



2016 NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

First Round · South Florida vs. Colorado State

Pauley Pavilion · Los Angeles, Calif.

Saturday, March 19

POSTGAME QUOTES – Colorado State

Ryun Williams, Colorado State Head Coach:

Opening Statement

"That was a good college basketball game. I love my basketball team. For 33 nights this year, these kids have showed up and put themselves in a position to win. Not one bad night, not one time did they not put themselves in a position to win. That's hard to do, that's how competitive they are. It doesn't surprise me that it came down to that last shot with our group. You don't have a year like this without incredible seniors. Jamie [Patrick] had a big time senior game. I'm proud of our team, I'm proud of USF. That's a well-played game. Courtney [Williams] is the real deal. The kid is incredible. She is rock star. I'm a proud basketball coach. These kids represented Colorado State big time."

On final possession

"Sophie [Tryggvasson] is just a great catch and shoot player. She has a really quick trigger. We had three options on that play and that was the wide-open one. Emilie [Hesseldal] made a great read, a great pass. Sofie put a good stroke on it, that's all you can ask a player to do. She put a good stroke on it, it just didn't go in. I'm proud of that execution, proud of Sophie for just the conviction in that shot."

On Courtney Williams not starting

"We got off to a nice start. It was nice when she wasn't in there. She can get her shot, she made a lot of difficult shots tonight. Ellen [Nystrom] is a big time defender. She [Williams] scored a lot over our length. Sometimes you just have to tip your hat."

On expectations of a 30+ win season

"I don't think you ever envision 31 wins, 28 in a row. We learned from our trip overseas in August that we have a lot of good players. We have a really competitive bunch that competed everyday. That's why our team kept getting better. It was one through 15 all year long. I think it was shortly after Christmas that we knew we had a bunch that is different. We have great versatility. Their will to win is unmatched. I've never had a team like this. I maybe never will again. That's why I love them so much."

On play that was reviewed

"The review was to see if the ball was touched on the inbound pass, which it wasn't. At which point, we gained control. We got control right there at the top of the key and I called a timeout. The officials ruled 1.6 seconds and we called a timeout. The advance rule has helped us this year. It's great for the women's game. That's a big time rule change"... "These kids have made really poised, smart plays all year. They put themselves in positions to win. We do have a high basketball IQ, led by these two [Nystrom and Patrick]."

On getting a fair matchup

"That's not for me to say. I just know we are pretty good. We have a good basketball team, we just wanted somebody to play. We wanted to be in this tournament. I think you're asking if we are better than an 11-seed? Yes. We're pretty good."

On two free attempts all game

"It was difficult. We wanted to get to the line more. USF has got a quick team. Their guards were quick to be able to get by. We didn't get much stuff at the rim. We played through the probe and got some really nice shots. We got good really shots. I think we're going to look back at this film and say, "We'll take this shot, we'll take that shot." We didn't have the best shooting night, but we did what we had to stay in the game. That is what this group has done all year. This time of year, you have to make shots. We just missed a few that we usually make. Free throws would have been nice, but we had to be more aggressive in the third, fourth quarter."

On the foul/free throw disparity

"Those were three good officials. USF is a really good foul shooting team. That's a big strength. That's a big part of their scoring. They get to the foul line; they shoot 79% from the foul line. We knew going in we couldn't have any unnecessary fouls. Our kids performed really well. We gave up 48 points, Williams has 31. We just needed to score in the 50s. We have the players, we had the shots to do that tonight. It was just one of those tough nights. It was just a good game for college basketball. Everybody, I thought, did a great job."

Ellen Nystrom, Colorado State Guard:

On forcing a comeback

"They made some tough shots. We just knew if we stayed in the game, we were going to get back in it. That's how this team is. We just try to stay in the game and not get down and think it's over, because it wasn't."

On guarding Courtney Williams

"She's a really great player. She's really quick. She gets her shot off really high so it's really hard to block it. I just wanted to contest the shot every time. We knew she was going to have a good game, we were just trying to stop everyone else from having a good game because we knew she was going to have 20, 30 points."

Jamie Patrick, Colorado State Guard:

On forcing a comeback

"We are well poised. We have played in situations that we're down so we kept calm about it and knew we had plenty of time. It just came down to the last shot."

On emotions of the game

"It's March Madness, right. I think anything is possible. Every second of that game, we had the mentality that we were going to win, up until after that last 1.6 seconds."

On being apart of a 30+ win team

"This is one of my favorite teams I have ever been apart of. There are so many memories on this team that I'm going to take with me. I love this team. Like Coach Williams said, starting in August overseas, I think I felt something special. I felt a bigger bond. It was a really good year."