

Long Beach State 3, Pepperdine 1
NCAA First Round - Dec. 5, 2008 - Stanford, CA
Quotes

Long Beach Head Coach Brian Gimmillaro

On the momentum change from the first game to the second:

"It's obvious that we started very slowly and without much passion. You know, I told the team that sometimes you're not always in control of the match, and you may never get in control of the match, but you still have to be successful."

"After the second game, we thought it might not even happen but then it did. And then we started executing, and the execution level was really good. The speed was good and the movement was good, and then we started playing our style and our game."

On what he told his team in the second set timeout at 23-23:

"I said that we were in a difficult serve-receive at the point, so that's where somebody has to do something where they can be remembered and they can remember it. So, we told the players that here was a chance for you to remember something that you worked so hard to be able to do. And so the next two points, if someone for us scores, they'll never forget it, and so we went out and scored the next two points."

On the slow start to the match and the momentum change into the second set:

"We changed the lineup a little bit, but we didn't make any defensive adjustments. I believe in what we do, but that's how we practice. We practice at that execution level every day, so sometimes you won't, but the chances are, you will."

Senior Nicole Vargas

On missed blocks early in the match:

"We work very hard on our blocking everyday in practice. That's the one thing that we always try to focus on. So to come out in the first game and have the ball keep going through and hitting the ground, it's frustrating because we work so hard and it didn't look like anything we practice. So we came out and said, look, we need to try harder, we've been working on this, the coach is telling us what we need to do, and we need to do it."

Senior Iris Murray

"I think we, throughout the whole season, get stronger as the game progresses. It's something we've been working on, to be strong in the beginning, but I don't think any team in this tournament gets better like we do. As the game goes on, we jump higher, we see the ball better, and we serve harder. And when other teams get tired, that's when we get stronger."

Pepperdine Head Coach Nina Matthies

General thoughts on the match:

"First of all, I thought Long Beach State played really well. I thought they picked up their game and did a pretty good job of adjusting to some things in games three and four. I have to hand it to Brian and them for playing a very, very strong match."

On being matched up against Long Beach in the first round:

"Regardless of that, you've got to take care of what you've got to take care of. I thought it started out to be a good volleyball match tonight. You know, seedings are what they are, and in this point in time, it's tough to finish or lose at the end of any season. I didn't think that we made ourselves too proud tonight. I'm sorry. I talked to my team about it, and I thought we fought for a couple games, thought we got outmuscled and stopped punching back."

"We erred ourselves right out of the game tonight...you're not going to win doing that. We put no pressure on Long Beach State whatsoever. We just handed them the ball and they never had a sideout, so they got in a really good rhythm, and you take a physical team like they are, and now you're stopping a freight train."

Senior Julie Rubenstein

On the quality of Pepperdine volleyball:

"I think a lot of times, we do get overlooked. We're a school with under 3,000 undergraduates, competing with schools with thousands and thousands of kids. The West Coast Conference itself, all our schools similar with about 3,000 undergrad, it's a very competitive conference, but I think it's overlooked many times."

Senior Cassi Chamberlain

On the quality of Pepperdine volleyball:

"I think our volleyball at Pepperdine is intense, really intense. And over the past four years, I think it's gotten harder and harder to do better in our conference, and the competition in our conference and at Pepperdine has gotten better and better each and every year. And this year was definitely the roughest year."