



## 2018 NCAA® DIVISION I WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

NCAA Second Round

Maples Pavilion - Stanford, Calif. - Sunday, March 18, 2018

### STANFORD PRESS CONFERENCE QUOTES

#### **HEAD COACH TARA VANDERVEER**

##### *Opening Statement...*

"I thought our team worked really hard yesterday to be in this position. We're going to have to continue that great effort and focus against our next opponent, which will be a really good challenge for us. It's great to be playing in the tournament and we'll be ready to go tomorrow."

##### *On FGCU's style of play...*

"They do have a very unique style. We played against it a couple years ago and we've watched them. It's interesting that three teams – ourselves, Gonzaga and FGCU – were at the same tournament this November. We've watched them and are going to work as hard as we can to take away both: the three-point shot and the lay-up."

"I think one of the things that is under the radar for their team is they take care of the basketball. They take care of the ball and they take real high percentage shots: a layup and an open three. They don't take bad shots. And they have a lot different people taking those shots. Just even the threat of the three, brings the defense out. If three or four or five people have above 50 3's, you've got to guard them. Even if they're not taking them, taking them, taking, or making them, making them, making them, you've got to come out and guard them."

"The other thing is they got to the free throw line a lot. They also rebound well offensively. When you're taking long shots, you're getting long rebounds, so they're getting second and third shots. They're not a one-dimensional team. Karl takes great advantage of the talent that they have. They're not big, but who would have known that? They're a pit bull. They're aggressive. It was a gritty game yesterday. They're not just a three-point shooting team, although I know their shirt says, Raining 3's."

They get to the rim, they get to the free throw line, they force turnovers. They wouldn't have won 30 games just by doing one thing.”

*On the previous matchup in 2013...*

“It was a little ways back ... It was a big game and the first time we'd played against that style but we'd seen it. I'm not sure if it was for the championship, but it might have been. At least we'd had a chance to watch them play.

“Personally, I think it's a really fun system to watch. The 3's, the ball movement. It think Karl (Smesko) does a fantastic job of player movement, ball movement, the shooting. So it was a big challenge to play against it. I don't know that we had it figured out right away. I have watched parts of that game just to see what we did. Basically, they're doing the same thing. I just remember we had Chiney Ogwumike ... that made it really nice. And we played well. We worked hard defensively and they still made 3s and they still got layups. The staff knows and I think we've worked really hard to communicate this to our team this is a really different style and you've got to make adjustments.”

*On the play of China Dow...*

“Don't let the frame fool you. She's a stocky, strong 5-8 who plays kind of a center for them, but no one pushes her around. She's versatile. She has a three-point shot and shoots around 41 percent and has made a lot. She comes off and gives them a great spark. She's effective. You've got to be able to guard her and you've got to be able to attack her and try to figure out ways to score on her.”

## **DIJONAI CARRINGTON**

*On Saturday's win over Gonzaga...*

“I think we shot the ball well, we moved the ball well, and for the most part, we stuck to the scouting report on defense and followed our rules. We were very aggressive and I think it paid off for us, limiting them to one shot and not allowing them to do what they like to do.”

*Looking ahead to FGCU...*

“We're going to have to make them guard us. From what we've seen, they play a lot of player defense, so we're just going to make them guard us five-on-five in the half court and make them run with us. I don't think a lot of teams in the country want to guard us five-on-five. So we're going to make sure we take care of the ball, take good shots and just make that happen.”

*On the preparing for FGCU's style...*

“I think our intellectual ability really helps us in that arena. We are able to switch and do a lot of different things on defense that I think a lot of teams in the country aren't able to do. We really use that to our advantage and it helps us to guard any type of offense.”

*On the play of Kiana Williams...*

“I'm so proud of her. It's just so awesome to see her blossoming from the beginning of the season to now. I actually was watching some of our games from the Thanksgiving tournament last night, I just saw how different she is playing right now. It's just so awesome to see her confidence and leadership

excelling right now. I think her personality is a big reason as to why she's being successful and why she has been successful. She doesn't let things get to her. Whether a shot goes in or not, she knows the next one is going in. It's just so cool to see her thriving."

## **MARTA SNIEZEK**

*On Saturday's win over Gonzaga...*

"I think we did a lot of things well. We were on the glass a lot, we were aggressive, we stuck to our scouting report defense. We can work on our turnovers, but we need to work on some things."

*On FGCU's style of play...*

"They're a great three-pointing team and they shoot a lot of 3's, and that's something we're going to have to defense as well as the layups."

*On her schedule with finals week coming up...*

"I have two finals on Wednesday. But I think the school and our academic advisors do a great job of collaborating, and Tara does a great job, too, of planning stuff around our review sessions while we're here. But it's always a grind."