

Liberty University Practice Day Quotes

Liberty Head Coach Carey Green

(On this being a game of contrasting styles) "First of all, I think we are similar in some ways. Both teams will try to disrupt their opponent's offense. When you look at the numbers we actually have 11.6 and they have 11.4 steals per game, in favor of Liberty. We disrupt offenses as well. They're probably more noted for it because they have been successful at turning teams over, meaning forcing a lot of turnovers. As the players discussed we think that is a critical area for us to address; recognizing their strength and trying to properly prepare for that. Your next question is probably going to be what are you going to do. We just have to make sure we're in the right position and prepared mentally for it. A lot of times as you go into games you want to put your opponent in crisis mode and see if you can get them doing things they aren't used to doing using pressure. I think to properly prepare for that you have to simulate that in practice and it's very difficult to do that. They are exceptional at their ball pressure. It's going to be critical that we're in the right position, using ball fakes, and recognizing our strengths. You really don't want to get hung up in a mind game about your opponent. You need to run your stuff too. There is a comfort zone there. Respect them and make sure we are in the right position on the floor. They're exceptional at doing that. I think in the championship game they played Tennessee and they forced 20 turnovers. They generate a lot of their offense off of their defensive transition and pressure. We have to be prepared for that. They are really exceptional in transition. I've seen several teams score a free throw and within 3.5 seconds they've shot a layup on the other end. We have to be prepared for those things."

(On how experience helps in the tournament and how different it will be playing a SEC team) "I think you have to measure emotions. We have been here and done that before, yet we still have three or four new faces on the team. We've got some players who have experienced NCAA Tournament play. They realize that the game is faster paced and the game is more physical as well. We need to adapt to that and also how the game will be officiated. Not that there will be anything unusual to how the game will be officiated, but we need to make the adaptation to the game. I think anytime you've experienced something, whether it be information, or education, there could be a sense that you could be more relaxed. If it is a negative experience there could be a fear factor there and you would not do very well. This particular team that we have continues to develop chemistry and an identity that we needed. We lost six seniors last year so we're a different team. They wanted their own identity and they are still growing into that. This is a full season so who we are right now, I like and we're just celebrating this March Madness and it's a great opportunity for us. We definitely respect the University of Kentucky and what they have done this year. They had a great season and made a major turn around from last year. They've worked for it and we have to match their work ethic and intensity tomorrow."

(On Victoria Dunlap) "She is an exceptional athlete. I don't know all the background information. I think she's on the track team, and if she's not she should be. She is probably in the world class perspective in my opinion. You may say well she can't shoot the three, but I've seen her shoot the three. Her ball handling needs to get a little better, but talking about the kind of athlete she is, she is on that level. I had the privilege of coaching against Marion Jones. As a basketball player she needed some skills, but she could get the ball on the baseline on defense and outrun everyone to the other end and get a layup. Dunlap is that type of athlete. She is exceptional. She is a great defender and anticipates very well."

(On Jelena Antic) "I would say she is 100 percent from a physical perspective. Jelena had a setback with her injury that took her out. She lost some timing and lost some confidence. She was playing very confident before the injury. There was a game when she was 7 for 7 and she was playing very, very well. She's come back and she's gaining confidence. If we had another couple of weeks of practice I think that would work to her advantage and ours as well. We are on a different stage now. This is the highest level and I expect her to step it up. Hopefully she'll take a deep breath, enjoy the moment, and play like a

sophomore instead of like a freshman. You just never know how the pressure at this stage will affect each player and she's shown a lot of maturity and a lot of growth recently."

Senior guard Amber Mayes

(What stands out to you about Kentucky?) "They are a really good defensive team. We have to withstand their pressure. They are tough."

(How much does your NCAA Tournament experience help you against a team like Kentucky who has never been here with that group of players?) "I don't know how much it helps. Last year was my first year and I was just excited to be here on the big stage. It's nobody you have ever played before in conference and you don't know how good they are but they have to be pretty good to make the NCAA's."

(Is the sort of energy that she brings to the team contagious?) "To see confidence in your players, it just makes you happy. You say, well she's doing it, she's confident so maybe I can try this and succeed like her."

Junior guard Rachel McLeod

(What do you do in this game to try and control the ball without turnovers?) "These last couple of games even in the Big South, we had 26 turnovers. The games before that though we had 14 and 13 and as the season has progressed, we have gotten better at that but it is something we definitely will have to focus on tomorrow. We prepared for the Kentucky defense and we have put a lot more pressure on each other in practice. It's something we prepared for."

(How much does your NCAA Tournament experience help you against a team like Kentucky who has never been here with that group of players?) "I think it does play a part, the experience of going through the process. At the same time though, everyone is a good team, experience or not it only matters what happens on the court and how you can come out and bring your game. Experience helps but it is not everything."

(How much has Devon Brown impressed you?) "Devon was red-shirted last year and the moment I played pick up with her once she was on campus I automatically loved her and her game. Even from the very beginning she has been fearless. She has been attacking and aggressive and has not backed down to any opponent or to anything that we have asked her to do as teammates. Devon Brown is definitely one of my favorite players on the team even though you are not supposed to have favorites. Devon is a lot of fun to play with too!"

(Is the sort of energy that she brings to the team contagious?) "It brings energy and it is exciting. It rubs off on everybody else."