



2018 NCAA® DIVISION I WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
CHAMPIONSHIP

NCAA First Round

Maples Pavilion - Stanford, Calif. - Friday, March 16, 2018

LOCKER ROOM QUOTES

MISSOURI

LAUREN ALDRIDGE

"Any time you go to the NCAA tournament, it's such a blessing. It's never just another NCAA tournament. It's March and it's exciting and we get to do what we love to do on the biggest stage."

"As athletes and competitors, you're always looking for more. That's true of even the best programs in the country. It's always exciting and always fun to be a part of."

"One thing that sets our team apart is our culture, our grittiness and how much we're bought in for each other. There are very few teams in the country – this is coming from a girl who's been part of a different program before – that have what we have in our locker room."

"When we step on the floor, people can see that we're bought in for different reasons – some are bought in for how many point they're going to score or how media attention they will get. When we go out as a team, we're bought in for winning games and for playing for people that we love. That's what people notice is different about our team."

"We have team core values, which are: love unconditionally, serve intentionally, live gratefully, pursue excellence, and fall in love with the process. Those are values we try to embody every single day and that is the foundation of our program on and off court."

KAYLA MICHAEL

“You can expect this program to continue to make NCAA appearances. We sometimes are considered an elite program, but I think we’re right on the verge of becoming the best of the best. I think in the next few years, that will be the case.”

“We’re moving in the right direction. The culture that our coach has established continues to be cemented into our identity. If the players continue to take ownership of that, then the only direction we’re going to move is forward. I’m excited to see how we continue to grow.”

“Coach Pingeton has challenged me to do my absolute best in every area of my life, whether it’s player, friend, daughter, sister, or now a wife. First of all, she models that. She takes the time to get to know each player individually and challenges each player to do their best on and off the court, which is so rare. She could easily run the program like a business and take the relationship piece out, but she’s helped me believe that it’s not worth it if the relationships aren’t there. People are what matter.”

FGCU

JESSICA CATTANI

“Our first goal every season is to win the regular season conference. We did that this year, which gave us home court advantage. Our next goal was to win the conference tournament, which we were able to do as well. So now that we got the automatic bid, the next thing for us is, we’re here to win a game. We’re not satisfied with winning the conference tournament. That was a big goal of ours, but we came here to win.”

“We have people that can shoot the ball, drive the ball. We have more than one great defender and every game, you do not know who’s going to step up because every game this season it’s been somebody new. Going into each game, not knowing who’s going to have a great game is going to be hard for teams to stop us, because we have several different players that can score, and shoot, and cut, and drive, so that’s one of the main things that makes us so dangerous.”

ERICA NELSON

“We don’t have certain people that we focus on. We all bring a special something to the table. Any one of us can go off on any given night. It’s not just one main player that a team has to focus on. Also, our offense. It’s hard for us to figure out coming in. There’s not a set offense that we run. It’s just that everybody’s moving, and reading the defense.”

“I think we’ve been making a splash because of our record and the teams we’ve beat. But this is also a great chance and a great opportunity to get some respect too.”