

**NCAA TOURNAMENT 1ST ROUND GAME
THOMPSON-BOLING ARENA, KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE
MINNESOTA vs. LOUISVILLE
December 4, 2009
Minnesota Quotes**

Head Coach Mike Hebert (Opening statement):

"I thought it was a match between two pretty physical teams. They put us in an immediate hole by some very accurate short serving and it took us a little longer than we'd hoped to respond. It kind of set the tone for the match and we knew we were in for a battle. We never really got into our full rhythm as a team, particularly offensively. I thought Hailey (Cowles) and Tabby (Love) both did a great job on the right side. Without that we don't win the match. Louisville was very impressive."

(On the potential of playing the NCAA Regionals on their home court):

"I like the word incentive better than pressure. We came through a very difficult Big 10 regular season and we played a lot of good teams. Our team doesn't really feel pressured but we want to get back to Minneapolis and we're feeling highly motivated to win the next match."

Junior middle blocker Lauren Gibbemeyer (On the important of advancing to the second round):

"It's great to get the first match out of the way. We're calmer now and we had some first game jitters. Louisville is a really good team and they brought some things to the table that we aren't used to seeing. It was nice to see our outside specialists step up and kind of lead us to the victory tonight."

(On the importance of taking the third game):

"It was a statement for us. Louisville was down a game in the beginning and they were not going to back down. After they took set two, we needed to bring all we had and not back down. It was really important for us to win that third set and get the momentum going into the fourth set."

(On the potential of playing the NCAA Regionals on their home court):

"It's definitely an extra incentive. We want to get back in front of our home crowd and that will be an advantage for us."

Junior defensive specialist Hailey Cowles (On the importance of advancing to the second round):

"It's always nice to get the first round out of the way. It's always the most nerve-wracking because every team is playing their hardest and you never know what's going to happen. It's great to get the first game jitters out and advance to another round."

(On the possibility of playing Tennessee in the second round):

"We expect them to have a huge crowd and try to use that to their advantage. We know that they're going to be playing their best and we need to match that."

NCAA VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT
FIRST ROUND

Louisville Quotes

Head Coach Leonid Yelin: (overall thoughts of the match): “It was a great match against a great team (Minnesota). Both teams had great momentum, but unfortunately it didn’t last for us. Overall, I’m very proud of this team. We never quit, we always fought back, and we played our hearts out.”

(on the 20-point sets): “Each set was so close, with neither team falling behind by too many points. These scores show just how bad both squads wanted to win, especially in the NCAA Tournament.”

(on out-blocking Minnesota 17-7): “I didn’t even know we had numbers that high, but I’m not surprised by them. Blocking is what we begin and end practice with. It’s unusual that we lose with numbers this high, but Minnesota is a great team and they kept the momentum longer than we did.”

(on where Louisville needs improvement): “Our mental toughness is the one thing I would say we need to work on. We hit well, we block great, but our mentality breaks down so easily. In this match, the breakdown happened after we lost the third set. While we did keep it close in the fourth, our focus wasn’t where it should have been and we lost.”

(on Seniors Justine Landi and Lecia Brown): “They are some of the best I’ve coached. I am very pleased with their efforts tonight and the way they never gave up, despite playing almost every point.”

Senior Justine Landi (overall thoughts of the match): “Minnesota, like Louisville did, never let things get out of hand. We played as a team and I couldn’t be more proud of everyone’s effort.”

(on being 5th in the nation in blocks): “I’m very proud of that stat. We have always prided ourselves on being a great blocking team. The whole team looks at blocking as the first line of defense. If our front players can produce solid blocks, then we are able to take a lot of pressure off the back lines. Our ability to block affects the rest of the point, so it’s key that we are sharp in that area.”