

NCAA Women's Basketball Championship: Second Round - North Carolina vs West Virginia

Sunday, March 23, 2025

Chapel Hill, North Carolina, USA

Carmichael Arena

West Virginia Mountaineers

JJ Quinerly

Kyah Watson

Jordan Harrison

Media Conference



think No. 12 was kind of breathing hard when we were about to press. I looked at Jordan and I said, yeah, we got them, let's go.

Q. UNC was only up by two at halftime yesterday. And then they really just kind of came alive in the third quarter. What's the mindset going into this game from a defensive standpoint knowing that they can just catch fire and score 30 points in a quarter out of nowhere?

KYAH WATSON: I'll just say that our defense, each quarter, especially after that half, has to be good. We have to kind of be playing together, make sure our press is effective and kind of causing chaos out there.

JJ QUINERLY: Same, to piggyback off of her. We've definitely got to rev up the pressure for sure. They have a lot of girls that can do a lot of things -- shoot, drive -- so we have to stay locked in and pressure them, try to make them make mistakes.

Q. You expect a good crowd tomorrow. After last season, though, can anything live up to what Iowa City was like? And how did you kind of learn to handle environments like that?

JORDAN HARRISON: I think it's going to be kind of hard to beat what we saw last year. I'm glad that we were in that situation. So now when this situation presents itself we're prepared and we know what to expect.

But honestly, we're just going to control what we can control on the court. If they're not scoring then the crowd can't really get into it, that's what we're going to stick to.

Q. Yesterday, with 25 wins, it's the first time WV has won 25 games in back-to-back seasons in school history. And it's come in Coach Kellogg's first two seasons. What about the culture of this program on and off the court since he's come in has stood out that's allowed you guys to have that kind of success that quickly?

JJ QUINERLY: I think off the court, us hanging out, doing

Q. (Question off microphone?)

JORDAN HARRISON: Watching the game yesterday, they're a team that likes to play pretty fast especially in transition. They've got some good paint dominance down there. They play together and move the ball really well. They shoot the 3-point shot pretty good. That's what I get off of them first glimpse.

JJ QUINERLY: Same thing as Jordan said. They have a couple of girls can shoot the ball. Their big is pretty decent. Definitely have to lock into everybody for sure.

KYAH WATSON: Same thing they said, just pushing in transition. And their post, really trying to get the ball inside and then guarding them on the 3-point line.

Q. JJ, you all mentioned North Carolina's size. How do you kind of go about attacking that when you have such a quick turnaround and so little time to prepare?

JJ QUINERLY: I think for us we just need to stay locked in, like I said, and we've got to go out there and play our game. They do have some bigs, but we played against bigs in the Big 12 all the time. We're still going to do what we can do, regardless of their bigs.

Q. On defense, for you guys, I think it was you mentioned yesterday that playing defense is fun. Do you thrive off the maybe frustrations that your opponents have? Does that really get you going when you sense that what you're doing is frustrating them?

JJ QUINERLY: I would say like yesterday, or last game, I



little activities together, hanging out at each other's houses, just doing random stuff.

Then when we're at practice, I think we all just gel really well. We all like each other. There's not a lot of animosity on the team. I think that's definitely an advantage for us.

KYAH WATSON: Like JJ said, like outside the court, we all get along really well. Probably the only people I hang out with.

But on the court, I think we do play really well together. We kind of have that same goal, all the same goals. So I think that really helps us play good together.

Q. JJ, obviously your name is found throughout the record book and your accomplishments at the school. What would it mean for you to add a Sweet 16 on to everything that you've accomplished already?

JJ QUINERLY: Like I said, I think advancing was a big goal of mine coming into this season and even last season. Last season we came up short. Definitely this season I'm looking forward to advancing for sure.

I'm going to go into that game like it's my last. And I'm going to play it like it's my last.

Q. JJ, was the section behind the bench, was that your fan club? There was a good WV presence last night. What did that mean?

JJ QUINERLY: I think, for us, we definitely feed off that energy, like at home that energy is amazing. Having the fans right behind our bench, a lot of people from my family had came down because, of course, Virginia is not that far. It was just amazing, honestly, we felt the energy and we revved it up.

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