



2017 Sun Belt Conference Volleyball Championship

Jonesboro, Arkansas – First National Bank Arena
November 18, 2017

Post-Match Quotes

Texas State Head Coach Karen Chisum

Opening statement ...

"Hats off to Heather and Louisiana, they are scrappy, scrappy, scrappy. I'm proud of my team – I don't know if that's the best we ever played. We had a little bit of hard time connecting with our middles tonight but our two outsides and pin hitters took care of business tonight. And again, I say they were scrappy, but I think we were a little bit scrappier. And if you look at the digs, we were almost at 100 digs (95 total) so I'm very proud of this group. I told you earlier in the season I didn't know what to expect from this team so to be in the finals right now in the Sun Belt Conference, I couldn't be happier."

On finally getting to play in the championship ...

"It's good... I was a little bit concerned this morning when I woke. I was sluggish this morning – I thought oh lord please, I hope the kids don't feel like I do. But they were in great moods all day long, high energy and kind of silly actually. After we went to pregame and came back here, you can tell they were okay and we jumped out pretty quickly so I don't think the sitting hurt us but we have to be a lot more efficient and get our middles in the game so tomorrow we'll have a chance with either A-State or Coastal."

On the play of Megan Porter and Amy Pflughaupt ...

"They kept us in a lot of ballgames this year. We are lucky that Amy Pflughaupt came to Texas State, we're glad to have her. She really added some depth and we would've been in a little bit of a bind if we didn't have her this year. Meagan Porter has grown tremendously since her freshman year. Those two kids are pretty consistent. You know they play full rotations on the court at all times so they get swings from the back court, left and right sides. I can't say enough about those two. We're going to need them even more tomorrow but great kids. I'm going to go ahead and mention senior Jaliyah Bolden, a little inconsistent but she had some dominating kills today that really sparked us and gave us the momentum we needed."

On going back to the championship match ...

"I've missed it. I'm competitive – I want to be there every year. It's great for this group, it's Erin Hoppe and Jaliyah Bolden's senior year and they haven't earned a ring yet as they had talked about it. For them, if nothing else, I hope badly we can take care of business tomorrow. I want Texas State to be at the top in any sport but particularly in what I'm hired to do, which is win volleyball matches and graduate student-athletes. I'm really excited to be back up here, after losing in the semifinals the last

two years. I'm glad to be in the top four, now we're in the top two so we'll see what happens tomorrow."

On facing Coastal or Arkansas State tomorrow ...

"I know Arkansas State a whole lot better and it seems like years ago since we played Coastal Carolina but when we went over there, I know we played probably as well as we could have and they struggled but they're going to be a lot better. I'm anxious to watch the Arkansas State/Coastal Carolina match as it should be a good one. Either way, we're going to have to slow down Leah Hardeman or Carlisa May. They have two very dominating outside hitters. It's going to be what we do on our side of the net, so this will be a fun match for us to sit back to watch and scout to come up with a game plan."