



2022 MEN'S NATIONAL COLLEGIATE VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIP OPENING ROUND – HAWAI'I VS. NORTH GREENVILLE

Tuesday, May 3, 2022

POSTGAME QUOTES

Hawai'i Head Coach Charlie Wade

On the team's early run

"Like I mentioned earlier the week, they basically played the same lineup the whole year, and they're very confident when the ball goes back on their side. They knew exactly what they wanted to do. So it was important that we were able to defend and go on some scoring runs early, because they, like I said, play with a lot of confidence and a lot of clarity in what they're doing. So a good way to start the match."

On tonight's performance

"Jake started off with a nice service turn. That's usually a good place to start for us, that our defense starts with the serving. I thought the second set we got a little loose and had some more accidents. What is expected out of us was lower than our standards, but we were able to put it in play and win some runs."

On facing Ball State again

"It was so long ago and it's really not that relevant. It was a totally different lineup for us. And back in January, there's been a lot that's going on. We think we're a lot better and playing a lot better than we were then. At this point, we're just excited to still be in the tournament and looking to play well enough to advance"

Junior setter Jakob Thelle

on the team's execution early on

"I thought it was good – just getting off a good rhythm in the beginning is really important. Just getting into the flow again and having everybody performing at a high level was important to us. I think we were able to execute, so that was a good start for us and I'm looking forward to [the] next game on Thursday."

on facing Ball State after losing to them earlier in the year

"I never got to play Ball State. We had different incidents going on early in the season. I think, just personally looking back, I'm not going to forget looking at the TV and not being able to help the team. So, this one is like a match I've been looking forward to for the whole season. I'm excited to get that game."

Sophomore opposite hitter/opposite Spyros Chakas

on the importance of getting everyone going early

"I think getting our passing, and then Jakob doing a great job running the middle of the court helped us open the court. I think we did a great job with that. Then our block adjusted after the first set – felt better. I think we executed what we needed to do and we got the win."

on running the bic more frequently

"I think the bic is something that we've been working on a lot with Jakob in practice, both me and Chaz [Galloway]. We know it's a weapon. We can use it. Many times, our opponents don't expect it. When we have

good passing, our bic – the court is open for us. So, I think it's something really helpful. And the more we do it, the more it helps us. So, it's really effective."

North Greenville Head Coach Dr. Fred Battenfield

Opening statement

"What can you say when you go up against a team that is one of the best in the country? In North Carolina, that's just something we don't see. At a small college like North Greenville, we don't get a chance to play against teams that are that good all the time, that are that fast and that athletic. I can't pick and choose who I can get, but we find a way to compete. I'm extremely proud of the way we competed. Hawaii is a phenomenal volleyball team. Probably the best we've ever played in eight years and we've played teams from all over the country. They just executed. We never could get them out of system or get them off their game. We were able to sideout a couple times after they went on a 7-1 run or something like that. That's what inspires you to be a great team because they just stay patterned, under control and very disciplined and we couldn't find a way to break through. We'd come close and they'd go off on a run. They're the best serving teams in the country for a reason. We just weren't used to that particular swing. I thought we played as good as we could against a team like that. It was a real privilege to be here and get through the first round and represent the Conference of the Carolinas out of the east and we'll be better. We're an extremely young team. Fifteen of my players are either freshmen or sophomores. Now, we're going to lose two starters and guys we've got to replace, but all of our hitters are coming back. We can be back in this tournament next year easily. That's the thing I'm most proud of: that we're able to take a very young team to where it is. ... Gregory (Torres) has been the difference. Sergio (Carrillo) was the one who designed our offense and ran our offense all year long. Anytime you finish 21-6, that's the school record for wins, it was a great season. Now, I can step away from the sport and say, 'I did pretty good.' I think I developed a program that North Greenville can be pretty proud of."

on how beneficial match will be for the freshmen in their careers

"I think we showed on Sunday night to Princeton that we can matchup with really great teams. I think Hawaii – I don't know how to describe it – they're just on a different plane. All these young guys are going to remember this. Anytime a team comes in and beats you, you want to remember, 'What did they do to beat us?' Coming in next year -- whoever the new coach is when that's officially announced – that's something that we need to work on. I'm going to stay involved with the program. I'm not giving up my teaching job so I'll continue to help develop the sport at North Greenville and in the southeast. My goal has always been to start a program where there's not a whole lot of boys playing the sport. If I can do that and continue to grow (the sport) around the country and more colleges are adding it down in the southeast, it's more opportunity for boys to play. ... Just to be able to say, 'North Greenville competed against Hawaii,' that doesn't compute in a lot of people's brains. It's been an incredible honor and privilege for my team to be here. I've had a group of guys that work extremely hard."

on the legacy seniors leave behind

"When you get the opportunity and the thrill of coaching these great young men like this, that's what kept me going all these years. I'll miss the bus rides and I'll miss the endless practices and all the things we do to make volleyball fun, but that's the legacy I get from those guys is that they've taught the new freshmen, they've taught the underclassmen and the other group comes in. We just keep finding ways to get better and better."

North Greenville senior setter Sergio Carrillo

on playing for Head Coach Dr. Fred Battenfield

"It's been great, man. Coach has been through thick and thin with this program and I know he's worked hard to push this program. There's a lot of people in the nation, a lot of people around that have not believed in us and we always say it's between the lines and the people that we worry about. And we work hard in the gym, if we believe in ourselves, we don't need the approval from the people outside; that's what we did. And we said at the beginning of the year, we wanted to give Coach the Conference Carolinas championship, and we did. All of this is extra and it's been amazing, it's been great and Coach knows we really appreciate him and everything he's done for the program."