



2014 NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Second Round · #4 Nebraska vs. #12 BYU

Pauley Pavilion · Los Angeles, Calif.

Sunday, March 23

SECOND ROUND PRACTICE DAY QUOTES – NEBRASKA

Connie Yori, Nebraska Head Coach:

Opening Statement

"I am very impressed by BYU. I haven't watched them a lot though I did watch them play Creighton earlier in the year in our preparation for Creighton. They beat Creighton at Creighton. In watching that game, I said these guys play really hard. They are a really well coached team. They play together, they play really good basketball. Obviously, (Jennifer) Hamson is such a force. They have a great player in (Lexi) Eaton, who can get her own shot. (Kim) Beaston is a very good shooter; they have a point guard who can run the show. They have good players at every position, they are tough to guard. But on the other end, they are a team that, defensively, creates a lot of problems. Hamson spends a lot of time clogging the lane and makes it difficult for you to get thing going to the basket, whether it be through the post or off the dribble. We will be highly challenged tomorrow."

On possible surprise of BYU beating North Carolina State

"No (we weren't surprised). I wore blue yesterday because I thought there was a really good chance that BYU would win that game; I didn't want to wear blue when we were playing BYU. So here we are and we're playing a really good team. I don't think there is a clear cut favorite in this game even though you look at the seedings. BYU is a great #12 seed."

On preparing for Eaton

"North Carolina State had the ability to matchup a little better on the post than we will. Eaton is a great player and she played a huge role in that game, largely a part of it is just matchups. She has been playing great basketball. That is what makes them good, they have multiple weapons. It's not just about one kid."

On matchup with Hamson

"It's not the first time that we have played against big kids. We play in a big conference. The Big 10 has big kids. We don't have 6'7 kids necessarily. (Bethany) Doolittle at Iowa is a 6'5 kid who is a shot blocker. (Amanda) Zahui at Minnesota is basically a 6'5 kid who can block shots. Michigan State has got 6'5 kids. We play against size. Obviously Hamson is the best shot blocker in the country. It's not as if we have seen that, but yet we have seen some size throughout the year. So this won't be the first time we see size. There are things that you can do to try to take advantage of it. If we try to challenge her off the dribble, we're probably going to get our shot blocked."

On role of assistant coaches for preparation

"In the post season, Dayna Finch has had four out of our five scouts. She had all of our Big 10 (tournament) scouts, just coincidentally. Sunny (Smallwood) had our scout yesterday and they way the game fell, it's Dayna's turn again with the fact that BYU won. Dayna, needless to say, and I have spent a lot of time together in the last couple weeks into the wee hours. But all of our assistants contribute regardless of whether it is their scout or not. I don't if anyone can work any harder than our staff. We have a very very hard working coaching staff. We spend a lot of time watching film. We try to do the best job we can to prepare our kids. It's not always perfect but our kids absorb. We have intelligent players who absorb the information that we give to them. We are fortunate that they are intelligent kids. But our coaching staff does just a phenomenal job."

On possible rustiness after two weeks off between Big 10 tournament and NCAA tournament

"I think we can play better than we did yesterday. Last year in the first round, we played Chattanooga. We looked really rusty in the first half of that game and then we started playing better as the game went on. That is a little bit like what happened yesterday. We know we can play better basketball than that and we are going to go out and prove that tomorrow, however."

On impact of Emily Cady

"She is really are glue. She has been here for three years and has obviously started every game for us. We knew when we recruited her that she was special. She is not a kid that needs to score 15 or 18 a game to contribute in a great manner. She just does so many things. Yesterday, obviously, wasn't one her best games offensively. She is a lot better than that. She just does everything for us. Like we always say, right side. She is the right side of the stat sheet. She is our second leading assist player, she rebounds. She offensive rebounds, she defensive rebounds. She often has a very tough assignment, defensively. She gets deflections, she makes plays defensively. She is just a gritty kid. So often Jordan (Hooper) gets a lot of the accolades and now Rachel (Theriot), but we wouldn't be where we are now without Emily Cady."

On past experience facing BYU

"I have watched them from afar but haven't really scouted them because we just haven't played them. I have seen them play teams that we played. They always seem to play with great intelligence; they run a lot of motion. They always seem to have multiple scorers. I'm not dissecting them year in a year out."

Jordan Hooper, Nebraska Forward:

On facing Jennifer Hamson and if they have faced anyone like her

"No, we haven't gone up against someone that tall and lengthy. But she's a great rebounder, defensive presence. She's blocks a ton of shots. So that's definitely going to be a challenge for us, but no, we have not gone against someone of her length."

On balance of BYU and challenge defensively

"Yeah, they're a really impressive team. They got out and ran transition. They rebounded very well. They shot the ball really well from behind the arc and they got in the paint obviously to their posts and stuff like that. So yeah, they're really impressive. So we're definitely going to have to get back on defense, run on offense hopefully and just kind of be us and be who we are and just try to take away their strengths."

On playing in Pauley Pavilion and if rims were tight at all

"I think the history behind this program and the tradition that this has with all the great players, the great coaches have come through here—I think that's pretty cool, but I don't think we got hung up on that at all. I think we just kind of went out there and played. I don't think it was the rims either. I think it was just the two weeks of not playing a game for awhile kind of got the rust off I guess. But no, I don't think it was the rims at all. I think it was just, haven't played in awhile. But yeah, I think we'll be better next game like Em (Emily Cady) said."

On representing Nebraska on a big stage

"I think it's really cool to be from Nebraska and play at this level and just kind of show that you can do it no matter where you come from, regardless of if you come from a big city, small town, stuff like that. I think that is pretty cool to be, I guess, a role model for younger kids."

On strategy versus Hamson

"I think coach is going to answer all the detailed questions, but we just have to play hard. We can't take anything for granted, stuff like that, when we can't really focus on, I guess, her length and stuff like that. We just have to play hard and play around and stuff like that. But I think Coach (Connie Yori) is going to answer all the detailed questions."

On how team has handled being a favorite and expectations of returning home in Sweet Sixteen

"Well, I think we'll handle it like we handle any other game. We're not going to look at ranks and seeds and stuff like that. We're just going to go out and play our game of basketball and not worry about anything else. We're not going to worry about getting home right now because that's not the first thing on our minds. The first thing is BYU and honestly they're a great team. So I don't feel like we're any better than them in that facet, like seeding and stuff like that. So I don't feel like we're the favorite. We just need to go out and play hard. And so that's how I feel. I don't feel like we are the better team because they are a great team too and they have tons of weapons that we're going to come up with some way to stop, stuff like that. So that's what I feel, I guess."

On team's experience and how it will help with quick turnaround between games

"Well, I think it's kind of good that we have three games in three days for the Big Ten Tournament because that really does prepare us to prepare fast, I guess. It kind of helps us to get things done really quickly and our coaches do a really good job of preparing us quickly. I think that is what really helps us prepare for these quick turnarounds."

Emily Cady, Nebraska Forward:

On if team has shaken off rust

"I think we did. In the beginning of the game, I think we had a—Hoop (Jordan Hooper) said it on the bench—I think we had a couple of cobwebs still left over from not playing for two weeks. But hopefully that game was just a test for us to get those cobwebs off and hopefully we'll be better next game."

On representing Nebraska on a big stage

"I agree (with Hooper). I think it's cool that little kids look up to us. We're in the public eye, being in the NCAA Tournament and it's cool to be a role model for someone and have someone look up to you. I never—growing up in Nebraska—I never would have thought that I would have been where I am now and that just proves that to little kids out there that they can be here too."

On if she was surprised by BYU beating North Carolina State comfortably

"I mean, there's a reason every single team is in the NCAA Tournament. They all come in and play their best game ever and so you always have to be ready. And so I wasn't really surprised. They're a really good team and so is NC State, but I guess I wasn't really surprised, because everyone's giving their best in the tournament."

Tear'a Lauderhill, Nebraska Guard:

On guard matchups with BYU

"Coach has determined who be guarding her (Lexi Eaton). She's a real good player, but we're just going to have to see what's going to happen when we play her."

On if she had played at Pauley Pavilion prior to yesterday

"I just played at my travel team at BC. Played a couple of times on my travel and on my school team. So yeah, I've been here a couple of times, but not since they've redone the place. It looks real good."