

**2012 NCAA Women's Volleyball Tournament**  
**First and Second Rounds**  
Nov. 30, 2012  
Bowling Green vs. Yale

**Bowling Green Quotes**

**Head Coach Danijela Tomic**

*Opening Statement*

**Tomic:** I just told the team, I met quickly in the locker room with them, and I said not many teams who make their first trip to the NAAs win their first match and I'm just so very proud of our group. This wasn't the prettiest volleyball we've seen all season long, but we willed ourselves to win it. There's something about us playing five-set matches. I was hoping this was not going to be the end of our streak in the NCAA, so it was nice to continue us winning five-set matches. I just want to say Yale was a tough team to beat. We knew we were going to have our hands full. They're a well-coached team, very smart team. We just feel very fortunate to come out with a win.

***Q: What did you tell the team heading into the fifth set knowing you haven't lost a fifth set yet this season?***

**A:** I just told them we need to play better. We've been here before, what nine times? Eight times? There's nothing new that I can tell them going into the fifth set. I think I've said everything this season going into that fifth set. We just said we need to play harder. We made too many errors, unforced errors, in the fourth set and we knew it was going to be the team that plays the hardest and the team that makes the least amount of unforced errors. It kind of didn't start like that, we made two serving errors I believe in the fifth set. Again it was those few points and it mattered that we won. I told them, "This is all on you. You know how to handle this situation, let's just go out there and play hard."

***Q: What was it like getting this win?***

**A:** At the beginning of the season we talked about leaving a legacy. That's something coming into this tournament knowing that no BGSU team has won a set. So we said let's win this match, your names, this team, BGSU Volleyball 2012 is going to always be in the record books as a team that won the first NCAA match and they did it so all the credit goes to them.

***Q: What helped you pull away right at the last two points of the fifth set?***

**A:** I also reminded them that they gave me a pinky promise yesterday. We treated them with ice cream, so I said, "You better keep the promise." In the fifth set I think that was part of my timeout talk, so that was a smart thing for me to do. Usually we treat them after we win. Yesterday was the first time we did it before the game so I said, "You better promise we will win."

***Q: How were you able to overcome the 33 attack errors?***

**A:** I think the difference here, I'm looking at the box score, was our blocking. There was a difference a little bit. We started blocking in the fifth set. In the fourth set they out blocked us, I believe. I'm actually surprised we had two more digs than them because it felt they were picking up every ball that we put over on their side. I told them in the fifth set defense was going to win this match because defensively we struggled. We made so many errors. This is a really untypical hitting percentage. We usual are in the .200s and to end with this hitting percentage it tells you that our defense had to be better.

***Q: What do you think you will need to improve on going into the game tomorrow?***

**A:** We'll have to play our best volleyball. This is a great opportunity. As an athlete you want to play against the best teams available and Penn State is the number one team in the nation. I think our team is competitive and we've watched them on video and we will watch them tonight here. I just want our team to go there and be fearless and play the best they can play and be the best team they can be and then whatever happens, happens. I don't think anybody expects us to win. I expect us to compete because I believe in sports anything is possible and any given day things can happen. I've seen many upsets and we are not coming tomorrow to say, "Here, Penn State take it." We are going to go out and fight and represent BGSU and our conference in the best possible way and we definitely have to be better offensively and defensively against Penn State, but we are not coming out there scared or anything like that. That is not us. That is not how we play.

**#12 Paige Penrod, OH, Jr.**

***Q: What was it like getting this win?***

**A:** It feels good, I'm totally excited. This is the beginning so hopefully we can keep this streak up and take it as far as it can go. We all have heart and it's just a great experience to be here and just see how far it goes.

***Q: What helped you pull away right at the last two points of the fifth set?***

**A:** Just looking at each other, it gives us the energy. We can look at the bench for energy but when you look into your teammates eyes and say, "We're winning this," and they can look right back at you and say, "Yeah, we are!" That confidence boost and that energy you can just feel like the love that we share on the court, it's not just off the court. Just having that comfort level it's great to have someone else by you saying, "Yes we are going to do this!"

***Q: How were you able to overcome the 33 attack errors?***

**A:** Serve and serve receive is always a big part of our game and I think when we are able to get in serve receive more of those hitting errors decrease. So our main focus was to keep the ball high and in the middle instead of pushing our setter one way or another and I think that is what helped us. And also just defense, I mean keeping the ball up is going to give us an opportunity for a kill, so just being relentless all of the time is how we can do that.

***Q: What do you think you will need to improve on going into the game tomorrow?***

**A:** Definitely serving. I think we made a lot of serving errors. Hopefully we can get that back on track and not have as many. And also serve-receive, it's such a big part of our game and it doesn't matter, it doesn't have to be a perfect pass, but just having the availability that we can have our pin hitters and middles involved. I think that was a big part tonight when we were winning. Our middles were involved and serve receive was a big key.

**#8 Leah Shaw, M/OH, Sr.**

***Q: What were you thinking and feeling like heading into the fifth set?***

**A:** I think we felt confident, we felt comfortable. We've been there eight times before. We know what it takes to win the fifth set, but again Yale is a tough team and we knew that we were going to have to stay tough for every point and fight for every point.

***Q: In the first set they pretty much got a touch on every one of your swings. How did you guys adjust?***

**A:** I think we just settled in and got more comfortable. I think we got a little bit too caught up in the moment in the first set. I think once we settled in we made better decisions and were able to score more.

***Q: What do you think you will need to improve on going into the game tomorrow?***

**A:** I think just playing clean. You can't give a great team like Penn State so many opportunities, so I think if we play clean then we'll be good.

**2012 NCAA Women's Volleyball Tournament**  
**First and Second Rounds**  
November 30th, 2012  
Yale vs. Bowling Green

**Yale Quotes**

**Head Coach Erin Appleman**

*Opening Statement*

**Appleman:** I thought my team played really hard. It was nice to see them go out and play the last couple sets really fighting hard and doing the things we've been working on all year.

***Q: How tough is it being 10-10 in the fifth set and losing it?***

**A:** It's pretty frustrating. It's the first time we've gone five games all year and I don't think we were really thinking about that. At the same it happened so much faster than we're used to. We're pretty comfortable in coming-from-behind and gaining a win, but in a fifth set you just don't have that time to do that. I think that was kind of a tough thing here.

***Q: You've never been in a fifth set this season, and coming into today Bowling Green was 8-0 in the fifth set. Do you wish you had that kind of preparation for the team?***

**A:** Well, I'm happy that we didn't have to go five sets all year. That was nice. I mean, it is a good lesson to be competitive early on and have those matches. But, it was also really nice not being able to have to have that fifth set all season.

***Q: What was the big thing for you guys being down 2-1 and winning the fourth set so decisively?***

**A:** I thought the first game we played pretty well, but I thought both teams were very nervous early on. I didn't think we were playing our game. We really talked about, "Hey, there's nothing to lose out there, let's put your heart out there and play hard." I think that's what they really did in the fourth and fifth set – they put their hearts out there.

***Q: Bowling Green covers the court pretty well and didn't have a lot of holes, is that frustrating?***

**A:** They are very athletic so they are able to move from out of a defensive position to cover a lot of ground so it is. I think the harder part for us was they have three or four really good players and its hard having that pressure on you all the time. I think that's tough. I think their blocking was very good tonight.

***Q: Has the novelty worn off since the last time you were here?***

**A:** No, I love coming back. It's exciting and it's comfortable for me to be here in this gym. I know where to eat and I know where to go. All of that is easier coming here and every year it's a different team with new surprises. It's always fun to work with a different group of young ladies and see what they can produce out there. I love it.

**#4 Haley Wessels, MB, Sr.**

***Q: How good were you feeling going into the fifth set after the way you played in the fourth?***

**A:** Not that it is an excuse, but we hadn't gone into a fifth set all year. It was a nice experience for us, for sure, especially coming off that. I think that the fourth game was so exciting and I guess going into a fifth game was just like "Oh!"

***Q: How was the energy at Rec Hall tonight compared to where you have played everywhere else this season?***

**A:** It was so cool. I thought it was really exciting. Even playing against USC last year I don't think we had that many people in the stands. What's cool is that Penn State has our same colors. So I just kept thinking they were our fans! I thought it was really exciting. I actually wasn't nervous going into the game. I like playing here because it's more of an understated gym, I think. It's obviously big and awesome, but it's not this massive coliseum. I think there are a lot of cool traditions that goes on in that gym and I was really honored to be able to play in it. And yes there were tons of fans. It was awesome.

***Q: Can you talk about your experience last year in the NCAA tournament and how that carried over to this year?***

**A:** I think USC and Bowling Green are very different teams, but I think having the experience from last year really helped us. Just knowing where the bar is in the NCAA tournament; we knew that from last year.

**#14 Kendall Polan, S, Jr.**

***Q: How was the energy at Rec Hall tonight compared to where you have played everywhere else this season?***

**A:** It's really personal. The fans are very close to you so it was pretty cool. When Penn State fans started to show up I just kept thinking like, "Oh, more people are coming in and there will be more people cheering so this will be good and they'll probably cheer for us too!" It was really cool.

***Q: Can you talk about your experience last year in the NCAA tournament and how that carried over to this year?***

**A:** It was definitely different because last year only three of our players had played in the NCAA tournament. This year over half of the team has and even our freshmen play like they're older.

**2012 NCAA Women's Volleyball Tournament**  
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November 30, 2012  
Penn State vs. Binghamton

**Penn State Quotes**

**Head Coach Russ Rose**

*Opening Statement*

**Rose:** I thought it was a match that kind of got away from Binghamton. Micha's (Hancock) serve in the second game it just kind of tailed off at that point and time. She was in a good rhythm and they were struggling with that. I don't think you take a lot out of a match like that. It was nice that I thought we controlled the ball well and it was a big crowd. We are appreciative of the fans that came and we're always appreciative of Penn State putting in a bid to get an opportunity to host. I know Binghamton is better than how they played. It was just one of those matches that I think kind of got away from them a little bit.

**Q:** *With a match as one-sided as that is it hard to keep the team focused?*

**A:** Well I thought the crowd did a nice job keeping everybody focused, but it's the NCAAs. Some of the players have won six matches in a row and some of them lost the last NCAA match they played. They know the importance of being ready to play. I didn't have to say anything to them about that. I think they know what you're dealing with. We'll have another match tomorrow and it'll be a far different opponent that I thought competed very highly. I thought both Yale and Bowling Green competed very hard tonight. That's what the NCAA tournament is about. Sometimes you might be overmatched, but you can make up for it with heart and playing hard. That's what we'll have to do as well.

**Q:** *On the Division I level have you ever seen a 21-0 score before?*

**A:** Yeah, I mean you don't like to be a part of it whether you're doing it or you're receiving it. You don't want to be a part of it because it's not good for the winning team either. Obviously, it's disappointing for the other team. It's the NCAAs – they earned their right to be here and we played them two other times. Again, this was just a situation that kind of got away.

**Q:** *Is there such a thing as playing a perfect set in volleyball?*

**A:** A perfect set as in the team didn't make any errors? Yeah, I had a team that used to do that a couple years ago. They didn't make very many errors in matches. But these guys didn't make very many errors tonight. They had eight errors tonight. Eight errors isn't very bad in three games. USC had nine last night in their win.

**Q:** *After cruising through tonight, is there anything different that you guys have to do to refocus yourselves for tomorrow? Or do you try to carry this into it?*

**A:** You have to be ready to play. The other team played a five game match and they're excited to be here. They played well in a tough situation. They were down in the fifth game and they're going to play hard. We have a couple of kids on our team that played with some of their players on USA volleyball programs and those guys are good. They're not as big as some of the players we've seen in the conference, but you're not judged by your height. You're judged by the points scored and that's what you have to worry about.

**#12 Micha Hancock, S, So.**

**Q:** *In a season that you've had so many ups and downs, do you feel like tonight you really played to your ceiling?*

**A:** I don't know about my ceiling. I think we can play a lot better than we did. As far as serving goes I was just in a rhythm and I was feeling it. Like Coach said, I know they can play better. I'm not patting myself on the back too much; I'm just saying I was in a rhythm.

**#18 Deja McClendon, OH, Jr.**

***Q: Deja, first night out in the postseason and you're back in Rec Hall. What is the atmosphere and what is the feeling stepping out onto the court again?***

**A:** When a tournament starts it's just a whole different vibe in there. It's amazing. Our fans are just so much a part of our game. I'm extremely proud to play in front of them.

***Q: Offensively, how confident are you guys going into the postseason?***

**A:** I honestly think that our connection with Micha has gotten extremely strong. I hope to carry it on through and obviously she can make it work. For a lot of people with Micha, they don't get a lot of reps together and Micha did awesome.

***Q: As the second set and third set wore on was it tough to stay focused just because things may have gotten out of hand a little bit?***

**A:** You have to stay alive in the front row. With Micha serving you never know when it's going to come over right at you.

**#1 Ariel Scott, RS, Jr.**

***Q: As the second set and third set wore on was it tough to stay focused just because things may have gotten out of hand a little bit?***

**A:** I wouldn't say it was tough to stay focused. Like Coach said, the crowd really helped because they were enthusiastic. Even though Micha was serving the whole time it didn't really get boring. It was fine. We stayed in the game pretty well, I'd say.

**2012 NCAA Women's Volleyball Tournament**  
**First and Second Rounds**  
Nov. 30, 2011  
Binghamton vs. Penn State

**Head Coach Glenn Kiriyaama**

*Opening Statement*

**Kiriyaama:** I just wished we could have played a little bit better tonight, but Penn State is number one for a reason. They are the best team in the country. We knew that going in. We knew it was going to be a tough game and they played well. We just did not play as well as we could. We could have played a little bit better, but we worked hard and got a few plays in there. It was just tough out there tonight. It came down to that one server, number 12 (Hancock). She did a great job. She is just a good player, was consistent on her serve, really took our serve receive out of it and we couldn't get our offense going. They scored a lot of points in that rotation.

**Q:** *Do you feel like the crowd got under your team's skin at all?*

**A:** Yeah, this is the first time for a lot of them, in this tournament, in this kind of setting. I think it was a little bit overwhelming for some of them. But once the ball is served, they are pretty focused on the court. They just had trouble executing tonight

**Q:** *Three times in the NCAA tournament, and three times you get matched up with Penn State, are you going to ask the NCAA to send you elsewhere?*

**A:** It is just the luck of the draw. I think our probability of being sent here was pretty high just because of our record during the year and because of our performance during the year. We wish we could have done better during the year and maybe had a better chance to go somewhere else, but it is just the way it is. I think the chance to play the number one team in the country is a great opportunity. I am almost happy that we got that chance. These girls had the chance to play some of the top players in the country here.

**Q:** *For you and your program, what can you take away from a night like tonight for next season?*

**A:** A lot of it is the motivation to do better. Our performance was poor tonight and it is motivation to do better overall, maybe do better during the season so we do not have to play Penn State. Coming here gives us the hunger to come back. We want to do better in conference. We want to win in conference so we have this opportunity again.

#11 Iva Partaleva  
OH, Jr.

**Q:** *Iva, how tough was it against this Penn State team, especially against Hancock?*

**A:** It was tough. She is a really good server. We just had trouble and the crowd was supporting her too. It was just everything overall.

**Q:** *Was it tough for you to stay in the match once you guys started to fall deeper into the hole?*

**A:** Most of the time, coach was teaching us, during the season, that no matter the score is, we are looking forward to the next point. So it didn't matter what the score was.

#15 Amanda Dettmann  
S, Fr.

**Q:** *Was it tough for you to stay in the match once you guys started to fall deeper into the hole?*



A: It's always tough to score being down 20-0. It's not easy, but what are you going to do, the ball is coming at you. You cannot give up. You just have to keep working with it.

***Q: What kind of goals did you guys set for yourselves coming into this game?***

A: Our road here pretty much taught us everything. It hasn't been an easy road. Our preseason was pretty tough playing some of the top ranked teams, so that taught us to never stop fighting. And then our road here was not easy either. Our biggest thing was to stay into the game no matter what the score was.