

**West Virginia vs. Ohio State
NCAA Tournament Second Round Quotes
November 18, 2016**

Ohio State Head Coach Lori Walker

Opening Statement

I'm fantastically proud of my team and the game plan we put together and the way we executed you know, to watch your team come together over the course of a season. You know there is so many emotions you feel right now when it ends because you don't really think about when it's going to end. But to watch our seniors in particular play the best soccer I think they've ever played for us, it's just a proud moment. You know to watch Nichelle Prince do what she was doing, and Lindsay Agnew, and the heart those kids have. It really was something to be proud of. So, I feel really good about the culmination of what I think was a great run by us.

On differences in game plan from the matchup in the regular season

The game plan was fairly similar. I think we had a couple of different matchups because of player changes on both sides. We really executed exactly what we wanted to do. We were able to keep them in wide areas and really frustrate them. We had our chances. We had a few really good opportunities, you know, to break away, and all it takes is one as we saw in overtime. I think that for us we tightened some things up on our corners, which is where we struggled in the first time around and thought that we did a much better job this time on set pieces. I didn't feel that there was a tremendous danger on the set pieces today.

On limiting West Virginia's opportunities to score

I think that's one of the things you're constantly trying to do is clog the middle, and our team plays with a no-shot mentality. So sliding and blocking, and you know the heart that they showed to make sure that easy shots weren't happening. You know, 26 shots, I think some of those were crosses. So you know, I think we did exactly what we were trying to do and forced them into a situation that they didn't want to be in, and I think we did a fantastic job along the end line which is where I believe this West Virginia team has been very dangerous, and we really forced them into serving balls from areas that is not where they want to be serving. And so, I thought our backline and our goalkeeper Devon Kerr were exceptional.

Ohio State Junior Midfielder Nikki Walts

On what she can take away from playing West Virginia moving forward

Well, I definitely thought this was our best game yet. I said to our team afterward we have to look at this game – we definitely played the best we could and we brought all of our energy and we definitely left our heart on the field. We need to bring that next year and have that from the beginning of the season and make sure we carry that out all the way through and I think we will wind up back in the NCAA's and hopefully further if we have that mentality.

West Virginia University Coach Nikki Izzo-Brown

Opening statement

This team has done some incredible things all year long. Tonight was no different. They've just found the results. A team that is going on to the Sweet 16, and that has won two conference championships, absolutely do and did all year long what everyone just witnessed tonight and that was finding a way to win. I am incredibly proud. Kadeisha (Buchanan) has anchored that backline to 16 shutouts, which is incredible. Our whole team defends, but without Keisha's voice, it would have been a whole lot different. And to my right, Michaela Abam, scoring that game winner and she's been doing that for a solid year and I'm thrilled and proud. My staff prepared them and here we are, so thanks.

On Michaela's shot on goal

I have to be honest with you, she has this coach from Peru from when she was younger and I have nothing to do with that, I won't take credit for that. I will send him a fruit basket, if it's not illegal. I'll make sure that all happens.

On thoughts if it was going to take more out of the box play to get something done

We had so many opportunities and you keep going "one more missed opportunity, one more missed opportunity." I just felt that it was going to take something special or for someone to do something just a little bit more special or change something up, but most importantly stick with their job and their soccer IQ.

On looking ahead to the UCLA game and how the team will recover

Recovery is going to be something that we have to think about, and absolutely we have close to an extra 15-20 minutes in our legs more than UCLA, but this team did it in the Big 12 Championships and they know how to push through it. At this point, we're at the Sweet 16 and we have to get to the Elite Eight, so listen no excuses.

Junior Forward Michaela Abam

On how difficult it was for the team to keep calm after so many shots on goal

Yeah, it's always a frustrating time when you take as many shots as we were then it's not going in. Again, our coaches were just telling us to stay calm, make sure to stay over the ball and keep taking shots. In the end, it paid off.

On what was going through her mind when she took her last shot on goal

This one wasn't a cross. We're always talking about how Devin would stay off her line at times, and sometimes she was beyond the line. I kind of just took a look and placed it, we've been working on that all year when we have forwards club every single week. It's something we've been working on and finally came through.

Senior Defender Kadeisha Buchanan

On the battle between Buchanan and Nichelle Prince all night

Definitely playing with her since U-15, there's always a battle between us. She had a great game today and I don't think it was a battle between the whole backline in general. We did a

great job of communicating on the pitch of where she was at all times. I think once we start to get complacent and I'm not worried about her, she becomes very dangerous. She's a very pacey player, so we always have to be cite on our back foot and ready to win the race. I think we did just that tonight.

On how tough it is to play against someone you already know

I think it's nor good or bad because they know your tendencies and you know their tendencies. It's always a tough match, even when you play teams twice. Against Ohio State, we played them earlier this year, so it's not going to be the same game because each side knows what each other are capable of. I think that's always tough, but going into the UCLA match, I think Jessie Fleming is a top player. As a team, not just the backline, I think we have to be aware of where she is because she just roams all around the pitch and not just up front.