deja did a really good job on focusing where the hitter was and when to drop and things like that.”

*On the feeling it is of getting to the final four this year after the loss to UCLA last year*

“It’s a great feeling. I mean we were talented last year, but we had a lot to learn and we worked hard in the spring and the off season. It got us here and we will see what we can do with it.”

**Micha Hancock, sophomore, Setter**

*On controlling the match*

“I think it was just settling it down and controlling our game no matter what they were doing. We knew that we could neutralize them and that’s what we tried to do.”

*On setting the NCAA tournament record for aces*

“The only really important for me is I really need to get my serve in so I can help my team. That’s a really strong rotation for us anyways so keeping it in and knowing I can go hard at it is a good feeling.”

*On capitalizing on scoring instincts*

“We made really good decisions and things like that.”