



RICE (27-3) 3, COLORADO (20-11) 1

Thursday, Dec. 1, 2022

Ferrell Center (Waco, Texas)

Attendance: 411

COLORADO POSTMATCH QUOTES

Colorado Head Coach Jesse Mahoney

Opening Statement...

"First of all, we're excited that we got the opportunity to make it to this event and we've been treated really well since we have been here. Rice is really good. Kudos to them for playing a hell of a match. I felt like the first two sets were really competitive and could have gone either way, but the third and into the fourth, they just wore us out defensively. So the loss is frustrating, but we have a special group this year and they've been through a lot. I'm proud of them for the season that they've had. We lose seven players, and those seven players meant a lot to our program."

On Rice's if part of the Pac 12...

"I think [their play fits] pretty well. We finished fifth in the Pac 12. We're playing USC, UCLA and Washington in a pretty good league and pretty deep league. So obviously, they pass well, they have a really nice system that they run and they have a setter that can do it."

On returning to the NCAA Tournament...

"Our season was a grind every match. Every match of ours was competitive in our league. Making it to this point, we had to win four of our last five games or whatever it was to get here, and it says a lot. The experience of being here and so many of our players have an opportunity to come back next season. Hopefully this experience will help."

Colorado Setter/Libero Brynna DeLuzio

Thoughts on the match and season...

"Just like [Coach Mahoney] was just saying, I'm just proud of what we've done given last couple of years. We kind of have this goal of being back in the tournament, and I think we've done everything in our power to get here so you know, one loss or one game doesn't define us. I think that this season was so special for this group of girls."

On an impression for the returning players next year...

"Well, the younger players got to experience an NCAA tournament, which is kind of the best experience I think you get at that age and just see the grind that it takes to get here. The relationships that we've been able to form, and it really is a special group of girls, having seen this type of chemistry that we've had in a while so just going out just leaving an imprint of forever friends."

Colorado Middle Blocker Meegan Hart

On what changed after the second set...

"They're a great team. Defensively, they stepped up in order to get some big swings and it can get frustrating when you know you're not scoring and you just keep trying to score and score. I think defensively, it's just the speed."

On an impression for the returning players next year...

"I'd say just not letting like past seasons define you. I think this year, whatever's happened in the past doesn't have to repeat this year. So I think that when I said just how close we are, and you know cherish every moment these friendships last a lifetime, and just hold on to that. You're not going to remember 20 years from now that one hit you hit out or whatever it was, just remember the good moments and the big wins."