

2014 EIVA Men's Volleyball
SEMIFINAL #1
Harvard vs. Princeton
Apr. 24, 2013

Brian Baise, Head Coach Harvard

Opening Statement:

Princeton deserves a lot of credit. They were definitely the better team tonight. They played well, and they played loose. We were tight. I think that was the difference between the two of us tonight.

Q: What brought you guys to have that big rebound in the third set?

Nick Madden (#16): I think that we knew we were not quite playing with the energy that we normally do. We were playing really relaxed. We came to the realization that we can play tight, so we had to start putting balls over to their side and make them play on the offensive side. I think we started serving a lot better than they did too. It was about having more mental focus.

Q: Was it hard to play against Princeton's physicality?

Nick Madden (#16): I think that we were starting off some of those sets pretty strong and then there were a lot of mental errors on our side. They were playing big and physical; I do not think we were outmatched but it was mostly errors on our side, whether it was missing serves or passing errors. We did not get our offense running sometimes. I think that was probably the main issue that I saw.

Chris Gibbons (#15): I think it was their passing that made the difference not their physicality. They were excellent hitters. They hit off of us really easily. We were off the middle a lot. They hit hard on our setter. We struggled to kill balls. We will be a better team if we can play our middles then set up our offense.

**2014 EIVA Men's Volleyball
SEMIFINAL #1
Harvard vs. Princeton
Apr. 24, 2013**

Sam Shweisky, head coach Princeton

Opening Statement: I'm really proud of the guys. We talked about it before the match, obviously there are a ton of statistics and analysis that go into trying to play, but there is a lot of heart and passion, and I was really proud of these guys and the whole team with the energy and the passion that they brought. I think that was a huge part of the match.

Q: You mentioned as you were walking in here it is a little bit of a different atmosphere, being in this media room and in this gym from the last time you guys were here. Can you talk about the difference, and what it is being on this end, the winning end, of this match today in Rec Hall?

A: So five years ago Pat was a freshman. I was my first year at Princeton. So my reference point was we are back here, and now we are here in the Finals against Penn State, and so that was an exciting thing that we were back, I was like "Hey we are back here again," which is exciting. The last two years we have been back in the Semis, facing Penn State in the Semis and had an early exit. So to be able to qualify for the 2/3 seed, and to be able to win and to push to the finals is pretty exciting, and am happy to have my partner in crime [Schwagler] here back again.

Q: That second set, I mean that was one of the most dominant performances I have seen from any team so far this season. What were you guys doing out there well?

A [Devin Stearns]: We have really been studying Harvard for the last week or so, and we knew their tendencies, and we knew what they were going to come at us with, and it really just started clicking on our side. It was great to see the offense work the way it did. Our blocking was great and we really came together as a team and had a great performance.

A [Pat Schwagler]: I wanted to say pretty much what I will say in every press conference. It comes down to serving and passing at our level. So we served the ball really well the first couple of games. We passed the ball really well the first couple games. So we were in system, and we were able to just get in their head and intimidate them a little bit.

A [Shweisky]: I do not know if they will remember, but the last two weeks we have been doing a lot of serving and passing drills that they have not really enjoyed, but helpfully it paid off and helped us in the match.

Q: A lot of good numbers on the stat sheet. Is there any one in particular that you are especially pleased with.

A [Shweisky]: Pat knows I do not really care much about numbers. Yeah the hitting percentage was really strong especially from outsides which is a huge part of game. Junior Oboh played great. I would have had him in here, but his voice is gone. So it was not going to do much for you guys, but that is a freshman Middle who has had up and down matches, and to come in and have 8 kills on 9 attempts is pretty strong, but these guys carried it with 19 kills and 17 kills, upwards of .380 and .470 is pretty outstanding so hats off to them, against a very formidable block and a very well coached team. I mean they watched a lot of film on us and they were very disciplined, and they were in the right spots. So it was not easy to get kills, and they did a great job.

Q: For either of the players, was it hard shaking off losing in the 3rd set and coming back in the 4th?

A [Schwagler]: Yeah definitely. I think volleyball is a very momentum based game, and after the 3rd we were kind of heads down, tired, on our heels. Coach gave us a good pep talk, and I think it really paid off for us.

A [Stearns]: Yeah I mean we were able to turn it around. We had a lot of out of system plays we were able to convert. Pat had a great 4th set here, and just give a lot of credit to the middles too. I mean the stats here really do not show everything. Will Siroky and Junior Oboh, they helped to draw the block every single time. That really opened up the opportunities for Pat and I on the outside today.

Q: How eager are you guys to get to Saturday's match already?

A [Schwagler]: I cannot wait. I mean we have been talking about this from day one. We want to play Penn State in the finals, or Mason. So I mean I cannot wait.

A [Stearns]: This had been our goal all season, and it is finally great to get an opportunity to go out there and play.