

**2012 NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Championship
First and Second Rounds
Purcell Pavilion at the Joyce Center • Notre Dame, Ind.**

Saturday, March 17, 2012

Notre Dame Press Conference Quotes

Head Coach Muffet McGraw

On her team's transition game...

"We go into each game wanting to run and wanting to play up tempo. We always try to utilize our pressure. It is something that we have worked on all week."

On Liberty being a strong rebounding team...

"They are the top rebounding team in the nation. They are very strong inside, and they rebound very well. They have some big bodies, and their guards rebound well. It is definitely a worry for us. We can't get our transition offense going if we don't rebound well. We have spent a lot of time working on rebounding this week. We have tried to emphasize boxing out. Rebounding is definitely one of the keys to the game for us."

On Skylar Diggins' strengths as a point guard, and how she is evolving in the college game...

"She just continues to get better. She is so fun to watch, she is so coachable and she loves to watch film with us. I think that she has really managed the game better this year. I think that last year she did a very good job, but she is finding people this year and she knows when to pass and when to shoot. She is not trying too hard to score. She is really just taking what the defense gives her. She has been very comfortable this year. I don't think she is forcing anything. If she sees an open man, she gives it up. I think her ability to see the floor makes us a dangerous team in transition."

On how Notre Dame supports Skylar Diggins with her ability to handle the media...

"She handles it extremely well, and Chris Masters has worked diligently with her since she came in as a freshman with all of the media training that we do. She was pretty good coming in. She has always been comfortable. She was comfortable talking to the media as an eighth grader. I think she has gotten a lot better; she is very smart, and she understands what to say. She does like being in the limelight, but I don't think she likes it too much. She tries to embrace it as helping our program, which it does."

On the anticipation leading up to the tournament...

"I think there was a little bit of relief when the regular season was over and we got the number one seed. It was incredibly difficult to be expected to win every game that we were going into. We were never really able to celebrate it because there is always something more coming. I think that our players are very pleased that we got through the season as well as we did. I think everybody has worked hard. We gave them a few days off, and they came back in good shape. I was impressed with the overall attitude that everybody brought back with them."

On her team's half court game...

"I think we are getting better. We put in a lot of new stuff this week. We were able to expand on what we have done before. We have so many games televised, so everybody knows what we are going to do. We put some new offensive wrinkles in. I like the way we look right now."

Skylar Diggins • Junior • Guard

On Liberty's high turnover average...

"We're definitely going to emphasize our defense and press. We need to get up and try to take advantage of that. That's what we like to do – we like to cause turnovers. We get to start our transition break. That's when we're playing our best basketball, when we're able to run and get up and down. We'll definitely be looking to put on some pressure. I understand they have a freshman guard, so looking to put some ball pressure on and making them make decisions. We're trying to get the press going early."

On having such a long break since the last game...

"Practice has been intense, and it's been competitive. The fact that we're starting the tournament, we know we've been needing to compete against one another. We've been getting up and down, scrimmaging and staying fresh. We had a couple of days off after the Big East Tournament, and we were able to rest our bodies and recover. I think now, everybody is so anxious to get back on the court that that is going to play into it. I feel like we're fine. I feel we're prepared."

On her relationship with the media and her future after basketball...

"I'm a sports junky. Afterwards, I want to continue my career – I want to be close to the game. I'm always watching games. I'm always watching film. I'm always playing. It's my life. I definitely want to stay close to the game. I've had a lot of practice talking to you guys and other things like that over the years. Hopefully I can continue my career maybe with a job at ESPN or something like that – just stay close to the game."

Kayla McBride • Sophomore • Guard

On improving game...

"It starts with practice and improving the chemistry. The coaching staff helped me with the confidence to go out there and play my game."

Offensive Strategy against Liberty...

"We want to keep playing at our tempo, getting up and down the court in the transition game. Doing the little things that we have always done has led to the success that we have had all year. Playing off of each other and taking what the defense gives you. There isn't really a game plan that you can go I to. It is mostly taking advantage of what we can."