

Colorado State Volleyball

#9 Colorado State Rams (3) Utah State Aggies (2)

20-25, 21-25, 25-18, 27-25, 15-8

Nov. 2, 2013

Post-Match Quotes

HEAD COACH TOM HILBERT

(on losing the first two sets)

"Utah State came out playing very well. They do the right things against us. In the first two sets it was interesting because we out-hit them but still lost because of some silly mistakes and net calls and missed serves and things like that. We couldn't make a dent in Utah State."

(on winning Set 3)

"I saw a team that was resilient. We just refused to give up. We came out in the third set, and I felt like we just needed to play well and see what we could do. We blocked really well, which put them in a funny position; they started hitting more unforced errors. We served tougher in the third set, too, and you could tell that Utah State's state of mind changed a little bit. We won the third set, and that changed everyone's mentality."

"We were gaining confidence in the third set because we started to get a little score cushion. We were behind the entire first and second sets from the get-go. It's a big crowd here, and it made us a little uncomfortable. In the end, we did a lot of things right, and that's why we won."

(on blocking)

"I think our blocking played a huge role in the win. We had 21 blocks, which is a ton of blocks. I think we were especially effective in Set 3, which was a pivotal set in the match."

(on his message to the team during the intermission)

"I told them that this is another chapter to our season, and that we can't control how they play, we can just control how we play. I told them, 'Let's go out and try and be good and do it with composure. We're in unfamiliar territory being down 0-2, but we're still the same team.'"

(on individual performances)

"I thought Dri Culbert was really good. She was steady for us. They were serving her, and she was passing well, she had 12 kills . . . she was great for us."

"We brought in Michelle Lawrence off the bench at the end of the second set, and she did very, very well. She played consistently."

“Marlee (Reynolds) started really well. We probably gave her too many balls. Sam (Peters) came on late in the match and did some good things for us.”

(on winning Set 4 at the end, fighting off two Match Point situations)

“We could have lost it, but we came back and played better at the end of the game than they did. We never got scared. I was really pleased with my team there. They had a shot to win it, and we took it away from them. I think we hurt their momentum twice.”

(on setting a program record with 21 wins to start the season)

“To me, what’s more magical is that we won this five-set match the way we did. Twenty-one wins is great, but we’re here because we’re playing consistently well every night, and that’s what we’ve got to continue doing. Tonight was another challenge that we overcame, and I’m proud of our players.”

“That’s a record that these players deserve all the credit for. They’re just good competitors. They have a lot of grit and determination. You can say what you want about our schedule or whatever, but we haven’t lost in 21 matches, and we’ve been in some pretty precarious situations, and that’s pretty neat.”

(on this group of players)

“I sit back sometimes in awe of this group of players, and the things they continue to do in these tough situations. I don’t think this is me as a coach. I think this particular group has character, and just have it. They have a magical way of competing and doing well in end-games. That’s just these kids; they’re great. I told them at the end of the game that it was kind of a magical night.”

“Without a doubt, these are wonderful kids. They just took on the challenge of this year as a rebuilding year, and have done an amazing job playing the game of volleyball well.”

(on the record being on the players’ minds when trailing 0-2)

“The record was not on their minds during the match, I guarantee it. They just go out and play. They are consistent. They don’t think anything should be given to them; they just go out and play hard and believe they have to do that in order to win every night. They were just thinking, ‘How do we come back and win this?’”

(on how this team compares to other teams in Hilbert’s 17-year career at CSU)

“I quit playing that game of comparing teams a long time ago, but they’re the most consistent, the lowest error and they are the best end-game team in situations they’ve been in. We have yet to play a big-time, aircraft-carrier-type team this year. That’s going to be different, but, I don’t care because they’re playing the game of volleyball the right way, and I really like that.”

(on if he imagined this team would be 21-0 at this point in the season)

“No way would I have guessed we’d be 21-0; no way. I’m not trying to be negative about this group, I just wouldn’t have guessed it. Losing four valuable seniors and the way we played last spring, I just felt like we were going to need a lot more development, but they got better in a hurry.”