



2018 NCAA® DIVISION I WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
CHAMPIONSHIP
NCAA Second Round
Maples Pavilion - Stanford, Calif. - Sunday, March 18, 2018

FGCU PRESS CONFERENCE QUOTES

HEAD COACH KARL SMESKO

Opening Statement...

"We are playing one of the most storied programs in women's college basketball history tomorrow with an opportunity to make the Sweet 16. We enjoyed the way we played yesterday against Missouri but we have started our preparation to give a great effort and hopefully come out victorious against Stanford."

On the previous Stanford-FGCU matchup in 2013...

"We got beat by double figures in that game but I actually thought we played really well against them. We had no chance against Chiney Ogwumike, who just crushed us inside. There were times were we literally put three people on her and she still got every rebound. She was amazing. Obviously, this is a different game with different personnel. Stanford runs a different offense than they did at that point. We are going to have to play as a team defensively and make shots and try and make as many plays as they can. I don't think there's much to be gained from that game."

On the play of Kiana Williams...

"It's impressive for anyone to shoot such a high percentage from three over a number of games. They're not all easy shots either. They are pull-ups, step-backs, so that's been pretty remarkable. We just can't lose sight of her and give her open looks because there aren't many in the country shooting it as well right now."

On playing a unique, scrappy style...

"For us to compete, we have to play that style and dive for loose balls and be physical. We are usually giving up quite a bit in terms of size. We have to be willing to get on the floor and take charges. Our players know that and take great pride in taking charges. They make a vow to do their job on the

boards. That's the only way we can survive against some of these big teams, is if we are willing to do those things."

On Stanford's improvement since Brittany McPhee returned...

"They have improved tremendously throughout the season. McPhee makes a huge difference. Just all around, they are much better defensively and in transition. They are doing a better job taking care of the ball and are taking better shots. It was a tremendous coaching job and probably should have received some consideration for National Coach of the Year."

CHINA DOW

On her reputation as one of the more difficult matchups in the country...

"I don't really pay attention to feedback. They do tell me I am a hard player to guard because I can shoot and drive but I just do what I can to make my teammates better."

On playing Stanford at Maples Pavilion and feeding off the crowd...

"It's a great opportunity. They are a great school with respectable players and a respectable coach. The environment is going to be tough to play in. At the same time, we have fans down here who can be loud, too, whenever we score. I think it's the hype against playing against those fans. I have never been in an environment like Stanford, so if it works out, it will be fun."

TAYLOR GRADINJAN

On the Stanford tradition and playing at Maples Pavilion...

"I always knew Stanford was a really good team, but I have not followed them that closely with all the numbers. I knew they are talented and one of the top teams year after year. It's a little intimidating because they are obviously successful and know how to win games. I think we should go into every game with the same mindset, do what we do and hopefully win."

ROSEMARIE JULIEN

On the importance of reaching the Sweet 16...

"Stanford is going to come at us and they are a really good team. But I feel like the bond we have and the connection we have will help bring it out for us. Our coaches have prepared us well for the moment."