

**NCAA Women's Tennis Championship**  
**First Round Match: Valparaiso vs. Notre Dame**  
**Friday, May 12, 2006**  
**Eck Tennis Pavilion, Notre Dame, IN**

**Jay Louderback, Head Coach, Notre Dame**

*On his team's performance...*

"I thought we played really well. The scores weren't really close, but the Valpo kids fought hard. I thought their No. 1 doubles team played some long games, even though it was 6-1. From the first point in the singles and doubles, everybody played well."

*On playing a competitive schedule...*

"We play such a tough schedule all year, which makes such a big difference. We played a lot of top-30 teams this year. The experience we've had really helps us coming into a tournament like the NCAAs."

*On playing Michigan tomorrow...*

"We always have good matches with Michigan. They always play well against us. Bitsy Ritt, their coach, is a competitor and it shows in her team. Her team competes really well and they're always fired up. It's going to be a good match. If we just come out and play like we usually do, we should be okay. It'll be a good match, but our kids compete really well and I think that's something we're going to need tomorrow."

*On his team's chances of making the NCAA final...*

"We're good enough. There's a lot of teams that are good enough to make it to the final. Teams ranked anywhere from 2 to 30 in the country are really good. Any of them can win on any given day. The parity in women's college tennis is the best it's ever been."

**Kristina Stastny, Notre Dame**

*On the victory...*

"It's really exciting to get past the first round, but we're just taking it one day at a time."

*On playing at home in the NCAAs...*

"We have the crowd behind us. We're at home, so we're really comfortable. Right now we're really confident with each other and with ourselves. It's a huge advantage to be here."

*On team bonding...*

"The team atmosphere has been amazing this year. All of us have been getting along. And to have victories to go along with all of the getting-together and bonding, it's just been remarkable."

*On the team's expectations...*

"I feel confident that we can go all the way. This year has been amazing. It's kind of been a snowball reaction. Right now we're a big snowball."

*On Coach Jay Louderback instructions...*

“He told us before the match ‘Don’t expect it to be easy’. It’s college tennis, and everyone’s good. He told us not to let our guards down.”

**Tim Maluga, Valparaiso Head Coach**

*On comparing Notre Dame to Valpo’s 2005 first-round opponent, Northwestern...*

“I agree that they are both elite teams, but I thought Notre Dame was a little tougher. Depth was definitely better, from Nos. 4, 5, and 6, I thought it was definitely better here today. They’re going to be a tough team to beat.”

*On improving next year...*

“The key to avoiding this type of outcome would be to do better during the year to get a higher seed so we’re not playing the #1, 2, 3 or 4 team in the nation. I really think we could have competed with the teams earlier today. They were probably better than us, but at least we had a chance. Our next goal would be to move up so we’re not playing one of the top five teams in the nation. Getting here is great; we’ve been here two years in a row, and now we want to see if we can advance past that.”

**Rachel Janssen, Valparaiso**

*On comparing Notre Dame to Valpo’s 2005 first-round opponent, Northwestern...*

“They were both about equal; they both had their strengths. I didn’t see a huge difference. I would consider them both at the top of the ranks.”

*On the NCAA experience...*

“It makes us want to come back next year.”

*On playing the Thompson twins...*

“I feel that we played pretty well. To stay in there and stay in the points with them. You just want to be able to compete with them and to get a game is good. We hung tight with them.”

**Jill Dierberg, Valparaiso**

*On the NCAA experience...*

“This is a great experience and we’re just glad to be here. It was one of our goals, and we achieved it and that makes us very happy.”

*On her career...*

“I’ve loved every minute of it. I don’t think I would have ever dreamed of being able to make it to the NCAA tournament. To do that two years in a row it’s just been awesome. Even just playing some of the best individuals in the country is a good experience. I love Valpo, and I love what it’s given me academically and athletically.”