

2026 NCAA Women's Lacrosse Championship

Friday, May 22, 2026

Chicago, Illinois, USA

Martin Stadium at Northwestern

Maryland Terrapins

Cathy Reese

Kori Edmondson

Semifinals Media Conference



games, the celebrations, it's simply the love for the person to the left or right of us. That's what's gotten us to the Final Four, and that's what's going to continue getting this team farther.

Q. I don't know if you've had time to address the team or speak with certain teammates, but what's been your message to players coming back that can carry this off?

KORI EDMONDSON: Let it fuel you. This sucks. This feeling absolutely sucks. I mean, I can't believe I don't have another year to come back and play, is what's going through my mind right now.

But I think it's just let this fuel you. Know that Maryland belongs in a Final Four every single year, and know that we have an amazing leader leading us there and just knowing that the love for each other is what gets us there.

It's just love. We all love each other and I really can't even speak because it's just love for each other.

Q. What has Kori and the rest of the senior class meant to the program?

CATHY REESE: Well, I did a lot of the talking in the locker room postgame because it's -- I tell these guys at the start, one team ends this season happy. And the journey that we have gone on this year, led by this amazing senior class, and fueled by Kori, you know, she's been on the field for us since her freshman year. I will never stop singing her praises of doing great things on both ends of the field. On the draw circle for us in transition and just her passion and leadership and love for Maryland Lacrosse. Even since she was a little girl, she's carried with her and you can see the way that she plays with just joy and love for her teammates is the reason why we're sitting here talking right now on Memorial Day weekend.

And so what I said to the team in there, too, I'm just grateful for what these guys have given to this program; the effort that they put in; the memories that they have made. This has been such a fun season for us as coaches.

UNC 16, Maryland 6

CATHY REESE: First off, I'll start with saying congratulations to North Carolina. They played a great game today. They outplayed us and great game to them, and good luck moving forward.

But proud of our team and our effort and our grind this season. We had such a remarkable season and great leadership that got this Maryland program back competing in a Final Four.

While this loss stings, just really grateful for their leadership and proud of these guys and where we are.

Q. Coach just said, you got this program back playing into Final Four. How does it feel to be part of that effort to get you guys back to this stage?

KORI EDMONDSON: It's an honor. To begin with, it's an honor to play with Cathy. She's one of the most inspirational people in my life. She's shown me what it means to be a role model and a leader. I'm forever grateful to help get this team back to a Final Four.

It hurts so much because of how much she's put into our coaching staff. This is why everything hurts so much but I'm just so proud of our team for putting the work. I think it took a lot. We haven't been here in four years.

So it's kind of like been in the back of mind, like let's get Maryland back, and we did it. And now our girls are going to make sure that happens for years on out.

Q. What do you think was so special about this team that allowed you to get this far?

KORI EDMONDSON: The love. If you watch all of our



Losing sucks and no one is happy, but yet the journey we've been on and the process we've been blessed to be a part of is something that's really special.

And can't say enough great things about these guys, and, especially, Kori moving forward.

Q. How would you describe some of the issues clearing the ball today in between the 30s? What was happening in your eyes?

CATHY REESE: You know, something that's bit us a little bit this season. It's just unnecessary turnovers. Carolina's pressure was good. They are good at that. They play physical. They put a lot of pressure on ball, and I think we rushed a lot of our offense.

So these turnovers came early and then we played a lot of defense and that was tough. I thought we did well in the draw today. JJ had some great saves. And I just think that the turnovers at the end of the day just kind of bit us.

Q. Remarkably, a 13th Final Four for you this season, but this one was the first one played outside of the Eastern time zone. Can you describe how the sport has grown and what that means for women's lacrosse?

CATHY REESE: We are very thankful for Northwestern for hosting the championship this weekend. I think their staff here has done a fantastic job, and has just made things -- there's people working everywhere. I feel like every time I turn around, there's some one else. It's been great. What they have done for lacrosse to move this year, they have done a really good job and so we are all thankful for that.

I have no idea what the numbers were attendance-wise today. It's a big facility, so it's hard to really tell. But it's a beautiful environment out here, and I'm sure this next game coming up that's even started right now, the fans have really started to come in, since Northwestern is still playing.

It's great to see people excited about lacrosse out here, and hopefully the championship on Sunday continues to spike some numbers, and we get to see a lot of lacrosse fans in the stands cheering on a national champion this year.

Q. With so many gritty wins this season, the season coming down to a game like this, can you reflect on the season and how much fight you saw and how much it culminated to into the game that you saw today?

CATHY REESE: Yeah, we were a team this year -- that's how we won. We won gritty games. It wasn't always pretty. But the grind and fight that these guys had was really special. We had a lot of close games, one-goal wins, overtime wins, a loss in overtime in the Big Ten Championship.

But they never -- they never quit. And tonight we started the game -- today, whatever time it is, the game got away from us a little bit as Carolina kept capitalizing on opportunities that they had and their offense is just really powerful and tough to stop.

And we just didn't answer. You know, so when you turn the ball over and go back down and get scored on, it's tough to dig yourself out of the hole.

But the season as a whole, I think these younger players that are here and players coming in have just a lot to learn about the toughness of this group and the leadership of our senior class is that fight, that grind, that love, that excitement.

And so I talk about just legacy that you leave for people moving on, and I think our younger players have just learned a lot from these guys, like Kennedy Major and Maddy Sterling and Jordyn Lipkin and Neve O'Ferrall and Kori. And then you have Keeley and Kristen who joined us for a year, and their leadership was great and we learned a lot from them as well.

So there's a lot of excitement around Maryland Lacrosse moving forward.

Q. You talked about North Carolina's powerful offense. What was the hardest thing for your defense to stop about them?

CATHY REESE: They have so many weapons on offense, and they were firing on all cylinders. So they can move the ball quickly. They are athletic. They are fast. And you don't even know how many -- they had a lot of different scorers. And a lot of assisted goals, right. Because they shared the ball well and they shoot really well.

So they just kept the pressure on. Didn't make a play off. We did make some stops. We made some great saves. Had some good defensive middles in there. But credit to their offense, they are tough to stop, and it was a tough day for us offensively. We played a lot of defense today.

Q. I know the loss is still fresh, but with 12 seniors and graduate students heading out, what are the priorities going to look like heading into the off-season?

CATHY REESE: You're right with me being fresh because I'm still trying to process my locker room chat.

When we get back and reset, we have a group of kids coming in next year, and we'll see who else adds into our program.

But the players that we have on here that chose Maryland from the start have learned so much this season. And so even though we graduate some amazing players that will be remembered as some of the best to come through Maryland, we have a lot of players on the team who are ready to step up, and there's no doubt in my mind that they will do that.

And so I think you've seen -- it's tough when you have not been in the Final Four to see what it's like when we get here and I remember when we came here in 2009, just that energy, the environment, just the level and the hype around all of it, and so I think it's just so great for a lot of these younger players to see and have that experience, and I know that that will fuel their fire to be ready to rock and roll when we get back in September.

Q. Does a loss in the semifinal like this adjust your thinking into filling holes with a particular transfer target? Is the new reality in college lacrosse that the quick fix is looked at more?

CATHY REESE: Well, the transfer portal is obviously a real thing, and it's out there and coaches are in it. I don't love the timing of when our opened this week when teams are preparing to go to the Final Four. I think that's really difficult.

So obviously as a staff, we'll get looking in that, too, and see if there's spots and players in there that may be good fits for our program. It's hard to tell at this moment because didn't really log in to that today.

But that is something that obviously every program out there that has the opportunity to take people out of the portal is looking into as soon as that opens.

Q. The North Carolina coach and players talked about playing against a man defense after going against zone teams most of season. Can you talk about playing in man as opposed to a zone?

CATHY REESE: Yeah, it was the same for us. I think the zone has kind of taken over lacrosse in a lot of ways, and Carolina and us are two of the few programs that play completely man-to-man defense.

And you know, so you don't see it a lot when you're competing during the season, and you know, when you're looking at an offense like Carolina, for us, every single one of them is dangerous and can score and move the ball and they did a really good job of finding the openings.

I think on the flipside for us, we rushed a lot of our offensive opportunities because of their pressure, and so that was something that we've never -- we haven't really played against this year, and so to be able to see it, and this will be something that we'll be able to learn from and adjust and prepare for when and if we play against that type of defense again moving forward.

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