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2019 NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP
NCAA WOMEN'S SOCCER
POSTGAME QUOTES

(3) KANSAS vs XAVIER
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2019
COLUMBIA, S.C. // STONE STADIUM



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KANSAS HEAD COACH MARK FRANCIS

Opening Statement:

“First off, I would like to say congratulations to Xavier on great season for them. Obviously, winning their league, making it to the second round, that is a great accomplishment. They gave us a really tough game and obviously this one here [Katie] scored the hat-trick, which made the difference, but I thought they battled really hard and they made it tough for us. I’m proud of my team. I’m proud of these guys. To be honest with you, I am just glad that we get to play another game because this group is such a fun group to coach. I just want to keep playing as long as we can. Fortunately, we get another turning session tomorrow and a game. I am just happy about that right now, to be fair. Just excited for the kids. This has just been a great group to work with and especially for our seniors this has been a phenomenal senior class and Katie and the rest of the reason class, there is seven of them, has really kinda changed our program, the culture. They have been a big part of that.”

On McClure’s hat trick:

“Katie has done it all year. She has come up with goals in clutch situations and obviously she has been double-teamed and things like that all year, but she still finds a way to get it done. And you know, your top players are always going to show up when they need to in the clutch, when you need someone to step up. And Katie and Sarah both have done that for us this year both ends of the field numerous times.”

On Addisyn Merrick’s injury and what followed:

“I am not sure (what happened) to be honest. We brought her off, and usually if you have somebody come off then you can put somebody back in. Then somebody wasn’t ready so we tried to put somebody else back in. I am not quite sure what happened with all of that, it was kind of all going on. We ended up finding out that fortunately Addy was okay.”

SOPHOMORE GOALKEEPER SARAH PETERS

On being close to Sweet 16

“There is a lot of emotions in this type of game. Both teams fighting for it. I think we did a great job of keeping our emotions together...It’s amazing. I’m only a sophomore so there’s still a lot ahead of me, but I am so happy for these seniors and everyone else on the team. We have put a lot work to be here and we are really proud of everybody.”

SENIOR FORWARD KATIE MCCLURE

On her hat trick:

“It was a good feeling, but it wasn’t my plan to come in and score a hat trick. Like coach said when good players are on the line, we step up just like Sarah and anybody else on our team. It wasn’t my plan but I am happy that I did.”

XAVIER HEAD COACH NATE LIE

Opening Statement:

“Congratulations to Kansas, they deserved to win and I wish them the best going forward. Only thing I’m disappointed about today is I don’t think they got our best game. I think we’re a better team than we showed today and you have those days. I’m very fortunate to be with these ladies. I’m incredibly proud of the season we’ve had together and looking forward to many more hopefully.”

On what the senior class means to the program:

“It means everything at this point. Before the season began, I told friends, colleagues, family, the team itself ‘We’re going to go as far as this senior class takes us’ and this is certainly the strongest senior class at least in my short tenure. I think we had the best attacker in the conference and the best defender in the conference. We have a goalkeeper who gave up maybe 2 or 3 goals all year, splitting time. We had depth, we had leadership, we had selflessness. What I told the team after the game was ‘Where Xavier soccer was when Sam Dewey stepped in the door 5 years ago, with Jess Miller, where it was 4 years ago with Toni Bizzaro and Mack and Courtney or 2 years ago when Grace Bahr showed up and Rachel Eck; it’s a different stratosphere. The expectations have changed, the way we are perceived in the community has changed, how we feel within the athletic department is completely different. They’ve turned us into champions and I’m eternally grateful.”

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XAVIER SENIOR FORWARD SAMANTHA DEWEY

On her senior experience

"I was part of a team that had only won one conference game and didn't have a field to play on because of flooding. Whenever I'm asked where the program is now compared to what it was, I always think about when I was part of that team and that season was very chaotic and it never felt like we could put 2 and 2 together. When we got a coaching change and coach Nate came in, from the get-go there was a standard set. It was a complete culture shock for a lot of girls, me included. He doesn't ever lower his standards. To see this program grow like it has in my 5 years is nothing short of incredible."

XAVIER SENIOR MIDFIELDER GRACE BAHR

On what the program has meant to her

"When I was transferring in, I was really excited, I had been recruited by Nate in high school so going in with a coach who was confident in me and saw me play throughout my youth career, I knew it would be a good fit. I liked how it was on the uprise and that a lot of us could come together. Maybe we're not the most talented team, were not in a Power 5 conference. If you stick with your coach and stick with how you want to play and believe in yourself, I think we've shown we can compete with anybody. It's meant more to me than I could imagine. If I could tell myself in high school that my career would have gone this way, I wouldn't pick it any other way."