



South Carolina Press Conference Quotes

November 30, 2017

SOUTH CAROLINA HEAD COACH SHELLEY SMITH

Opening Statement

"I just want to say we are thrilled to be here, our program's first time making the College Cup. It's a special moment for us; it's an exciting time. Really proud of what these players have done all year to get here, and looking forward to some great competition. Obviously, it's the best teams in the country. Congratulations to all teams that have made it, and we are excited about it tomorrow."

On replacing defenders

"Obviously, you just mentioned Grace, defensive player of the year in our conference, and well deserved. She was a huge addition, especially last year losing two senior center backs. Grace came in with Jackie Schaefer as a freshman to fill huge shoes, and they've done that. Really proud of what they've done and how they have worked together and believed in each other. Anna Conklin, who is a captain, a senior, returning from that backline, really helping lead and bring the other players along as well. She was not a left back. She stepped into that role last year, embraced it and has become one of the best in the conference and country, proud of what she's done. Tatum Milazzo is another defender that plays a huge role for us, she played crucial minutes last year in that run, and coming off a year where we held good teams to few goals and she's done it again from the right back position. I can't mention it without mentioning Mikayla Krzeczowski in goal. She's been a rock. They try to limit opportunities for teams and when Mikayla has been asked to make saves, she has. And that's what you want in a good goal keeper. She's also vocal and organizes and plays with confidence that lets everyone in front of her play with confidence. Lastly, in our team we do ask everyone to play a role in the defensive side, and again it doesn't mean we are defensive minded. We all play a role to keep teams from having chances. Savannah starts that kind of pressure and how we are going to feed off of her, and she does a great job as a forward to do her work on the defensive side as well as the attacking side."

On turnover with defense

"I'm not sure when that happened or clicked, but I do know this group came in this summer. Jackie and Schaefer came in a semester early. They worked and did a lot of things to get ready to play. They got themselves fit and prepared and that's what you want to ask of a team. So, when we got to preseason, we already had a group that was ready to go, and early you saw that we were pretty good. We had things we had to work on, like Grace mentioned earlier even in a game when we have a shutout, there are things we can pick apart, and coach Jamie Smith does a great job of organizing and picking things out for players to get better for the next game. They're always willing to learn and improve."

SOUTH CAROLINA SENIOR FORWARD SAVANNAH McCASKILL

On the season

"All season long we made sure that one game at a time we took care of the task at hand, which ultimately got us here to being at the College Cup."



On proving herself on the national and college stage

"It's so exciting to be here. It's a little more special to actually be here to compete seeing that it's my senior year. Just being able to focus on each game at hand and those little moments in the games lead to big moments and that's just been our mentality all season long. But as far as proving myself, I just want to help the team win games. That's been my philosophy from day one and every team that I've played on. I just want to help them get the results and to help us win."

SOUTH CAROLINA SOPHOMORE DEFENDER GRACE FISK

On the transition of joining the team late

"I missed the first couple of games, but the team made me feel so welcomed from day one. I didn't have any troubles or issues settling in."

On the style of play in the SEC

"Coming in I heard about the physical part of the game. I think I adapted as well as I can. The team is of a high quality, and they pose different challenges for us and for me personally. But I enjoy playing against different opposition and different teams. It is more physical, and we do a lot more work in the weight rooms than I have previously done. But I am just developing, and my teammates are very supportive."



Stanford Press Conference Quotes

November 30, 2017

STANFORD HEAD COACH PAUL RATCLIFFE

Opening Statement

"First of all, it's been a really fun journey getting to this point. It's always an honor and privilege to play in the College Cup, so I'm excited. The field looks fantastic; the stadium is amazing. Basically we can't wait to get started."

On defense

"It's definitely been a team effort. Our offense is getting a lot of publicity because we are getting a lot of goals. But Alana, Tierna, Kiki, Teagan and Carly, there are so many great backs, and they have done an amazing job for us. And our midfield has been very, very strong, and then goalkeeping too. AJ and Ruby in goal have been incredible. So, I think it's been a collective effort, and this is one of the most complete teams I have ever coached."

On the current model of college soccer

"I've been an advocate for two seasons. I think it would be great to have this showcase event in the spring with better weather. We are fortunate we are here in Orlando, and it's amazing. If we want to have these events around the country, it would be beneficial if we had a fall season and then a spring season--similar to the model of men's soccer. I would be on board with that. I know other coaches would not agree with me, but that's how I feel about it."

STANFORD JUNIOR DEFENDER ALANA COOK

On the excitement level for the championship

"For the freshman, sophomores and juniors of this team, it's our first time going to the College Cup. For us it's really new and exciting thing, and we are really excited to kind of show all the work we have put in this season and see if we can make it pay off."

On days after the Santa Clara game

"Obviously as Andi said it was pretty heartbreaking, it took a few days for most of us for it to really settle in. Our season is done, and we will never play with the same team again. We loved the seniors, so it was hard for us to kind of send them off with a loss. But I think it made us better. So, all winter and spring we trained as an underdog, like we were angry, and I think that's been part of our success this season is that we don't look at ourselves as special."

STANFORD SENIOR MIDFIELDER ANDI SULLIVAN

On coming back to the College Cup

"I feel like that Final Four was ages ago. It was kind of a blur, but that was a really great time. But I feel like I have been here before. So, I feel more composed in a sense, and I think the whole group feels that way. There is still a lot of excitement, but it's similar in that we want to take care of business. But I feel that it's really cool to bookend your college experience with two Final Fours. So many teams want to be



here, and so many teams weren't good enough to be here and will never get the opportunity. I'm really excited to be here in my last year."

On the season so far

"I think the cool thing about this season is that we have a really talented group, and we started off well. But we just kept getting better and kept getting better, and I think the tournament is always very challenging for that. And I think that's what is unique about our group and lead us to this point."



UCLA Press Conference Quotes

November 30, 2017

UCLA HEAD COACH AMANDA CROMWELL

Opening Statement

It's great to be back in Orlando, I coached here at UCF for many years so it's a homecoming for me of some sorts. I'm excited for the atmosphere that the Orlando City Stadium will have.

On the competition this year

"I honestly think the four best teams are here. The quality that all these teams have showed consistently throughout the season and there are a few teams that could've made it and made some good runs. For the most part, I believe that the teams that are supposed to be here are here."

On bringing the younger players up to speed

"The team has two seniors and one junior, but we also have players on this team who are fifth-year athletes who have won a national championship mixed into the scope of the youthful players. Right off the bat it took some time for some of them, even those with good national team experience. They had to adapt to speed of play, physicality and new teammates. Along the way, we had so many different weapons and threatening players, along with players who stepped up and filled the gaps. When you look at the kind of players we have and their different positions, they are very interchangeable and can take on different roles and that's been our success."

UCLA SOPHOMORE, DEFENDER, KAIYA MCCULLOUGH

On the excitement level

"It's an incredible opportunity that we have been given and the platform and the stadium and all the fans supporting us. It's definitely an exciting environment to play in and especially playing the sport you love you can really ask for no better place to be."

On game with Pros

"It was a good measuring tool to see where we were and where we wanted to be and if that was our eventual goal. It was a good place marker to where and what you'd have to do to get better."

UCLA SENIOR, MIDFIELDER/DEFENDER, CLAIRE WINTER

On the season

"We had ups and downs. We have a very young team and a lot of depth that proved to help us throughout the season and we are super excited to be at the College Cup. We know we will all have to believe in ourselves in this upcoming weekend."

On a young team

"We a team with a lot of freshman who play a big role, and sophomores and juniors that make a big impact. We have players like Jessie Fleming, Ashley Sanchez, Kaiya here, who play big roles on the team. It's been fun watching these girls get better as the season has continued and they have definitely have shown they deserve to be out there and have really helped this team."



Duke Press Conference Quotes

November 30, 2017

DUKE HEAD COACH ROBBIE CHURCH

Opening Statement

"It's an honor and privilege to be here. We start this journey every August and we are hoping we end it at the final four. That's everyone's goal, to be able to play and specially to win. There are so many people that have been in our program for several years and have worked hard and made it to the final four before. It's a real honor to be playing with these other three great teams."

On the season so far

"The one thing that really stands out after doing this for 17 years is that this has been our most consistent team that we've had. They started the journey last year really in January and we were blessed to have a lot of seniors come back. This group not only wanted to be good, but they wanted to be great. They were always working in preparation for the preseason and they were always focused and professional. The team took care of themselves on and off the field. As a coach I'm very happy with this group and couldn't be more proud of them."

DUKE SENIOR FORWARD IMANI DORSEY

On the journey to get to the College Cup

"As a senior class this is something that we dream about and we work for and that has been engraved in our team culture. Which I think began in the spring but has continued to grow and just evolved. To finally be here is just an incredible feeling. It's a great accomplishment, but we know we still have to play Friday and that is the main focus."

On how experience has helped the team evolve

"I remember our freshman year and we were writing goals on the board and things we wanted to make happen that year. One of our goals was to go undefeated at home. Although that didn't happen for us during our freshman year, I think it was something we didn't really see at the time as being tangible. Then this year every time we played at home we won. It took four years, but we finally did that. Every year little things like that took a lot of growth on the field off the field. Understanding how to be leaders and what the team needed from us has been so helpful to getting us where we are now."

DUKE SENIOR GOALKEEPER EJ PROCTOR

On her feelings of making it back to the College Cup

"It's been awesome being here, it makes it very real and the you complain about the weather. I think it helps that 16 of our team members have been to a final four before and we are very lucky to have been here twice. Having the veterans that we do really makes the experience a lot different than the first time that we came. Everyone really knows how special it is and just enjoying it as much as we can."



On how the team has grown

“In a lot of our team meetings, Robby reiterates to us that we are incredibly mentally strong, and I have seen that develop in myself over these four years. You feel like you can grow over one season, but you really develop as a person over four years. I have seen that in my game tremendously. With the confidence and keeping the ball. With my teammates help and my coaches I’ve become a more mature player and hopefully I’ve been able to spread that and inspire my team mates in the same way. “