



2017 NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

First Round · Temple vs. Oregon
Cameron Indoor Stadium · Durham, N.C.
Friday, March 17, 2017

PRE-TOURNAMENT QUOTES

Kelly Graves, Oregon Head Coach:

Opening Statement:

"We are really excited to be here in Durham. It was a big thrill when we saw where we were going. On behalf of the entire University of Oregon, we are really proud of this team and how hard they have worked and fought to get to this point. They certainly deserve this bid. We are excited to see where we are and compete this weekend."

On Why Temple Is So Good on the Offensive Glass:

"They are just tenacious. They never quit on a play. They are very consistent in how they crash the boards. Shannen Atkinson is one of the best offensive rebounders I've seen and we've played against some really good ones in Monique Billings [UCLA] and Erica McCall [Stanford] and some others. She [Atkinson] is just tremendous. But I think it is just their consistent effort. They play really, really hard and they can make plays on the glass. That's obviously one of our keys."

On Jacinta Vandenberg's Previous NCAA Tournament Experience:

"She played at Fresno State both years, her first two years [making the tournament]. I know she has just been talking to some of the kids at practice, as she always does. She is like an extension of the coaching staff. She has really helped those young kids. Her experience, what to expect and how to handle this moment I think is going to be important for the young kids."

On The Quick Turnaround of the Oregon Program in Qualifying for The NCAA Tournament:

"Well, we were hoping so. It took a phenomenal 2016 class to help us along. I never put a timeline on that kind of stuff. I think the fact that you are in the Pac-12, where more than half of the teams make the field, gives you an added benefit. But there was no timeline. We knew what we were going to be able to build at Oregon. I think we are well on our way to getting that done."

I've got an amazing staff that has really helped drive what we have accomplished so far, but like we always like to say, it is just the beginning; we are just starting."

On The Matchup Between Sabrina Ionescu and Feyonda Fitzgerald:

"I never look at this match up versus that match up individually. You can't stop someone like Fitzgerald with one player; you just can't. She is a very gifted player and I liken her a lot to someone in our league, Jordin Canada [UCLA], who is going to be a big time pro. I just think she is terrific. The fact that she can beat you off the dribble, with the jump shot, her vision is tremendous if you help at all. She makes great decisions. She is a big time player so we are going to have to corral her collectively. It won't be done individually. I liken their team to jet airplanes. If you get her and [Alliya] Butts and those guards going, and if they take off, they are going to be difficult to catch. We play more like a jumbo jet, not quite as quick."

On The Expectations of Gameday Atmosphere in Cameron Indoor Stadium:

"I don't know. I hope that some of the local fans will come out and watch because I think they are going to see two pretty good teams, very competitive teams. I don't really worry about that. I worry about the ten players that are playing. There is a certain amount of reverence when you walk into this gym. I don't know if our players fully comprehend where they are playing, but for an old-timer like me, this is something special. I'm honored to coach here, to coach my team here. Hopefully, we play well, that we play hard because that is what a place like this deserves."

On The Impact of Playing Across the Country During the Regular Season:

"We are used to the travel. This is our third trip to the Carolinas in the past year and half, which is kind of nuts. But I think the fact that we are used to a long trip like this, I don't think it will affect us much."



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Oregon Players

Sabrina Ionescu, Freshman, Guard

On being a freshman:

"I think all of the freshmen are sophomores now. We're 30-plus games in and aren't considered freshmen anymore. Nobody takes us lightly as freshmen. When we go out on the court, it's game time and nobody takes it easy on us. We are definitely more experienced now. We're excited for this game tomorrow."

On tempo and style of play:

"We're just going to do what we normally do. We push the ball really well, but can also slow it down and run what we run offensively, so really a combination of both. Getting out and moving, and getting the jitters out early at the beginning [is our goal] and we'll be just fine."

On bench players:

"We're going to need everyone to step up and play at a different level than we've played at. When we all play together and everyone steps up and makes big plays, we're a hard team to beat, and I think we showed that in the tournament. Oti [Gildon], Sierra [Campisano], Jacinta [Vandenberg] and everyone coming off the bench has given us a spark. That is something we're definitely going to need moving forward."

On playing in big arenas:

"We played in Portland at the Trailblazers arena and we're excited for the big stage. We like the big lights. We're just excited to come out and play this game. It's a great opportunity for us."

On facing Temple:

"I don't even think we focused on the other team too much. We were just excited to see Oregon up there. We're focusing on ourselves and what we can accomplish. I don't think the other team matters because we are capable of beating anyone."

On Temple's defense:

"We do the same thing every practice. We've played teams that have come out and pressured us and our guards are well prepared for the defensive pressure they're going to bring. We will be able to cope with whatever they give us and our bigs will be able to drive and score down low."

Lexi Bando, Junior, Guard

On Pac-12 experience and guard matchups:

"The Pac-12 has gotten us ready for this moment. We've played really good defensive teams. Offensively, we share the ball really well and we're a really smart team. If we pass the ball like we normally do, we're going to get the shots we want, but we have to attack them and keep them honest."

On guard play:

"Temple has some really good guards and we're going to have to find a way to contain them. We have faced Jordin Canada, Kelsey Plum and really good guards who have prepared us. We're going to be ready and we just need to come together defensively."